5,846 Arkansans living with HIV/AIDS

42% of the reported cases of HIV/AIDS are African American

51% of the reported cases of HIV/AIDS are White

45% of the cases are through MSM transmission

Source: Arkansas Department of Health June 2010

AMHC ENCOURAGES YOU TO ACT AWARE.
In commemoration of World AIDS Day, the Arkansas Minority Health Commission will participate in a variety of awareness events November 30, December 1 and December 5.

This year the World AIDS Day focus is ACT AWARE. According to worldaidsday.org this year’s focus is about taking action.

Leading up to World AIDS Day, the AMHC will host a public forum, ACT AWARE: Let’s Talk About It... HIV/AIDS in Arkansas, Tuesday, Nov. 30 at the University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension in Little Rock from 6p-8p. This public forum seeks to foster community discussions regarding HIV/AIDS in Arkansas, the lack of state contribution to HIV/AIDS, the stigma and prejudices still attached to HIV/AIDS and the growing need for more education about the disease among legislators, policy makers and the public in general. Speakers include Amy Rosenberg, Harvard Law; Patrick Packer; Southern AIDS Coalition, Dr. Nate Smith, Arkansas Department of Health; Diedra Levi, Living Affected, Corp.; Ann Dixon, Arkansas Consumer Advisory Board and HIV Consumer; Dr. Carmen Paniagua, AMHC Commissioner; Dr. Creshelle Nash, AMHC Medical Director and Rick Collins, Arkansas HIV Minority Task Force.

On December 1, AMHC will host ACT AWARE: School Tour 2010. A speaker dedicated to HIV/AIDS advocacy will make an appearance at J.A. Fair High School. A balloon release will follow the school tour in which 2000 balloons will be released to honor those we have lost to HIV/AIDS in Arkansas.

Future Builders, Inc. will present its Sixth Annual HIV/AIDS Prevention and Awareness Symposium from 9a-3p. The symposium will be held at Heifer International.

Later that day, in honor of World AIDS Day, Gospel Legend, Dorinda Clark-Cole will perform at ACT AWARE: World AIDS Day Celebration at the Mosaic Templars Cultural Center at 501 W. Ninth Street in Little Rock.

On December 5, churches throughout Arkansas will host “Compassion Sunday,” where congregants will learn about HIV/AIDS.

For more information about World AIDS Day events and activities contact Cozetta Jones at cozetta.jones@arkansas.gov or visit arminorityhealth.com.
AMHC PARTNERS WITH ARKANSAS BAPTIST COLLEGE TO IMPROVE THE HEALTH OF NEIGHBORHOOD

The Arkansas Minority Health Commission joined Arkansas Baptist College in a Delta Classic 4 Literacy press conference October 25 for the grand opening of the “Garden of Eden.”

The “Garden of Eden is a fresh produce stand created in partnership with AMHC and ABC. The market is located at the corner of Wright Avenue and Martin Luther King Drive formerly Carpenter’s Produce and is connected to the new Yancy’s Soul Food Restaurant.

“This partnership simply makes sense,” said Idonia Trotter, AMHC Executive Director. “It gives the AMHC the opportunity to illustrate one of our key foci which is nutrition and fitness. Through this partnership we want to encourage all Arkansans to engage in more physical activity and to begin to look at your nutritional intake.”

In addition, the AMHC will provide education materials to patrons to help them develop better eating habits and take control of their health.
BLYTHEVILLE RESIDENTS ENCOURAGE INCREASED WELLNESS VISITS AND MORE PERSONAL HEALTH AWARENESS

October 22 and 23 marked AMHC’s second quarterly health fair and legislative meeting with the Senate Subcommittee on Minority Health. Blytheville residents came out to discuss what’s needed in their community.

In attendance were Chair of the Subcommittee on Minority Health, Senator Jack Crumbly; Representative Tommy Baker; Representative Ray Kidd; Phil Price, Legislative Bureau; Deputy Director Steve Jones, Department of Human Services; and Jennifer Dillaha, Intern Director Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities, Arkansas Department of Health.

Community residents and medical professionals of Blytheville expressed concerns regarding the community’s inability to afford preventive care and the importance of personal health awareness.

The following day, Blytheville residents took advantage of free health screenings offered through a partnership with the AARP/Walgreens Wellness Tour Bus and Arkansas Prostate Foundation. HIV testing and sickle cell screenings were also provided. Those screened received a $10 gift card provided by Elroy Brown of the Mississippi County Tobacco Free Coalition.

BLYTHEVILLE RESIDENTS ENCOURAGE INCREASED WELLNESS VISITS AND MORE PERSONAL HEALTH AWARENESS

Dr. Valencia Andrews-Pirtle and her family

AMHC Commissioner Sandra Kennedy (left) and Raul Blasini (right)

Department of Human Services, Deputy Director Steve Jones (left) and Phil Price of the Legislative Bureau (right)

AMHC Executive Director, Dr. Idonia L. Trotter and Elroy Brown of the Mississippi County Tobacco Free Coalition

Jennifer Dillaha, Intern Director Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities

AMHC’s Patricia Minor, R.N., assisting the Arkansas Prostate Foundation with blood draws for prostate screenings.
The Lee County Revitalization Project in partnership with the Arkansas Minority Health Commission released the findings of the Marianna Examination Survey on Hypertension (MESH) Report November 4, 2010 in Marianna, Arkansas.

The report estimates the prevalence and control of hypertension, diabetes, tobacco, stroke, kidney diseases and their risk factors within the adult population of Marianna.

“This report is important because it is the first population-based examination in Arkansas,” said Dr. Camille Jones, lead researcher. “By gaining an accurate picture of public health conditions, health advocates can plan prevention programs and create healthy communities.”

“Results of the MESH study point to important areas for improvement of health and health care in Marianna,” said Dr. Namvar Zohoori, project investigator, Arkansas Department of Health. “The community needs to address tobacco use, high blood cholesterol, and obesity and control of chronic diseases such as high blood pressure and diabetes.”

AMHC collaborated with agencies and institutions that share similar focus on minority health in order to create and implement the MESH report. It was a true partnership working with the citizens of Marianna, Arkansas who gave their time and effort, as well as the University of Arkansas Medical Sciences, College of Public Health, the Arkansas Department of Health, and the mayor of Marianna, Mayor Robert Taylor.

“AMHC has enjoyed partnering with the community in all parts of this work, including hiring and training local staff,” said AMHC Medical Director, Dr. Creshelle Nash. “This work goes beyond research; it is about using this work to improve the health of the citizens in Marianna and Arkansas. AMHC is happy to work with Lee County Revitalization Project and the citizens of Marianna.”

To download a copy go to arminorityhealth.com.
Health Care Access:
28% of nonelderly African Americans and 40% of nonelderly Hispanics are uninsured in Arkansas.

Quality Health Care:
More minorities state that people like themselves are treated less fairly when seeking health care, specifically, 40% of urban blacks, 29% of rural blacks and 25% of Hispanics.

Behavioral:
More than 73% of African Americans are overweight or obese; compare to 66% of all Arkansans.

Source: 2008 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System – Arkansas

Request your copy today!