



HIV/AIDS

AMONG

AMERICAN INDIAN & ALASKA NATIVE TWO-SPIRIT MEN



More than 1 million people in the United States are living with HIV – and their numbers are higher than ever before. Unfortunately, 1 in 3 aren't aware they're infected and may spread the virus unknowingly.

HIV stigma is taking a devastating toll on **American Indians and Alaska Natives**. To protect future generations, we must:

Stop the Silence!

Learn your status, protect yourself and your loved ones, and end stigma associated with HIV/AIDS.

Each of us plays a critical role in fighting the disease, and **Project Red Talon** is dedicated to helping you do your part.

StoptheSilence.org

Talk to your tribe, family, kids, & intimate partners.

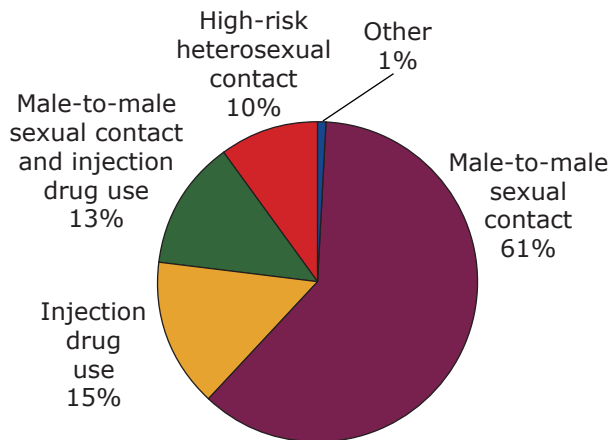
Did you know?

- **HIV impacts everyone.** American Indians and Alaska Natives have the third highest rate of AIDS of all racial and ethnic groups in the U.S. They are our brothers and sisters, our mothers and fathers, our nieces and nephews.
- **HIV rates are on the rise.** From 2001-2005, the number of HIV/AIDS diagnoses among two-spirit men increased 11%.
- In 2005, over 70% of new HIV/AIDS cases diagnosed among men occurred among **men who have sex with men or two-spirit men.**
- **Young people are at risk too.** Half of new HIV infections occur among teens and young adults, and among young two-spirit men aged 18-24, nearly 80% diagnosed with HIV did not know they were infected.
- **Early testing is critical for treatment and survival.** Because of late testing, Natives have the lowest AIDS survival rate of any group, with just 1 in 4 individuals living more than 3 years after their diagnosis.



Men most commonly report **male-to-male sexual contact** as their primary cause of exposure to HIV.

Transmission Categories for AI/AN Males Diagnosed With HIV/AIDS Between 2001 and 2005



Using alcohol or illegal drugs such as methamphetamine or ecstasy can make people **more likely to engage in risky sexual behavior**.

Half of new HIV infections occur among teens and young adults. Young two-spirit men are more likely to engage in risky behavior than older men, placing them at greater risk of contracting HIV.

Routine HIV screening is now recommended for everyone age 13 to 64, regardless of risk. Two-spirit men who are sexually active should be tested for HIV and other STDs at least once a year.

*Provided by Project Red Talon,
a project of the Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board
For more information, visit us on the web: www.npaihb.org
Funded by CDC grant U83/CCU024369-04*

What Can You Do?

- Protect yourself against HIV infection. Know the risks associated with sex and drug use.
- Get tested to better protect yourself and your partners.
- Get medical care and support if you're living with HIV.
- Support National Native HIV/AIDS Awareness Day in March.
- Volunteer at a tribal HIV/AIDS program.
- Be a friend to someone living with HIV/AIDS.
- Stop the silence! Help end stigma associated with HIV.

To Learn More

- Find an STD/HIV testing site near you at: www.hivtest.org
 - **Speak with your doctor or other healthcare provider**
 - Visit Stop the Silence at: www.stopthesilence.org
 - **Contact your tribal health department**
- Get in touch with The Red Circle Project at: www.apla.org/native_american
- **Call the CDC National AIDS Hotline at: 1-800-CDC-INFO (232-4636)**