



10 WAYS HEALTH DEPARTMENTS CAN PARTICIPATE IN
National Asian and Pacific Islander HIV/AIDS Awareness Day
May 19, 2010

Work with Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander communities to:

1. **Host a brown bag for health department staff** to educate them about the [Asian American, Pacific Islander and/or Native Hawaiian communities in your state or in the nation](#) – including those who may have been resettled. Conduct discussions and/or cultural competency training with state and local health department staff to examine relevant issues and trends in API communities. The document, [Breaking Through The Silence: Key Issues and Recommendations for Addressing HIV/AIDS in Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander Communities in the U.S.](#), published jointly by NASTAD and the [APIAHE](#), may serve as a framework to target discussions. See also a [Fact Sheet](#) from CAPS for more information on the impact of HIV among API communities.
2. **Schedule a briefing with CBOs and agencies** on the programs and services for Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders in your state or locality. Support staff working on outreach regarding events for National API HIV/AIDS Awareness Day. Support local planning groups organizing National API Awareness Day events or offer office space to conduct meetings. Announce local events on your website, in bulletins and newsletters.
3. Use National API HIV/AIDS Awareness Day activities as a catalyst for staff to **consider how Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders may be addressed in their programmatic work** whenever it makes sense to do so *throughout* the year.
4. Consider ways to **link API Awareness day events with National Viral Hepatitis Awareness Month** activities. API communities are disproportionately affected by Hepatitis B and May is also [National Hepatitis Awareness Month](#). Visit [NASTAD's viral hepatitis page](#) and [blog](#) and review with your staff the recent [Institute of Medicine Report, Hepatitis and Liver Cancer: A National Strategy for Prevention and Control of Hepatitis](#). Integration of HIV and viral hepatitis services for API communities may be particularly fruitful because of this risk of co-infection or opportunities for joint messaging.
5. **Link to materials from the recent press briefing**, *Beyond Reform: Health Concerns and Disparities Among America's Fastest Growing Populations*, featuring remarks from U.S. Assistant Secretary for Health Dr. Howard Koh, and Representatives Mike Honda (D-CA) and Judy Chu (D-CA). Sponsored by APIAHE, the WK Kellogg Foundation and the American Public Health Association to focus on disparities among API communities highlighted in the May [American Journal of Public Health](#)

6. Use API Awareness Day as an **opportunity for creativity within your surveillance program** to provide more detailed (i.e., not “other”) information about Asians, Native Hawaiians and/or Pacific Islanders in your communities, or to consider ways to look at ethnic subgroups.
7. **Consider ways to obtain input or otherwise increase participation** from Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander communities in your strategic and community-based **planning processes, councils and consortia**.
8. **Assist CBOs and ASOs** in your agency that may want to work with specific Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander communities on API Awareness Day. For example, in Hawaii, the Life Foundation is holding “Island Roots” in Honolulu, with slam poetry workshops, HIV and HCV testing, and lunch and prizes. Help these agencies **build their capacity by providing technical assistance**, or helping them to access technical assistance and capacity building available from national providers.
9. **Reach out to community leaders** in the Asian American, Native Hawaiian and/or Pacific Islander communities to establish and or deepen relationships with key stakeholders and to increase your understanding of the cultural norms and HIV/AIDS and viral hepatitis needs of these communities. **Tie API Awareness Day events to cultural events and activities** with respect for these norms and meaning to these communities.
10. **Work with local agencies on API Awareness Day events. List any events that take place in your jurisdiction on the [API Awareness Day page](#).**

For more information, tips and resources to assist you in planning your National API HIV/AIDS Awareness Day events, link to the Banyan Tree website:

<http://www.banyantreeproject.org/awarenessday.php>.