State Policy Considerations & the Needs of Black & Latino Gay Men in the Wake of NHAS 2.0

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Session Overview

- NHAS 2.0 Policy Recommendations
- The Urgent Need for a State-level HIV/AIDS Policy & Advocacy Response

- Developing a comprehensive response for Black & Latino gay men and other marginalized populations

- Health Departments as Advocates – Policy to Action; Examples and Lessons learned
- Questions; Moving State PLA forward

Icebreaker!

- On a piece of paper, write down the top 4 most important things to you
  - People
  - Places
  - Things
  - Hobbies
  - Etc.

NHAS 2.0 – Priority Action for States

- Achieve coordinate National Response to HIV epidemic
- Reduce New HIV Infections
- Reduce HIV-Related Disparities and Health Inequities

State Variation in HIV/AIDS Health Outcomes

Effect of Spending on Social Services and Public Health

Higher spending on social services + Higher spending on public health per person = Lower HIV/AIDS case rates/ AIDs deaths
Effective Policy & Advocacy can...

- **Educate** leaders, policy makers, or those who carry out policies
- **Reform** existing policies, laws and budgets
- **Develop** new programs
- **Create** more open dialogue with decision-makers

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Quotes from NASTAD’s Annual Meeting

"Our jobs become that much harder, because when it concerns leveraging surveillance data, there’s state legislation that prohibits the progress of integration."

"Indiana is a perfect example. We have to find a way to be proactive against and work with the state establishment to get things done."

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Issues Impacting Young gay/bisexual black men

**Fundamentals**
- Family/ community/ spiritual support
- Jobs/Economic independence
- Education

**HIV specific**
- HIV Criminalization laws
- Provider MSM literacy
- Proportionate HIV funding
- PrEP access
- ACA enrollment/ diagnosis, retention, viral suppression
- Research gaps

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Policy Considerations and Needs for Latino Gay Men

**Affordable Care Act**
January 2015
- After one enrollment cycle, Latin@ uninsured rate dropped from 36 percent to 23 percent
- 8.8 million Latin@s have benefited from preventative care without co-pays
- 913,000 young Latin@s have been allowed to remain on their parent’s plan until 26 years of age

**Medicaid**
- 10.2 million uninsured Latin@s are eligible to purchase health insurance
  - 3.9 million Latin@s qualify for Premium Tax Credits
- Latin@s were significantly less likely than non-Latin@s to have gone to the health insurance market place
- 3/10 Latin@s who were uninsured or had individual coverage visited the marketplace, compared to 47 percent of non-Hispanic whites

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Medicaid

• ~5.7 million eligible uninsured Latin@s have family incomes below 138 percent of Federal Poverty Line but only three million live in Medicaid expansion states
  o Texas with 2.5 million and Florida with 1.1 million Latin@s that would benefit from Medicaid expansion

National Latino AIDS Action Network (NLAAAN)

Priorities:
1. PrEP access and education
2. Latino MSM access to community health center-based primary and sexual health care services
3. Immigrant health

*Particular attention will be paid to efforts will be paid to efforts targeting trans-Latinas and young Latino MSM

GA Sexual Health Policy Symposium

- December 1, 2014 (World AIDS Day)
- In partnership with: GA Legislative Black Caucus & NCSD
- Included personnel from HIV & STD divisions at the GDPH, CDC, County health departments
- Participants had the opportunity to:
  - Discuss Georgia’s sexual health realities (incidence, statistics, etc.)
  - Provide the most up-to-date info concerning factors fueling STD & HIV rates
  - Provide recommendations on potential sexual health policy

As a result... Legislative Victories!

- Routinization of HIV Testing/allows for opt-out testing
- Requirement of HIV & Syphilis of women in 3rd trimester
- Ongoing advisory relationship with GA legislators on prudent public health matters

Creating a Comprehensive, Multi-Pronged Approach

- State Policy & Advocacy
- Federal Policy & Advocacy
- Research

Comprehensive Policy, Advocacy and Community-based response
State PLA: Benefits

- Promotes, creates and strengthens strategic partnerships
- Allows for health departments and advocates to be proactive against inequitable policies
- Places health department staff as a chief resource to policymakers to promote informed and scientifically valid policies/legislation

Your Input is Key!

- GMHE Policy (scope?)
- Key Jurisdictions
- Considerations
- Leveraging Coalitions
- Moving Forward, sub-committee?

THANK YOU!