

## CITY OF BALTIMORE

SHEILA DIXON, Mayor



## HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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### BALTIMORE JOINS NATIONAL RESPONSE TO AIDS CRISIS AMONG AFRICAN AMERICANS

**Baltimore, MD (February 6, 2007)** – Baltimore’s health and community leaders are preparing for seventh annual observance of National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day tomorrow, February 7.

On Wednesday, agencies, organizations, and churches are holding various testing and counseling events to encourage citizens to **get educated, get tested, get treated, and get involved** with HIV/AIDS.

African Americans make up approximately 13 percent of the population of the United States, yet almost half of the total AIDS cases reported in this country are among members of the Black community. In 2006, HIV/AIDS was one of the top ten leading causes of death for African Americans. In Baltimore, every 8 hours someone is infected with HIV.

“The HIV epidemic disproportionately affects the African-American community,” said Dr. Joshua M. Sharfstein, Commissioner of Health. “That’s why we are joining forces with key community and health care organizations to focus attention on prevention and treatment.”

Baltimore is one of more than 300 cities across the U.S. that will sponsor programs on February 7, 2007 to call attention to the problem and seek solutions to halt the epidemic. Associated events Baltimore include:

- Total Health Care and United Healthcare (testing and counseling) at New Shiloh Baptist Church, 2100 N. Monroe Street, 11am-3pm
- Baltimore City Health Department at New Song School, 1385 N. Gilmor Street, 4-8 pm.
- Sisters Together and Reaching and Coppin State University Testing and Counseling, Tawes Ballroom, 2500 W. North Avenue, 4pm –7pm
- Tangy Major, Winner of BET’s “Wrap it Up” Film competition documentary, “Tangy’s Song”, Bowie Campus, Center for Learning Technology 103, 7:30pm-9pm
- Women Accepting Responsibility at Maryland Correctional Institute for Women in Jessup, 12pm-2pm (Testing)

The Health Department is dedicating Prevention Wednesday this week to HIV Prevention. Prevention Wednesday puts prevention messages in public sites around the city. The Prevention Wednesday message on HIV Prevention will also be heard on the radio (92.3, 104.3, and Heaven 600) and in the Baltimore Times.

National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day is directed, planned and strategically overseen by seven national organizations, including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

For more information about National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day visit [www.blackaidsday.org](http://www.blackaidsday.org) or [www.Baltimorehealth.org](http://www.Baltimorehealth.org)

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