

The people in this flyer are models. The models have no relation to the story or issue presented.



The LifeLine Project is a service of Cobb Community Services Board designed to help stop the spread of HIV and Hepatitis B and C among heterosexual African Americans with substance related disorders.

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HIV AIDS

- FREE Rapid HIV Testing.
- HIV Awareness and Prevention.
- Community Education and Presentations.



A Program of Cobb/Douglas
Community Services Boards





Did You Know?

- ✓ African Americans make up 12% of the US population but account for 44% of newly diagnosed HIV cases.
- ✓ 61% of African Americans newly diagnosed with HIV reside in the South as of 2011.
- ✓ Georgia is ranked 5th highest in the nation for total number of adults and adolescents living with HIV infection and African Americans lead all categories.
- ✓ 1 out of 8 individuals living with HIV do not know their status.
- ✓ Approximately 80% of individuals with HIV who inject drugs also have Hepatitis C.

The African American church often plays a decisive role in the lives of African Americans and is an important positive influence on healthcare practices in the African American community.

Why Should The Church Be Involved With HIV Awareness?

- ✓ Faith leaders can have a powerful influence on their congregation, especially in the South.
- ✓ 56% of all Americans consider religion very important in their lives, this percentage approaches 80% among African Americans.
- ✓ The Black church is often among the most visible, respected, and credible agencies in the African American community and is acknowledged as a critical partner in improving ethical engagement of African Americans in healthcare.

HIV Risk Reduction, vol 13, Iss 1
Wingood et al., 2013, p. 2226

How Does Stigma Impact HIV?

- ✓ Individuals will avoid HIV testing and treatment
- ✓ Individuals will be less likely to disclose HIV status
- ✓ Individuals will access care late in the disease process and/or refuse to take HIV medication.

What IF Someone Is Found To Be HIV POSITIVE?

- ✓ First of all.....DON'T PANIC!
- ✓ The Good News...Advances in HIV treatment can drastically slow down and perhaps stop the progression of HIV. The sooner treatment begins the better the outcome/risk reduction.
- ✓ LifeLine is staffed with professionals ready to assist with lifestyle changes that HIV infection will require.
- ✓ LifeLine provides:
 - Free educational seminars to help reduce stigmatizing behaviors.
 - Free rapid HIV testing at health fairs, conferences, and other church events.
 - Linkage to care services for HIV.
 - Healthcare Navigator/Case Manager.
 - Referrals to Individual/Family Counseling, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services.
 - Gender specific classes to LifeLine participants.

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