

## A Journey Through The Native HIV/AIDS Timeline

### 2000

- Worried that the AIDS epidemic could “topple foreign governments, touch off ethnic wars and undo decades of work in building free market democracies abroad,” the Clinton administration formally declares the disease a threat to U.S. national security.
- Ryan White Comprehensive AIDS Resources Emergency (CARE) Act is reauthorized.
- A shift in Prevention Interventions and Care & Treatment includes injection drug users (IDU), women, children, transgender, mentally ill, homeless, People of Color, Natives.
- Heightened harm reduction efforts by individual activists, educators and people who used drugs help to bring the need for Needle & Syringe Exchange to the forefront.
- Co-infection with hepatitis C virus and the HIV virus is discovered to be common in certain populations. Among HCV (+) persons, 10% are also HIV (+), and among HIV(+) persons, 25% are also HCV (+). Many studies show with intravenous drug users, co-infection prevalence can be as high as 90%-95%.
- UNAIDS reports 36.1 million people are now living with HIV/AIDS and nearly 22 million people have died of AIDS-related illness since the beginning of the epidemic.

774,467 cases of AIDS reported in the U.S.  
448,060 deaths.

### 2001

- **Marty Prairie** (Oglala Lakota), a beloved friend, advocate and pioneer in the fight to ensure the Native voice was heard and represented, dies. Marty was an outspoken voice for people living with HIV/AIDS and drug users. He and Michael Harvey co-founded the syringe and needle exchange Program in Asheville, North Carolina (NEPA).
- CDC HIV Prevention Community Planning New Guidance includes language for Health Departments to work with tribal nations.
- HIV rates had not declined in the last decade. The CDC takes a series of steps to use HIV testing as an HIV-prevention approach. In 2001, the CDC first described the Serostatus Approach to Fighting the HIV Epidemic, called SAFE, which comprised action steps for diagnosing HIV infection in all infected people and linking them to care.

816,149 cases of AIDS reported in the U.S.  
462,653 deaths.

### 2002

- The Global Fund to Fight AIDS along with tuberculosis and malaria is established.
- Through a cooperative agreement with CDC, NNAAPC provides capacity building assistance to Native community-based organizations, tribes and health departments.
- Clinician’s Guide: Working with Native Americans Living with HIV produced by NNAAPC with funding support from the HIV/AIDS Bureau Health Resources and Services Administration and the guidance from the Association of American Indian Physicians, NNAAPC’s Native Care HIV/AIDS Integrated Services Network.
- **CDC New Initiatives** begin:
  - 1) HIV testing routine part of medical care;
  - 2) New models for diagnosing HIV outside the medical setting;
  - 3) Prevent HIV by working with HIV positive persons and their partners;
  - 4) further decrease perinatal HIV transmission.
- UNAIDS reports that women now comprise about half of all adults living with HIV/AIDS worldwide.

886,000 cases of AIDS reported in the U.S.  
501,669 deaths.

### 2003

- CDC announces that 66% of new infections are transmitted by individuals who were unaware of their infected status.
- The CDC’s new initiative, **Advancing HIV Prevention: New Strategies for a Changing Epidemic**, is aimed at reducing barriers to early diagnosis of HIV infection and increasing access to quality medical care, treatment, and ongoing prevention services. The HIV initiative emphasizes the use of proven public health approaches to reducing the incidence and spread of disease.
- The **Diffusion of Effective Behavioral Interventions** (DEBI) is supported by the CDC as a prevention tool to transfer HIV prevention behavior change research to community prevention practice. The DEBIs serve as a catalyst for closing the gap between intervention science and program delivery, ensuring that communities are benefiting from the investment in prevention intervention research.

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- NLEAP – Native Leadership Empowerment AIDS Project: A project of NNAAPC developed by Carolyn Kualii (Native Hawai'ian/Apache) and Debra Scott (Cherokee) to develop leadership in the American Indian/Alaska Native and Native Hawai'ian communities.
- Kulia Na Mamo, a nonprofit organization established to serve Hawai'i's mahuwahine (transgender women) community. Under the leadership of Ashliana Hawelu-Fulgoni, Kulia Na Mamo provided an array of social services aimed at addressing the most critical daily needs of Hawai'i's mahuwahine: HIV/AIDS and hepatitis C prevention interventions, sober support activities, pre-employment training service, suicide support group services, one-on-one case management services, food bank, transportation services, and a speakers bureau.
- United States Conference on AIDS – strong Native involvement and presence: NNAAPC staffer Carolyn Kualii sits on the national USCA planning committee to ensure the Native community is included in the conference programming. Activities include coordination of the Native Institute, advocacy work with Asian Pacific Islander and Latino communities, working with Capacity Building Assistance (CBA) providers, hosting the Martyr Prairie Award, and supporting Community Building & Engagement at USCA.

### 2004

- Diagnosed with HIV & Hep C on May 2, 2002, **Isadore Boni**, an enrolled member of the San Carlos Tribe, goes public and shares his story at the Phoenix Indian Medical Center's World AIDS Day event. His story is aired on the local TV station.
- CDC extends capacity building assistance to the Native community through a cooperative agreement to include two new Native CBA providers.
- **National Native CBA Providers** are the National Native American AIDS Prevention Center (NNAAPC), Colorado State University CA7AE, and Inter Tribal Council of AZ (ITCA).
- NNAAPC's Regional Partner Coalition establishes a cohesive national Native group to lead the HIV efforts in their region and nationally:
  - Alaska Native Health Board, Anchorage
  - Indigenous People's Task Force, Minneapolis
  - Inter-Tribal Council of Arizona, Phoenix
  - Aberdeen Area Tribal Health Board, South Dakota
  - Robeson Health Care Corp., Lumberton/Fairmont

- American Indian Community House, NYC
- Papa Ola Lokahi, Hawai'i
- The Hawai'i's Life Foundation receives direct CDC funding for HIV prevention programming in Hawai'i and the Pacific Islands.
- Nationwide efforts begin to merge Prevention Planning and Care Planning groups.

### 2005

- First Meth Conference in Salt Lake City that was attended by a large number of Native HIV prevention service providers and tribal nations. The conference was hosted by the Harm Reduction Coalition and Utah's Department of Health. Native programming was organized by Matt Ignacio, a former NNAAPC staffer who went to NYC to work with the Harm Reduction Coalition.
- Strong resistance from the federal government threatens to shut down the conference and defund agencies that attended. Part of the right-wing Republican's goal is to gut Harm Reduction and HIV Prevention Education in the U.S.
- Nelson Mandela's son dies from an AIDS-related illness.

### 2006

- **Embracing Our Traditions, Values and Teachings:** Native Peoples of North America HIV/AIDS hold a conference in Anchorage, Alaska.
- A collaboration brings together members of the American Indian, Alaska Native and Native Hawai'ian communities with the National Minority AIDS Education and Training Center and Howard University in Washington, DC – "Be Safe: A Cultural Competency Model for American Indians, Alaska Natives and Native Hawai'ians toward the prevention and treatment of HIV/AIDS"
- Planning for the first National Native HIV/AIDS Awareness Day begins. Together, the National CBA Providers begin to visualize a plan centered around the first day of the spring season when the Sun crosses the celestial equator known as the Vernal Equinox. March 20, the time of the Equinox, was selected for the cultural importance it has for many Indigenous peoples. Members of the planning committee include Carolyn Kualii (NNAAPC), Pamela Jumper-Thurman (CA7AE), and Michelle Sabori, (ITCA)

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### 2007

- The first **National Native HIV/AIDS Awareness Day** becomes a reality observed on the first day of Spring known as the Vernal Equinox each year during the month of March.

CDC reports over 565,000 people have died in the U.S. of AIDS-related illness since 1981.

### 2008

- Two years prior to his passing, **Kory Montoya** (Jicarilla Apache) shares his personal story in the March issue of **POZ Magazine**.
- An international study finds the life expectancy of HIV positive people has increased to 60 years of age.
- New work using genetic data from the two old HIV samples plus more than 100 modern samples brings the majority of HIV researchers to agree that HIV may have originated in humans in the 1880s.

### 2009

Newly elected **President Barack Obama** calls for:

- The first White House Tribal Nations Conference occurs as an initiative aimed to create dialogue between governments.
- The first National HIV/AIDS Strategy for the U.S. is formed.
- In response to the National HIV/AIDS Strategy, Native community-based organizations and individuals from the American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawai'ian communities come together as a National Native Coalition to ensure their concerns and needs are heard and included. Testimonies and position papers were submitted during the 2009 USCA and town hall meetings throughout the Nation.
- Co-chairs of the National Native HIV/AIDS Coalition and other Native LGBTQ and two Spirit community members go to DC to meet with representatives from HRSA, SAMSA, CDC, National Institute of Health and Indian Health Service.
- Co-chairs of the National Native HIV/AIDS Coalition Melvin Harrison, Carolyn Kual'i'i, Pamela Jumper Thurman, Sharon Day, Harlen Pruden and community member Kory Montoya meet with Jim Crowley, director of President Obama's Office of National AIDS Policy and with Obama's

Senior Policy Advisor for Native American Affairs, Kimberly Teehee (Cherokee).

### 2010

#### **Patient Protection & Affordable Care Act**

- Indian Health CARE Improvement Act permanently reauthorized in Health Reform 3590.
- Native Hawai'ian Health Care Improvement Reauthorization Act was reauthorized for a 10-year period with the Affordable Care Act (P.L. 111.148). The reauthorized act is within the Indian Health Care legislation under the section addressing the Native Hawai'ian Health Care Systems.
- President Obama's administration lifts the travel ban on HIV positive individuals entering the United States.
- Indian Health Services establishes the position of Director of HIV/AIDS Prevention & Treatment.

### 2011

- First HIV panel at the **Healing Our Spirit Worldwide Conference** at the Honolulu Convention Center is held in Honolulu, Hawai'i'.

### 2012

- The FDA approves first at-home HIV test.
- The International Indigenous Pre Conference is held in Washington, DC.
- Hawai'i's Life Foundation Strategic Planning session identifies the need to develop a transgender social service program to meet the needs of the transgender community.
- Life Foundation hosts the first of three Native Hawai'ian Asian and Pacific Islander "Retreats to Paradise."
- **Kua'ana** is the Hawai'ian term for older sibling. In the 'ohana (family) structure, kua'ana take responsibility of caring for the kaina (younger sibling) and guide them as they pursue their goals. Through the **Kua'ana Project**, peers of the transgender community kōkua (assist) other transpersons using their own personal experiences. Whether it be to search for jobs, legally change their names, or access stable housing, Kua'ana Project staff support and encourage kaina with compassion and

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understanding. The Kua`ana Project is a project of the Hawai`i Health & Harm Reduction Center.

- **We R Native** is a multimedia health resource for Native youth, by Native youth. The service provides health messages to address the social, structural, and environmental stressors that influence adolescent health. Particular focus is given to the prevention of STDs/ HIV, teen pregnancy, suicide, bullying, and drug and alcohol misuse. The website contains over 350 health and wellness pages that have been reviewed by Native youth and topical experts. We R Native's social media channels promote interactivity and cultural pride, striving to promote holistic health and positive growth in Native communities nationally. The organization is made possible with support from the Indian Health Service and the Minority HIV/AIDS Fund from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

- The CDC defunds all three Native Capacity Building Assistance Providers (CBA) after two decades of building and supporting a network of Native service providers and bridging communities across the lower 48, Alaska and Hawai`i. The loss of funding shifts the dynamics of the community. CA7AE received a high score on their CDC proposal and on the pre-decision site visit but was told the decision not to fund was based on low Native prevalence.

### 2013

- The **United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS** (UNAIDS) announces antiretroviral treatment has increased 63% in two years and new HIV infections have dropped 50% in low- and middle-income countries.
- NNAAPC presents the **Honoring of the Red Ribbon Award** annually to a Native professional or advocate who exhibits similar dedication to HIV/AIDS awareness with Native communities. This prestigious award acknowledges and honors the work and life of **Marty Lynn Prairie** (1958-2001). Marty worked tirelessly to advocate, educate, and increase awareness of HIV and AIDS in Indian Country.
- **Tommy Chesbro** (Cherokee/Lumbee/African American/Caucasian) receives the 2013 Honoring the Red Ribbon Award. He was among the impressive individuals who have made significant impact in their communities and on the field of HIV. Tommy has worked extensively in the realm of HIV and AIDS, bringing a spotlight to the realities of the epidemic in Indian Country both nationally and locally. Tommy has been living with HIV for 27 years, and his personal experiences have fueled his own passion for this important work.

### 2014

- The Affordable Care Act ensures that HIV positive people can gain access to health insurance and avoid annual limits on coverage.