National African Immigrant and Refugee HIV and Hepatitis Awareness (NAIRHHA) Day
Lead Organizations

• Multicultural AIDS Coalition (MAC)
• Africans For Improved Access (AFIA) Program
• Hepatitis B Foundation
• Coalition Against Hepatitis for People of African Origin (CHIPO)
Goals of NAIRHHA Day

• **raise awareness** about HIV/AIDS and viral Hepatitis to eliminate stigma
• **learn** about ways to protect against HIV, viral Hepatitis and other related diseases
• **take control** by encouraging screenings and treatment, including viral Hepatitis vaccination
• **get involved** by advocating for policies and practices that promote healthy African immigrant families, communities and individuals
Importance of NAIRHHA Day

The current 13 federally recognized HIV awareness days are inclusive but not specific in addressing the determinants that fuel the epidemic in this population.

- **Risk factors**
  - Heterosexual sex
  - Burden on women
- **Not enough data**
  - Foreign and US born
- **Social, cultural and linguistic diversity**
- **Among hard to reach populations**
- **Increased stigma**
NAIRHHA Day: 2014

- Inaugural city-wide events
- City proclamations
- National petition

City of Boston

IN
CITY COUNCIL

Boston City Councillor Charles C. Yancey

National African Immigrant and Refugee
HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis Awareness Day

September 9th has been designated as National African Immigrant and Refugee HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis Awareness Day (NAIRHHA Day), and

The purpose of NAIRHHA Day is to bring national and local attention - in a culturally and linguistically appropriate manner - to the HIV and viral hepatitis needs of African immigrants living in the United States; and

to the needs of African American and other racial and ethnic minorities in the United States; and

those immigrants, unlike those of other communities, do not have a federally designated awareness day that promotes education and prevention about HIV/AIDS, viral hepatitis, and other related diseases; and

of the current health awareness days are inclusive of sub-groups within African immigrant communities, but do not comprehensively address the unique social and racial factors within African immigrant communities; and

number of African immigrants moving to the United States grew from 35,000 in 2005 to over 1.6 million in 2010, according to the US Census; and

many organizations leading efforts to institutionalize National African Immigrant Refugee HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis Awareness Day include: The Cameroon American Institute, the African National HIV/AIDS Alliance, the Congressional African American Caucus Institute, the Multicultural AIDS Coalition’s Africans For Improved Access to Care, Be It Therefore

the Boston City Council, in meeting assembled, congratulates the Multicultural AIDS Coalition and other organizations for raising public awareness of HIV/AIDS and hepatitis; for educating the community about ways to protect against HIV, viral hepatitis, and other related diseases; and for promoting healthy African immigrant communities, and individuals throughout the country; and Be It Further

the Boston City Council, in meeting assembled, proclaims Tuesday, September 16, as National African Immigrant and Refugee HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis Awareness Day in the City of Boston.
NAIRHHA Day: 2015

- Thunderclap
- NAIRHHA Day Toolkit
- Delegation on Capitol Hill in Washington DC
- Press release

Request Toolkit: Email: cnnaji@mac-boston.org
Resources
NAIRHHA Day Toolkit

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National African Immigrant & Refugee HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis Awareness (NAIRHHA) Day
A Toolkit for Partner Organizations and Community Members

Request Toolkit: Email: cnnaji@mac-boston.org
NAIRHHA Day: 2016

- OMB Standards for Federal Data on Race and Ethnicity
- National Viral Hepatitis Roundtable (NVHR) blog
- Twitter chat - #AIHHchat

Join us for a Twitter Chat!

Twitter handle: #AIHHchat

Tuesday, September 13 • 2pm EST
NAIRHHA Day: 2017

• National webinar on barriers and strategies
• Official request to HIV.gov (formerly AIDS.gov)
  – Part 1. HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis in African immigrants
  – Part 2. Resources, sustainability and evaluation of
  – Part 3. Stakeholder involvement in NAIRHHA Day

NAIRHHA DAY FACT SHEET

The purpose of National African Immigrant and Refugee HIV and Hepatitis Awareness (NAIRHHA) Day on September 9th is to bring national and local attention to the HIV and viral Hepatitis needs of African immigrants living in the U.S. in a culturally and linguistically appropriate manner. The creation of a national awareness day will also support the eradication of other epidemics fueling or related to HIV disparities among African immigrants, including Tuberculosis, Substance Use and Mental Health. On September 9th for NAIRHHA Day, organizations, communities, families and individuals will:

• raise awareness about HIV/AIDS and viral Hepatitis to eliminate stigma
• learn about ways to protect against HIV, viral Hepatitis and other related diseases
• take control by encouraging screenings and treatment, including Hepatitis B vaccination
• get involved by advocating for policies and practices that promote healthy African immigrant families, communities and individuals.
NAIRHHA Day: 2018

- A panel discussion on HIV and Hep B Stigma Among African Immigrants
- Social media campaign

Nobody tells you when you first find out that you have Hepatitis B or are HIV/AIDS positive that you will be discriminated against and stigmatized because of the viruses that we carry... Just know that you are not alone. We are warriors and we keep fighting. Don’t give up or lose hope.

Many of our cultural practices affect how we view infectious diseases like hepatitis B since they have the potential be spread through sexual contact. For this reason, many in our communities are reluctant to get screened or even talk about the disease.

BRIGHT A.
#JUSTB STORYTELLERS
HEPATITIS B FOUNDATION

MOHAMMED ABDUL-KADIR, MPH, MAIS
HEPATITIS B COALITION OF WASHINGTON COORDINATOR
NW REGIONAL DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL TASK FORCE ON HEPATITIS B
Challenges

• Website
• Tracking engagement in NAIRHHA Day
• Support from national and federal organizations
• Community initiatives for promoting NAIRHHA Day
• Provider engagement
• Advocacy for NAIRHHA Day
National African Immigrant & Refugee HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis Awareness Day (NAIRHHA Day)

September 9th

ACTION STEPS!

• Talk with your local health departments and HIV/hepatitis organizations
• Contact the HIV.gov Team at @HIVGov
• Plan for 2019!
• Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/NAIRHHA
• Twitter: @NAIRHHADay
Thank you!