



NAP MANAGERS

MEETING THE FIRST 90
CLOSING THE GAP • MARCH 2019

UNAIDS
UNITED NATIONS
PROGRAMME
ON
HUMAN
IMMUNODEFICIENCY
VIRUS
INFECTION
AND
AIDS



THE FIRST 90
NEWSLETTER

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ANGUILLA

Anguilla recognised World AIDS Day (WAD) 2018 with a thoroughly inclusive high energy set of events coordinated by the National Chronic Disease Unit, Ministry of Health. The focus this year's WAD was building awareness towards achieving the first 90 through collaborative efforts among The National Chronic Disease Unit, The Department of Sports, The Amateur Athletics Association, Gender Affairs Unit and the Anguilla Community Action Network (ACAN).

The awareness activities commenced with peer leader training programme "Kick out AIDS". The workshop linked

sports, physical activity and traditional movement games with HIV and AIDS prevention and education. 16 young persons were trained from age 12-18 with the aim of providing them with skills and knowledge to engage their peers around HIV & AIDS education and life skills. The training was held between 29th November and 3rd December. Five of the participants practiced the techniques at the Race against AIDS on 1st December. The training was delivered by Mr. Ato Rockcliffe Kicking Aids out Master Trainer and lecturer at the Academy of Sports & Leisure Studies, University of Trinidad and Tobago (UTT).

Added to the above, over 100 persons gathered in the islands capital to "Race against AIDS" under the theme, "Raise the Awareness and Make a Difference". This annual event drives the awareness and raises the support for those infected, and affected by the virus. Races



included 2m for the under 10 and over 50 age persons, a 5-km for under 13, under 17, under 20, and 20-plus. There was also a 10-km race that was opened to all.

The opportunity for HIV testing and screening for prostate and breast cancer was welcomed, as the ACAN group commissioned a team of physicians on the island to host the screening drive held at Atlantic Star Medical Centre whose CEO, Dr. Clyde Bryant is currently the Clinical Coordinator for HIV/AIDS in Anguilla. Community testers were also utilized to support HIV Rapid Testing Outreach. Additional testing opportunity was offered during the Sports Health Fair by Community testers.

A National Church Service on Sunday December 2nd was held at the Christian Fellowship Church where 2018 WAD recognition was brought to a close.

ANTIGUA & BARBUDA

VALENTINE'S DAY 2019 -
FINDING YOU, FINDING ME



The AIDS Secretariat – Ministry of Health, Wellness and the Environment, Antigua and Barbuda observed Valentine's Day 2019 highlighting the importance of HIV and Syphilis Awareness, Prevention, Control and Testing. We reached the public by extending testing hours from 8:00 am to 8:30 pm on February 14th to give people the opportunity to access HIV and Syphilis tested at a time suitable them. The clients who accessed the service were greeted with a smile, sparkling wine and a sweet treats. Special prizes were given to the first person

who got tested and the first couple that got tested. We also had cupcakes and other sweet treats that were given as donation from other businesses who partnered with us on display outside along with HIV prevention commodities. Whenever a person interact with us we enlighten them about the NAPS now offering free syphilis testing and continue to encourage the public to practice safe sex. We ensure that everyone who visited the table received education on HIV and Syphilis, a package with condoms and other safety tools that can help them practice safer sex. Additionally, educational sessions and HIV and Syphilis testing were conducted at two hotels and The West Indies Oil Company. A total of Three hundred and one (301) people got to know their HIV Status on that day.



BARBADOS

MEN'S HIV SEMINAR FOR OVER 50'S

Men over the age of 50 on Wednesday, February 13, were given valuable information on HIV Stigma & Discrimination (S&D) through an initiative of the National Assistance Board (NAB) in collaboration with the National HIV/AIDS Commission (NHAC).

It came in form of a one-day workshop at the Accra Beach Hotel entitled "Live Positively, Know Your HIV Status," where some 150 males, drawn from the Clyde Gollop Shelter for Homeless Men, the church and men's health groups within the polyclinics attended.

Wednesday's seminar had three main objectives: To expose participants to the availability of services for quality treatment, care and support for HIV and STIs management; to educate participants about major S&D barriers; and to create an environment where there is an intergenerational sharing of information.



The NAB serves this island's elderly population and believes that older people should not be overlooked, excluded or denied access to information pertaining to HIV but rather, like all other age groups, be provided with opportunities to acquire this information. All participants were expected to gain crucial knowledge which should make them feel more comfortable accessing and sharing information on HIV, testing, treatment and care.



BERMUDA

WORLD AIDS DAY -KNOW YOUR STATUS

The theme for World AIDS Day in Bermuda continues to be "Know Your Status". The team of people pictured are a few that have joined to encourage all sexually active Bermudians to "Know their Status".

There are two posters featured. The author of the smaller poster explained the meaning of the poster in these words. The sketched picture, shows a hand softly pointing with the index finger showing a drop of blood. This suggests that everyone should get tested for HIV and know their status. The test is easy and painless. It's better to know so that precautions can be taken to decrease the spread of HIV disease. The author of the larger poster had a personal reason for painting this poster. It was in memory of a loved one who passed away from HIV disease. He painted a picture of the world, highlighting the island of Bermuda as part of the world. HIV disease is no stranger to Bermuda having been primarily spread via intravenous drug use and unprotected sex. The author strongly encourages all people to join hands, fight to prevent the stigma of HIV disease and to get tested.



DOMINICA

WORLD AIDS DAY -KNOW YOUR STATUS

World AIDS day is a health Initiative observed by the World Health Organization which is being observed on December 1st every year. In spite of the challenges faced during the year we strived to maintain our general objective. This year the office National HIV and AIDS Response Program (NHARP) partnered with a number of collaborating partners as we look to keeping with the theme of "Know your Status" with Dominica Planned Parenthood Association (DPPA) where we carried out testing during the week leading up to December 1st. Testing was also carried out at the Roseau Health Center , the Grandbay District, the Laplaine Health District; also did a few days of Behavioral Change Communication(BCC) and Information communication and education (IEC) with condom distribution and sexual and reproductive health education and commodities distribution. The St Joseph Health District and the NHARP staff lent support to the Marigot Health District which had not done testing for quite some time. This year we also embarked on a different approach to our BCC, a triathlon and causal walk was organized with the Athletic Association, the Dominica Cycling Association and support from the Nature Isles Biker Boys. This Awareness and sensitization walk was organized with the aim of bringing awareness to the Dominica public of the importance of fighting and confronting stigma and discrimination to PLHIV as this has affected the influx of persons looking to know their status and also persons enrolling in care or remaining in care when they have been diagnosed with the illness.

During the world AIDS Day campaign, a total of 366 persons were tested; 211 females (57%) and 155 males (42%). A normal trend of more females tested is still followed but the incidence percentage is still much higher among males rather than females. It is to also be noted that the persons who were positive were relatively very young, highlighting the importance of continued targeting among the young populace. The importance of testing after traumatic disaster experience was one of the important objective that was targeted among the population and we can comfortably say that this was met as quite a number of persons did turn out for testing. These figures are aggregated from 4 of the testing sites which highlights the resilience shown to get the service to the general population.



**STAMP OUT
STIGMA &
DISCRIMINATION
BE A FRIEND**

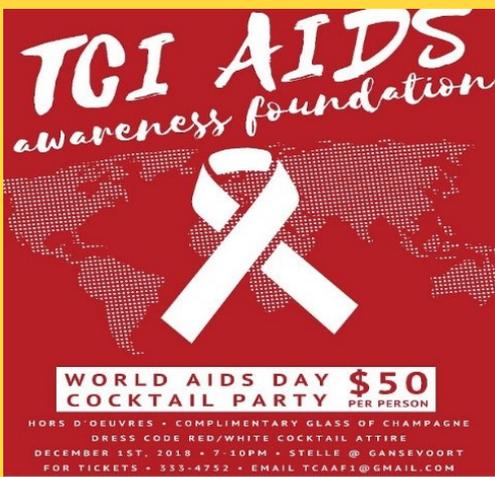


**YOU ARE
PREGNANT
GET TESTED**

JAMAICA

JAMAICA IN ACTION





TURKS & CAICOS

ONE DROP IS ALL IT TAKES,
KNOW YOUR STATUS

The spotlight for World AIDS Day 2018 was and still is on HIV testing. There are 37 million people living with HIV globally, the highest number ever. Knowing your HIV status has many advantages, yet a quarter of persons infected with the virus do not know that they have the virus. The Turks and Caicos joined the rest of the world in observing World AIDS Day observed on December 1st. This past December 1st marked 30 years since the first world AIDS Day. The local theme for this year is "One Drop is All It Takes, Know Your Status, Get Tested".



Knowing your HIV status also empowers people to make informed decisions about how they can prevent HIV infection. From 1984 until the end of 2017, 627 people were diagnosed with HIV in the Turks and Caicos. At the end of 2017 there were a total of 514 persons living with HIV in the Turks and Caicos Islands with an estimated prevalence of 1.29% in the general population. The highest prevalence was observed among persons who were in the 65+ years age group in 2017, one may wonder why are older persons being diagnosed with HIV. Could it be that they are getting tested late? This is a lot of food for thought. Activities for World AIDS Day were a Sip and Paint event, health fairs, community HIV/Syphilis testing, community walks and Inter High School Debate.

