



UIHI Communication Broadcast

March 2012

National Native HIV/AIDS Awareness Day

The sixth annual National Native HIV/AIDS Awareness Day (NNHAAD) is March 20, 2012. The NNHAAD website provides more information: <http://www.nnaapc.org/news/awareness-day.htm>. To honor this day, the Urban Indian Health Institute (UIHI) highlights important information about HIV among urban American Indians/Alaska Natives (AI/AN).

Using Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System data, the UIHI explored rates of HIV testing and HIV risk behavior among AI/ANs living in 34 Urban Indian Health Organization (UIHO) service areas (<http://www.uihi.org/urban-indian-health-organization-profiles>). In the combined nationwide service areas, 46% of urban AI/ANs report having ever received an HIV test in their lifetime, similar to the general population (43%).

When asked about HIV high risk situations (intravenous drug use, sexually transmitted infection treatment, exchanging sex or money for drugs, or having unprotected anal sex), 5.9% of urban AI/ANs report that one or more of these high risk situations apply to them compared with 3.8% of individuals in the general population (Figure 1). Urban AI/ANs males are significantly more likely to report one or more of these high risk situations (7.9%) than urban males in the general population (4.1%).

These findings indicate a need to address high risk behavior, particularly among AI/AN males. This information can be used in the development of HIV screening programs and other HIV and STI prevention interventions.

Figure 1: HIV High Risk Situations, 2008-2010, combined UIHO service areas

	HIV Risk - % (95% CI)	
	AI/AN	All Race
Total	5.9% (4.0%-8.8%)	3.8% (3.6%-4.1%)
Female	3.5% (2.2%-5.7%)	3.6% (3.3%-3.9%)
Male*	7.9% (4.7%-12.9%)	4.1% (3.7%-4.4%)

*Statistically significant

Source:

CDC, Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System

If you have any questions, please email info@uihi.org.

Urban Indian Health Institute P.O. Box 3364, Seattle, WA 98114 p: (206) 812-3030 www.uihi.org

