April 10th is National Youth HIV/AIDS Awareness Day (NYHAAD). On NYHAAD, we support youth living with HIV/AIDS, shine a light on the virus’ disproportionate impact on Black youth, & work to reduce stigma to ensure all of us can thrive. Disproportionate HIV/AIDS susceptibility for Black youth is due to systemic issues including misogyny, racism, transphobia, insufficient access to culturally competent & quality healthcare, & other socially constructed barriers.

![Image courtesy of the CDC](https://www.cdc.gov/hiv/group/age/youth/diagnoses.html)

- From 2014 to 2018, HIV diagnoses went down 17% for young Black gay, bisexual, & same-gender loving men. However, young Black gay, bisexual, & same-gender loving men made up 51% of new HIV diagnoses among young gay & bisexual men in 2018.

- Heterosexual contact accounted for 86% of new HIV diagnoses among young women in 2018 which counter stereotypes that gay or bisexual men are at fault for increasing these diagnoses among Black women & girls.

- The rate of new infections among Black girls & women aged 13 to 24 is six times higher than that of young Hispanic women & 20 times that of young white women. Public health officials & community partners must work together to identify the leading causes of this disparity to prevent future HIV transmissions in this population.

On NYHAAD, please get tested for HIV and/or encourage the young people in your life to get tested. You can find a testing site near you [HERE](https://www.cdc.gov/hiv/group/age/youth/diagnoses.html) or order a free at-home HIV testing kit [HERE](https://www.cdc.gov/hiv/group/age/youth/diagnoses.html).

If you're HIV-positive, it is essential that you get connected to culturally competent health care providers, start & continue HIV treatment, & keep your viral load undetectable. Learn more [here](https://www.cdc.gov/hiv/group/age/youth/diagnoses.html).

If you're HIV-negative, ensure you're engaging in practices that minimize risk. You can reduce risk by taking PrEP, a daily pill taken to prevent getting HIV from sex or injection drug use. When taken as prescribed, it is highly effective for preventing HIV. The FDA has approved Truvada as PrEP for adolescents. Truvada's clinical trials were also inclusive of women. Learn more [here](https://www.cdc.gov/hiv/group/age/youth/diagnoses.html).

PEP is a medicine taken to prevent HIV after possible exposure. PEP should be used in emergencies and only within 72 hours of potential exposure. Learn more [here](https://www.cdc.gov/hiv/group/age/youth/diagnoses.html).

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1. [https://www.cdc.gov/hiv/group/age/youth/diagnoses.html](https://www.cdc.gov/hiv/group/age/youth/diagnoses.html)
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3. [https://www.cdc.gov/hiv/group/age/youth/diagnoses.html](https://www.cdc.gov/hiv/group/age/youth/diagnoses.html)
4. [https://www.cdc.gov/hiv/group/age/youth/diagnoses.html](https://www.cdc.gov/hiv/group/age/youth/diagnoses.html)

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**GET INVOLVED THIS NYHAAD**

Many young people engage in activism around racial justice and the LGBTQ+/SGL community but do not show up in conversations around HIV/AIDS. On NYHAAD, NBJC is creating a virtual safe space to continue our #MyFirstHIVTweet campaign. Our goal is to make the HIV epidemic visible to young people, provide accurate information about how it affects their community, and empower people to share their first HIV Tweet. Join @NBJCONTheMove on Twitter by sending a #MyFirstHIVTweet.