

A Journey Through The Native HIV/AIDS Timeline

2015

- 25th anniversary of the Ryan White CARE Act, the largest federally funded program in the U.S. for people living with HIV/AIDS.
- GAPA Foundation funds HIV programming activities to support culturally based activities for Native Hawaiians living with HIV.

19% decline in annual HIV diagnoses from 2005 to 2014 in the U.S. However, the rate actually increases in Latino and Black men who have sex with men (MSM).

2016

- The **Indian Health Service** (IHS) funds Inter-Tribal Council of Arizona and the Native American Health Services, providing University of New Mexico hospitals with a new HIV/AIDS prevention and care funding opportunity. The funding is intended to meet American Indian and Alaska Native community needs to improve HIV prevention and care outcomes to align with the National HIV/AIDS strategy for three to five clinics/hospitals to improve HIV screening in urgent care, emergency departments and PrEP readiness and implementation.
- The National Center for Transgender Equality conducts a U.S. transgender survey with 319 transgender American Indians and Alaska Natives. The report focuses on the disparities in many areas of life, such as colonialism and historical trauma.
- Natives return to the U.S. Conference on AIDS and begin to plan the formation of a new Native HIV Network.
- **Prince Harry** and **Readna** take an HIV test to promote the importance of knowing one's status.
- Hawai'i's Community Health Outreach Work Project (CHOW) exchanged over 1 million syringes, a 3,000% increase since 1993.
- The "**Undetectable=Untransmittable (U=U)**" slogan is launched by the **Prevention Access Campaign** to promote the finding that HIV-positive people who are virally suppressed cannot sexually transmit the virus to others.
- **Healthy Native Youth** is a one-stop shop for educators and health advocates who want to expand learning opportunities for AI/AN youth. The program is collaboratively run by the Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board (NPAIHB), the Alaska Native Tribal Health

Consortium (ANTHC), the Inter Tribal Council of Arizona (ITCA), the University of Texas School of Public Health (UTSPH), and a team of national stakeholders. Their goal is to support the dissemination of healthy decision-making curricula to tribal health educators and teachers, and empower AI/AN communities to select and implement evidence-based sexual health programs. Funded by the Indian Health Service HIV Program and the Minority AIDS Initiative Fund.

2017

- Members of the International Indigenous working group on HIV/AIDS at the United Nations create a permanent forum on Indigenous issues.
- The **Albuquerque Area Indian Health Board** (AAIHB) coordinates a wide array of key stakeholders from the 12 IHS areas including Hawai'i to form the National Native HIV Network. The project is supported by the Indian Health Service (IHS) and the Health and Human Services Office of the Secretary's Minority HIV/AIDS Fund (MHAF).

36.9 million living with AIDS, with Africa having the highest rates.

2018

- Decline in AIDS related deaths worldwide.
- Hawai'i Community Health Outreach Work Project (CHOW) and Life Foundation merge to become the Hawai'i Health & Harm Reduction Center.
- Indian Health Services receives \$3.5 million award from the Secretary's Minority AIDS Initiative Fund to address communities that are disproportionately affected by HIV. The funds are to respond to the National HIV/AIDS Strategy goal of reducing HIV-related disparities and health inequities. Funds were distributed to federal, tribal and urban Indian Health programs across the U.S. The Indian Health Service, an agency within the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is the lead federal agency charged with improving the health of American Indians and Alaska Natives.
- The Tipi Project Winter: Waniyetu Wakága Wipáthapi in Lakota means "Produce Tipi Covers Winter" is a Winter Count project to preserve the story of HIV/AIDS led by Lakota artist Sheldon Raymore.
- The Native Hawai'ian/Pacific Islander Constituent Advisory

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Panel presents their first institute at the United States Conference on HIV. CAP members are Kunane Dreier, Cathy Kapua, Keiva Lei Cadena, Kekoa Kealoha, Bianka Tasaka, Keli'i Abordo and Carolyn Kualii.

Of the 37,832 new HIV diagnoses in the U.S. in 2018, <1% were among American Indians/Alaska Natives.

Most new HIV diagnoses are among American Indian/Alaska Native gay and bisexual men.

2019

- Ending the HIV Epidemic: Plan for the U.S. The goal of reducing new HIV infections in the United States 75% by 2025 and 90% by 2030, "**Ending the HIV Epidemic: A Plan for America**" focuses on four key strategies that together can end the HIV epidemic in the U.S.: Diagnose, Treat, Prevent, and Respond.
- **Elton Naswood** (Navajo) and **Ben Geboe** (Yankton Sioux Tribe of South Dakota) are the new U.S. representatives leaders on International Indigenous Working Group on HIV/AIDS (IIWHA).
- National Indian Health Board hosts first ever Tribal listening session for HHS on Developing the National Strategies for HIV and Viral Hepatitis and an STD Federal Action Plan. Comments from the listening session were submitted to HHS on the Next Versions of the National HIV AIDS Strategy and the National Viral Hepatitis Action Plan.
- After an absence of Native visibility at the United States Conference on AIDS (USCA), a delegation of American Indians, Alaska Natives and Native Hawaiians return and participate in the opening and closing plenaries. Opening plenary performance by Tony Enos.
- 2nd Annual "2Spirits & HIV: A Conference for LGBTQ+ Native American Affected by HIV" is hosted at the American Indian Community House in NYC during the 50th Anniversary of the Stonewall Riots.
- "**Two-Spirit Voices: Returning to the Circle**" celebrates the 20th anniversary of Bay Area American Indian Two Spirits (BAAITS). The exhibition at the GLBT Historical Museum in San Francisco focuses on four main themes: LGBTQ and Two-Spirit pride, the annual Two-Spirit Powwow organized by BAAITS, indigenous medicine and responses to HIV/AIDS, and Two-Spirit meaning within indigenous communities. Curated by Roger Kuhn, Amelia Vigil and Ruth Villaseñor.

- The Albuquerque Area Indian Health Board receives funding from Indian Health Service (IHS) and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Minority HIV/AIDS Fund (MHAF) to coordinate a wide array of key stakeholders to form The National Native HIV Network (NNHN).
- Member representatives of the National Native HIV Network have their first formal planning meeting in Anchorage, Alaska. AAIHB Staff: Savannah Gene, AAIHB; Rae Warner, AAIHB; Danner Peter, AAIHB NNHN Co- Coordinators: Kurt Begaye, Begaye Consulting; Elton Naswood, Consultant; Joe Cantil, ANTHC; Jennifer Arnold, ANTHC; Kunane Dreier, HHHRC; Lanny McCanta; Steven Barrios, MT Two-Spirit Society; Faith Baldwin, NNDOH; Lee Torres, FNCH; Cody Knight, SPTHB; Bryan Hendrix, USET; Sheldon Raymore, AICH
- A Toolkit for Advancing the Uptake and Use of PrEP in Indian Country: The content for this toolkit was developed under the direction of Robert Foley with the National Indian Health Board and Rick Haverkate (Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians) with the Indian Health Service, through a subcontract with a team from JSI Research & Training Institute: Hannabah Blue (Diné), Yvonne Hamby, Arman Lorz and Hannah Chidekel.
- **Mattee Jim** (Navajo) receives the Transgender Law Center's Vanguard Award.
- USCA changes its name to USCHA.
- The Albuquerque Area Indian Health Board receives funding from Indian Health Service (IHS) and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Minority HIV/AIDS Fund (MHAF) to coordinate a wide array of key stakeholders to form The National Native HIV Network (NNHN).

2020

- **Laura Platero**, JD a citizen of the Navajo Nation and the Executive Director of the Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board (NPAIHB), is appointed to The Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS (PACHA). She is the former Deputy Director of the National Native American AIDS Prevention Center (NNAAPC) and served in Government Affairs and Health policy leadership positions at the National Congress of American Indians and Pueblo of Laguna Development Corporation.
- **The Red Circle Project**, the only HIV Prevention Program in Los Angeles County that provided services to American Indians and Alaska Natives, closes.

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- The National Native HIV Network produces their first National HIV Testing Day poster created by artist **Jolene Yazzie** (Navajo).
- The International Indigenous AIDS Pre-Conference was to take place in Berkeley, California, during the summer of 2020. Instead it goes virtual due to the COVID-19 pandemic..
- In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 8th Indigenous Pre-Conference on HIV & AIDS took on the form of the WISER webinar series that continued through the month of July. The webinars covered topics relevant to Indigenous people affected by HIV/AIDS globally.
- Originally to take place in San Francisco and Oakland, California, AIDS 2020, the International AIDS Conference goes virtual due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Since 1985, the International AIDS Conference brought top researchers, and community to address the most pressing research questions.
- The 9th Annual Native Harm Reduction Summit partners: White Earth Nation Harm Reduction Coalition, National Indian Health Board, White Earth Tribal & Community College, Minnesota Department of Health, and Minnesota Department of Human Services.
- The Indian Health Service, an agency within the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is the lead federal agency charged with improving the health of American Indians and Alaska Natives

2021

- The National Native HIV Network takes the lead in National Native HIV/AIDS Awareness Day. "Zero is Possible Together: Innovation + Awareness" is the theme chosen for the 2021 National Native HIV/AIDS Awareness Day to highlight current public health and biomedical strategies and community responses to HIV/AIDS in tribal and urban communities.
- As part of the National Native HIV/AIDS Awareness Day, the National AIDS Memorial honors Native Americans lost to AIDS with a special virtual exhibition of the AIDS Memorial Quilt, which features 16-quilt blocks that contain panels made to honor loved ones from the American Indian, Alaska Native and the Native Hawai'ian communities.
- For the first time in the history of the HIV/AIDS epidemic, the U.S. Congress issues an advance appropriation of \$5 million for FY2021 to Indian Health Services to eliminate hepatitis C and HIV/AIDS in Indian Country. The funds are earmarked to provide treatment and case management services to prevent Hep C infection and enhance HIV testing and linkages to care in support of Ending HIV Epidemic: A Plan for America.