

A Time of Opportunity and Commitment: Promoting Health Equity for Gay Men

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May 23, 2011

- **NASTAD Strategic Map**
- **Gay Men's Portfolio**
- **Latino Gay Men's Report**
- **Upcoming NASTAD Activities**

Strengthen the Role and Promote the Success of State and Territorial Public Health Programs

To Reduce Health Disparities in Racial and Ethnic Minority Communities and Among Gay and Bisexual Men and Other Disproportionately Impacted Populations

To Develop and Inspire Strategies that Incorporate Social Determinants of Health

To Improve Systems of Surveillance, Prevention and Care and Treatment

To Encourage and Mainstream Beneficial Integration and Coordination of Policies and Practices

To Successfully Integrate New Technologies in Public Health Practice

To Bolster the Public Health Workforce by Strengthening Leadership and Effectiveness

To Minimize the Challenges and Maximize the Benefits of Emerging Issues

WITH SOUND
POLICY AND
ADVOCACY

WITH QUALITY
CAPACITY BUILDING
AND TECHNICAL
ASSISTANCE

WITH
STRONG
PARTNERSHIPS

WITH
EFFECTIVE
COMMUNICATIONS

WITH
ORGANIZATIONAL
EFFECTIVENESS

To Reduce HIV/AIDS and Viral Hepatitis Incidence, Ensure Quality Care and Treatment and Improve Health Outcomes



STATEMENT OF URGENCY: CRISIS AMONG GAY MEN

NASTAD and NCS D, on behalf of state and territorial health officials responsible for HIV, viral hepatitis, and sexually transmitted disease (STD) programs are gravely concerned about the stronghold HIV and STD infections continue to have on gay and bisexual men of all races and ethnicities in the United States. While other at-risk populations have seen declining numbers of new HIV infections over time, new cases among gay men continue to rise and this population also bears a disproportionate burden of syphilis. Despite past progress, we acknowledge that our nation's efforts are not currently sufficient to arrest new infections among these men. Thus, we are seeing sustained and often increasing HIV and syphilis transmission among our sons, brothers, fathers, uncles and friends. This crisis requires an honest and critical examination of our prior efforts and a sharpening of our focus so that we can prevent new infections among gay and bisexual men of all races once and for all.

The silence that ushered in the beginning of the domestic HIV/AIDS epidemic in the early 1980s has again taken hold of our nation and most Americans offer little more than sympathy for a crisis that continues to claim thousands of gay men's lives each year. Gay and bisexual men, particularly those of color, feel the acute and sustained effects of oppression, despite any progress that is being made toward equality, and experience rejection and discrimination at personal and institutional levels.

NASTAD and NCS D members commit to examining existing programs and the allocation of resources targeting gay and bisexual men. In addition, further investment in federal funding for prevention programs is paramount and NASTAD and NCS D will continue to advocate for increased and targeted resources. With support from NASTAD and NCS D, our members commit to developing new and innovative partnerships to ensure that sound and holistic policies that impact the lives of gay men are adopted and implemented. In conjunction with new and existing partners, our members also pledge to implement scientifically-grounded and innovative programs which explicitly target these men. Progress toward change will take time but the commitment of NASTAD and NCS D members is renewed and unyielding.

Approved by NASTAD's Executive Committee on June 10, 2010 and NCS D's Board of Directors on June 14, 2010

NASTAD and the National Coalition of STD Directors (NCS D) released a ***Statement of Urgency*** in June 2010 expressing concern about the stronghold that HIV and STD infections continue to have on gay and bisexual men.



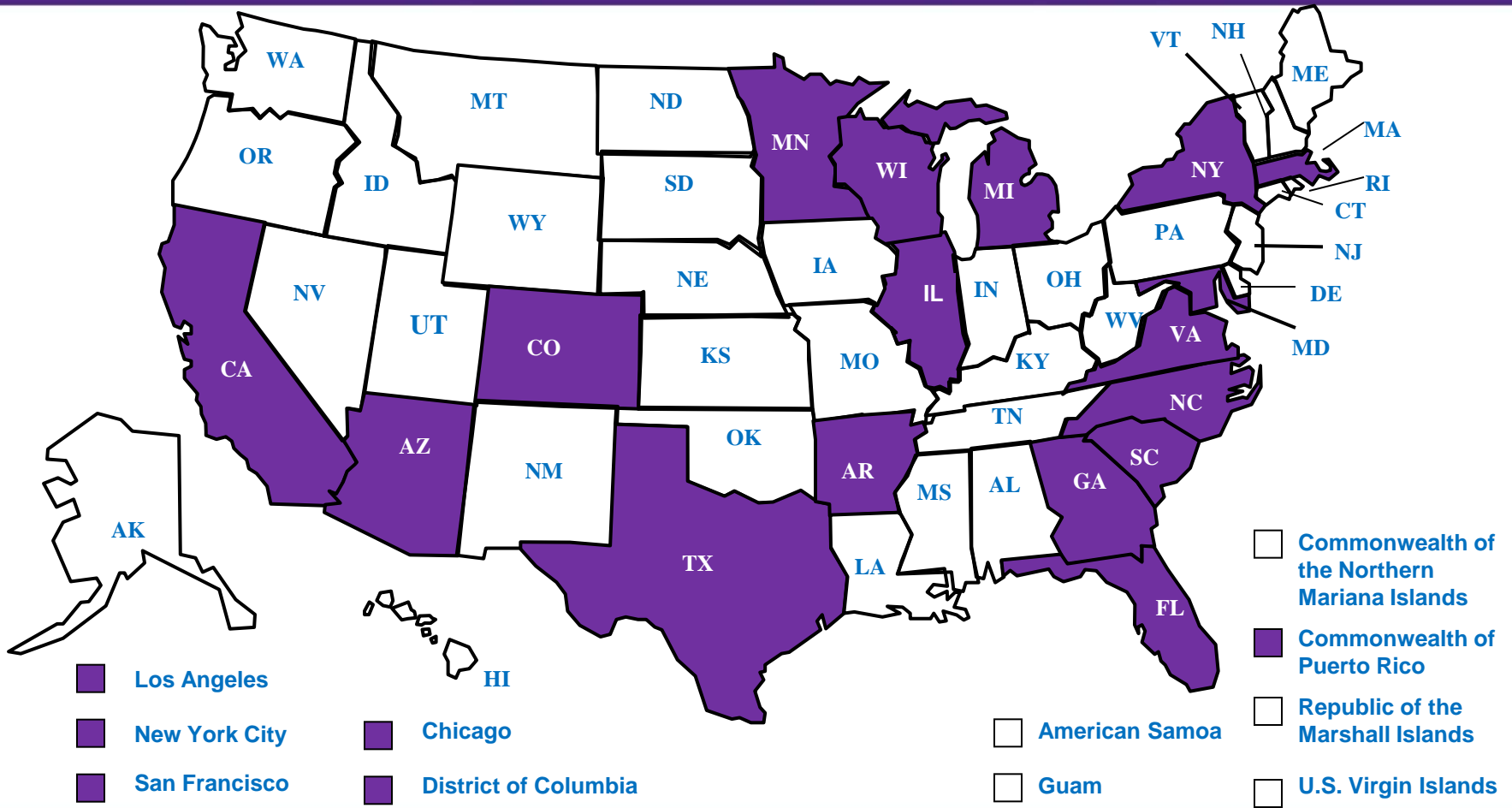
- Reducing HIV incidence;
- Increasing access to care and optimizing health outcomes;
- Reducing HIV-related health disparities; and
- Achieving a more coordinated national response.

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Objectives of Gay Men's Portfolio

- Increase **leadership and develop the programmatic skills** of staff in state and local health departments;
- Develop **policy and program recommendations** that enhance response to the HIV/AIDS crisis among gay men;
- Encourage state and local health departments to enhance **synergy with community stakeholders**;
- Examine **challenges and barriers** that health departments and communities face; and
- Reduce **stigma** and create more **culturally appropriate approaches** to HIV/AIDS, STD and viral hepatitis prevention, care and treatment activities.

Map of Gay Men's Activities



Gay Men's Timeline

- **May 2001** – Releases a **call to action** in response to CDC data regarding HIV incidence among young men who have sex with men (MSM)
- **July – December 2001** – Assists CDC with a series of **MSM regional meetings**
- **October 2002** – Participates on the planning committee for an NIH/CDC meeting on **improving the efficacy of interventions for MSM**
- **November 2004** – In partnership with NCSD, releases a call to action, ***Crisis Among Gay Men: Crystal Methamphetamine Use Linked to Rising HIV and STD Rates***

- **March 2005** – Hosts a **National Gay Stakeholders Meeting**
- **December 2005 – March 2006** – Launches a **survey** designed to obtain jurisdiction-level data among Black MSM
- **February 2006** – Releases the first of three issue brief on Black MSM, ***Standing at the Crossroad of the HIV/AIDS Epidemic in the United States***
- **October 2006 – May 2007** – Conducts **interviews with over 80 stakeholders** focusing on Black MSM
- **February 2008** – Convenes a **Black gay men/MSM technical assistance meeting**

Gay Men's Timeline (cont.)

- **February 2009** – Releases the first of four installments of its **podcast series** focused on Black gay men's sexuality
- **September 2009** – Releases a **four-part web-film** on using the internet to reach gay men
- **June 2010** – In partnership with NCSD, releases a **Statement of Urgency** at a Congressional briefing about the HIV and STD crisis among gay men
- **June 2010** – Convenes its **second technical assistance meeting** focused on Black gay men
- **July 2010** – Creates the **Gay Men's Health Equity Work Group**

- **October 2010** – Releases a **video tool-kit**, *Street Conversations - Gay Men & HIV/AIDS: Is Prevention Working?*
- **March 2011** – Releases a **Resources Directory** and **Issues for Consideration** that address the health equity of gay and bisexual men of all races and ethnicities
- **March 2011** – In conjunction with NCSD, receives a MAC grant to begin **anti-stigma work among Black and Latino gay men**
- **April 2011** – Releases a Latino gay men report, ***A Traves de Nuestros Ojos (Through Our Eyes): Promoting Health and Social Equity to Address HIV/AIDS among Latino Gay Men***

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Una noche me encontré con un amigo. Supe que le pasaba algo. Aunque no me lo pudiera decir, se moría de ganas y estaba enfadado. No parecía el mismo. Le avergonzaba un poco verme, aunque me trató con respeto. Así que le dije: '¿Por qué no vamos a dar una vuelta?'. Le metí en mi coche y le puse una cinta de mi...

A Través de Nuestros Ojos (Through Our Eyes):

**Promoting Health and Social Equity to
Address HIV/AIDS among Latino Gay Men**

Unos meses después de eso, él me contó que había estado con una mujer blanca, pero que no quería decirle a nadie que era homosexual. Creo que nunca ha existido un punto medio que no solo exprese tu 'homosexualidad' sino también tu 'condición latina'. Pero no puedes separarlas. Son igual de importantes.

- Report represent key themes derived from face-to-face focus group interviews with **state and local health departments, community-based organizations and consumers of HIV/AIDS** prevention and care and treatment services.
- A total of **60 interviews in 12 jurisdictions** were conducted with approximately 250 participants with over 2,000 pages of raw data.

Latino Gay Men's Report: *Key Themes*

- Despite expressing the value of collaboration, many participants cited a weak culture of **collaboration**.
- Urgent need for more opportunities and structures to develop grassroots and professional **leadership skills and capacity**.
- **Culture and religion** play a contradictory role for Latino gay men.
- **Language, literacy, educational advancements and immigration status** were noted as practical needs for the community that overshadowed HIV prevention and care and treatment efforts.

Latino Gay Men Report: Quotes

“It seems that the application process is not good for [fostering collaboration] because we see agencies as competitors instead of potential collaborators.” – **Chicago, IL service provider**

“I have three degrees but it’s always, ‘Oh, you’re the first person to the new position that is going to be open, but you are so good doing what you are doing on the streets, we’re just gonna keep you there.’ So, I don’t really feel that my educational background is of any importance here.” – **San Francisco, CA service provider**

“I always say to people [that] family, religion and culture can kill you or help you. That’s the problem. Latinos have a really strong religion and family base. That makes it a little harder, especially when you are the only male in the family or the oldest one, you have really high expectations that you need to meet in order to make your family happy.” – **Boston, MA service provider**

Latino Gay Men Report: *Quotes (cont.)*

“There’s also a lot of confusion around what can be done and what can’t be done based on your immigration status. So you’ve got confusion on the provider side, but you’ve also got confusion on the client side or gay men that you might want to target for prevention services because they’re afraid.”

– Tucson, AZ provider

“Getting tested is one thing, and finding out is one thing. But it’s the ten days afterwards, and then even after, that’s the part that I felt there was absolutely nothing...I can see why a lotta people just give – they just say, ‘Screw it. I don’t wanna deal ’cause it’s too much of a headache. It’s too much of a hassle. I can’t devote 10 hours to sitting in an office hoping to get seen for 20 minutes.’ That’s the hardest part.”

– Los Angeles, CA consumer

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- LGBTQ Youth Community Initiative
- Viral hepatitis gay men's fact sheet
- NASTAD and NCSD stigma survey
- Black Gay Men's Technical Assistance Meeting
- Partnership with Human Rights Campaign
- Latino gay men video report
- Gay men webinar series
- Gay Men's Health Equity Work Group Meeting

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