
National Youth HIV & AIDS Awareness Day

National Youth HIV & AIDS Awareness Day (NYHAAD), annually **April 10th**, is a day to educate the public about the impact of HIV and AIDS on young people. The day also highlights the advocacy of young people in the U.S. around linking people to services, providing sexual health resources, and HIV education.

Why is National Youth HIV & AIDS Awareness Day important?

Today's young people are the first generation who have never known a world without HIV and AIDS. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) **reports** that in 2017, young people aged 13 to 24 made up 21% (8,164) of the 38,739 new HIV diagnoses in the United States and dependent areas. In addition, young people living with HIV are the least likely of any group to be linked to care in a timely manner and have a suppressed viral load. A suppressed, or undetectable, viral load means that the level of HIV in the blood is too low to be detected by a viral load test.

Who founded NYHAAD and when?

In 2013, Advocates for Youth founded NYHAAD with Children's Hospital at Montefiore's Adolescent AIDS Program, AIDS Alabama, National Coalition of STD Directors, The AIDS Alliance for Children, Youth, and Families, The AIDS Taskforce of Greater Cleveland, AIDS United, Metro Teen AIDS, Hetrick-Martin Institute, NMAC, National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors, National Black Gay Men's Advocacy Organization, and SIECUS: Sex Ed for Social Change.

What is the NYHAAD Ambassador Program?

The NYHAAD Ambassador Program is comprised of young leaders and activists in the United States (U.S.), ages 13-24, who come together to promote a message of treatment, care, prevention, and youth empowerment. NYHAAD Ambassadors work across campuses and communities throughout the U.S. to share factual sexual health information, organize actions to address the impact of HIV/AIDS on youth, and create community spaces for healing and reflection.

What are the NYHAAD Bill of Rights and why were they created?

The NYHAAD Bill of Rights outlines the changes needed to accomplish the dream of a generation free of HIV stigma. More importantly, the Bill of Rights holds community members, youth-serving professionals, policymakers, etc. accountable to ensure that young people living with and impacted by HIV are authentically centered in HIV prevention, treatment, and care responses.

Where can I find out more?

advocatesforyouth.org/nyhaad/

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BILL OF RIGHTS

This NYHAAD, youth and youth allies working to end the AIDS epidemic declare this Bill of Rights:



ARTICLE 1 THE RIGHT TO LIVE FREE FROM OPPRESSION

Poverty, racism, homophobia, and other forms of oppression all contribute to HIV risk and to quality of treatment and care.



ARTICLE 2 THE RIGHT TO EDUCATION

Young people have the right to education and skills to make informed decisions about their sexual health.



ARTICLE 3 THE RIGHT TO PREVENTION

Young people have the right to condoms, HIV testing, and medication needed to help prevent HIV, and have the right to confidential, affordable, accessible services.



ARTICLE 4 THE RIGHT TO TREATMENT AND CARE

Young people are at risk of not receiving medication regularly enough to have their viral load suppressed. We must ensure that all youth have access to accessible and affordable HIV treatment.



ARTICLE 5 THE RIGHT TO LIVE WITHOUT CRIMINALIZATION, DISCRIMINATION AND STIGMA

Young people living with HIV have the right to freedom and dignity. Laws which criminalize HIV are founded in ignorance and serve only to divert attention and resources from real strategies to end the epidemic.

APRIL 10 IS YOUTH AIDS DAY.ORG