

MDCH Recognizes November 30th As World AIDS Day

The Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH), Division of Health, Wellness and Disease Control (DHWDC) recognizes World AIDS Day through a series of events and observations. The theme for this year's World AIDS Day on November 30, 2012, is ***Getting to Zero. Zero new infections. Zero discrimination. Zero AIDS related deaths.*** The observance will mark the 31st year of the first cases of HIV which garnered the world's attention.

As of October, 2012, a total of 19,300 people were estimated to be living with HIV in Michigan. Of the reported 14,996 cases, over half have a diagnosis of AIDS. Further breakdown reveals that 58 percent of those infected are African-American, 34 percent are White, 4 percent are Hispanic, 1 percent are Asian/Pacific Islander and 2 percent are other or of an unknown race. Seventy-eight percent of those infected are males, and twenty-two percent are females.

The MDCH, DHWDC in conjunction with the Institute for Population Health, Alere, Gilead Sciences, National Black Leadership Commission on AIDS Detroit, MAC Cosmetics, Children's Hospital Horizon's Project, Southeastern Michigan HIV/AIDS Council, Rochester School of Nursing and Wayne County Community College District-Northwest Campus, will recognize World AIDS Day on **Friday, November 30th, from 10:00 am to 3:30 p.m., at Wayne County Community College District Northwest Campus in Detroit.** Activities include free and confidential HIV testing, STD and syphilis screenings, as well as diabetes, blood pressure, and cholesterol screenings. Various HIV/AIDS community organizations will be displaying information on the services they provide, and several workshops will address HIV/AIDS and STD prevention. In addition, a panel discussion will focus on the existing stigma related to HIV. Also, an AIDS Walk Update will be presented on funds raised throughout Metro Detroit, and those funds will be distributed to community organizations that provide services to individuals infected and affected by HIV/AIDS.

The MDCH, DHWDC continues to provide Health Disparities Reduction and HIV/STD prevention, education and care services statewide, as well as training, to support our state's HIV/AIDS, STD and Health Disparities Reduction service providers. For more information, please contact the World AIDS Day Planning Committee Chair, Tracy Peterson-Jones, at petersont@michigan.gov.