



HIV/AIDS

AND

ASIAN PACIFIC ISLANDERS



HIV/AIDS is devastating communities of color in our state. Know the facts, and join in the fight against HIV/AIDS!

For more information on HIV/AIDS or for testing sites in NY, contact New York State's AIDS Hotline at 1-800-541-AIDS

In New York State

- Asian & Pacific Islanders (API) represent 4.3% of the US population.¹ 15.7% of API living with AIDS reside in New York State.²
- Asian & Pacific Islanders represent 6.1% of those living in the eight counties of Western New York, 1.8% of those reside in Erie County.¹
- In New York State API represent 0.7% of the cumulative AIDS cases, 1% of persons living with AIDS and 1.2% of persons living with HIV.³

In the United States

- In 2004, 72% of API age 18 and over in the United States had never been tested for HIV.⁴
- Among API men living with HIV/AIDS at the end of 2004, 66% were infected through male-to-male sexual contact, 16% through heterosexual contact and 12% through injection drug use.⁴
- Among API women, 79% were infected through heterosexual contact and 16% through injection drug use.⁴
- The percentage of AIDS cases among API women attributed to heterosexual contact represent the highest percentage of any racial/ethnic group.⁵
- Of API diagnosed with HIV, 45% will receive an AIDS diagnosis within a year. This is a higher percentage than all other ethnic groups.⁶

Critical Issues

- APIs are significantly less likely to report being tested for HIV. Illness is the main reason for testing; diagnosis is often made in the late stages of the disease.² API women have the lowest testing rate of any ethnic group.⁷
- Cultural and language barriers often result in underuse of healthcare and prevention services.⁸ This population is extremely diverse: there are over 70 different nationalities speaking more than 100 different languages. Many have limited English skills and often surveys, literature and programs are not available in API languages.²
- More than a million APIs live at or below the federal poverty level.⁸ Poverty and immigration status affect access to prevention and healthcare.⁵ In spite of higher poverty rates, APIs have lower usage of Medicaid/Medicare benefits.⁷
- Domestic violence by an intimate partner reports are higher in API than any other ethnic group. The prevalence of violence against women with HIV or at risk for HIV may be as high as 67%.⁹



Care Coordination Committee
Minority Concerns Workgroup

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¹United States Census – Census Data-2005.

²I. F. Zaidi, et al (2005). Epidemiology of HIV/AIDS, 17(5) pp405-417.

³NYS HIV/AIDS Surveillance Semiannual Rep. Dec. 2005

⁴Dept of HHS, Office of Minority Health – Surveillance report 2004.

⁵Banyan Tree Project Fact Sheet – 2005.

⁶CDC, HIV/AIDS Surveillance Report – 2005 Table 2.

⁷APIA HF Policy Fact Sheet – December 2006.

⁸CDC, HIV/AIDS Fact Sheet – April 2006.

⁹APIA HF Data Policy – API American Health Forum, 12/06.