

# THE NIA ALLIANCE NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2010

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## BACK TO SCHOOL

The 2010-11 school year is now in full swing as we bring the month of September to close. As parents, advocates and those concerned with the general well being of our youth, we hold annual back-to-school discussions, rallies and prayer vigils with and for our students, for they are our future - both literally and figuratively. Yet, with the recent spike in homicides, school dropout and pregnancy rates amongst our youth in the poor and minority communities, we know there is still a lot of work to be done. A couple of weeks ago I spoke at the Walk for Education event held locally at Seaside Park; in preparation for my speech, I found the *2009 Connecticut Youth Risk Behavior Survey*, which I've attached on the next page for your review. In looking at the data, I can't say that I shocked, but of course I was concerned for it shows that are children are still making poor choices.

I know there are so many of us who are doing what we can, when we can, but I challenge you this school year - take at least one of your vacation days and donate that time to your local school. You may not have a student in the school system, but they are a part of your community - these students can either be our future policy maker, our neighborhood doctor, hairstylist or mechanic... or, consequently and sadly, they can be the people we seek safety and shelter from - it is that serious!

In the next month we will update the Nia Alliance website to include a page for our youth. There you'll find resources and links to those local organizations in the Bridgeport area that provide life skills and college prep programs that they can participate in. Once posted, we encourage you to share the information with your children, their friends, and your community.

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In response to the recent homicides in our city, we will dedicate this Thursday's *Nia Live* radio segment to pray for the City of Bridgeport and its residents.

Listen to [Nia Live](#) every Thursday at 4pm on **WDJZ 1530AM**

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## 2009 Connecticut Youth Risk Behavior Survey



### HIV, Other STD, and Teen Pregnancy Prevention and

### Connecticut Students

#### What is the problem?

The 2009 Connecticut Youth Risk Behavior Survey indicates that among high school students:

##### **Sexual Risk Behaviors**

- 40% ever had sexual intercourse.
- 5% had sexual intercourse for the first time before 13 years.
- 10% had sexual intercourse with four or more persons during their life.
- 30% had sexual intercourse with at least one person during the 3 months before the survey.
- 41% did not use a condom during last sexual intercourse. (1)
- 73% did not use birth control pills or Depo-Provera before last sexual intercourse to prevent pregnancy. (1)
- — were never taught in school about AIDS or HIV infection.

##### **Alcohol and Other Drug Use**

- 25% drank alcohol or used drugs before last sexual intercourse. (1)
- 2% used a needle to inject any illegal drug into their body one or more times during their life.

#### What are the solutions?

Better health education • More comprehensive health services • More supportive policies

#### What is the status?

The 2008 Connecticut School Health Profiles indicates that among high schools:

##### **Health Education**

- 64% required students to take two or more health education courses.
- 89% taught 8 key pregnancy, HIV, or other STD prevention topics in a required course.
- 86% taught 3 key topics related to condom use in a required course.
- 97% taught how to access valid and reliable health information, products, or services related to HIV, other STDs, and pregnancy in a required course.
- 41% had a lead health education teacher who received professional development during the two years before the survey on HIV prevention.
- 30% had a lead health education teacher who received professional development during the two years before the survey on pregnancy prevention.

##### **Health Services**

- 91% had a full-time registered nurse.

##### **Supportive Policies**

- 69% had policies on students or staff who have HIV infection or AIDS that addressed attendance of students with HIV infection, procedures to protect HIV-infected students and staff from discrimination, and maintaining confidentiality of HIV-infected students and staff.
- 83% had a gay/straight alliance or similar club.

1. Among students who were currently sexually active.  
- Data not available.

Where can I get more information? Visit [www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth](http://www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth) or call 800-CDC-INFO (800-232-4636).



**U.S. Department of Health and Human Services**  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion  
Division of Adolescent and School Health



*21st Annual AIDS Walk - Walk For A Cure*



**The Greater Bridgeport HIV/AIDS  
Care Consortium Presents**



**21<sup>st</sup> Annual  
“WALK FOR A CURE”  
In Washington Park  
East Washington Avenue Bridgeport, CT**

**October 2, 2010**

**(Rain date: October 9, 2010)**

**9:30 a.m. FREE Registration**

**11:30 Walk Begins**

For more information call:

Mary E. Roacher, Liberation Program's

Ryan White Counselor, at 203-953-3372 or

Nita Swilling, Event Coordinator, at 203-545-7919

**All proceeds will benefit Greater Bridgeport HIV/AIDS Care Consortiums Client Emergency Fund  
which provides basic necessities and support for individuals living with HIV/AIDS.**

## EVENT CALENDAR



Access our calendar below for information regarding our upcoming events.  
Please come out and support the community as your calendars permit!

For more information regarding our upcoming events, please bookmark the following web address: <http://www.localendar.com/public/NiaAlliance>

If you're aware of a community or faith based event and would like to add it to the calendar, please submit the following information to [newsletter@niaalliance.com](mailto:newsletter@niaalliance.com)

- ◇ Event Name
- ◇ Point of Contact
- ◇ Date and time of Event
- ◇ Description of Event

***RESOURCES: WHERE TO FIND IT...***

Need HIV, STD or statistical info and not sure where to find it?  
See the list of resources below.

**FREE LOCAL HIV TESTING LOCATIONS****GBAPP**

258 Mill Hill Ave, Bridgeport, CT 06604  
Hours: Mon-Fri., 9am-5pm  
203- 384-3629

**Optimus Health Care Incorporated**

982 East Main St, Bridgeport, CT 06608  
Hours: Mon-Fri., 9am-5pm  
203-696-0085

**Southwest Community Health Center**

361 Bird St, Bridgeport, CT 06605  
Hours: Mon-Fri., 8:30am-5pm  
203-330-6000

**Yale-New Haven Hospital (AIDS Care Program)**

20 York St, New Haven, CT 06651  
Hours: Mon., 9am-3pm; Tues., Thurs., Fri., 8:30am-5pm; Wed., 9:30am-3pm  
203-688-3298

**Norwalk Health Department**

137 East Ave, Norwalk, CT 06851  
Hours: Mon-Fri., 9am-5pm

**HIV/AIDS Statistics**

**Local Stats:** CT Department of Public Health (DPH)

<http://www.ct.gov/dph/cwp/view.asp?a=3135&q=393048>

**National Stats:** Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

<http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/topics/surveillance/resources/reports/index.htm>

**Other Related Information:**

STD info: Fact Sheets, Statistics, STD testing Sites, etc:

<http://www.cdc.gov/std/default.htm>

Substance Abuse: Treatment facilities, etc:

<http://www.ct.gov/DMHAS/site/default.asp>

2-1-1: referral services for the entire state of CT:

<http://www.infoline.org/>

**REFERRAL  
SOURCES:**

**TESTING  
SITES,  
STATISTICS,  
ETC...**

## ABOUT NIA

### THE NIA ALLIANCE

MADC  
72 George Street  
Bridgeport, CT 06604  
Tel: 203-870-0761  
[www.niaalliance.com](http://www.niaalliance.com)

The Nia Alliance is an initiative with the goal to develop a volunteer network of men and women who are dedicated to learn and respond to the growing HIV epidemic among women of color. In August 2006, GBAPP, Inc. developed a training curriculum to prepare men and women of color to serve as volunteer liaisons to faith-based organization. Objectives for participants completing the training workshop are 1) enhance knowledge of HIV, 2) develop skills to engage peers in HIV-related services, and 3) serve as community liaisons and planning body for HIV awareness events sponsored by GBAPP.

### NIA ALLIANCE MISSION STATEMENT

*The Nia Alliance is a community mobilization initiative dedicated to equip people of African descent to respond effectively and emphatically to the AIDS epidemic in communities of color through education, advocacy, direct services and community collaboration. Grounded in faith, we recognize the importance of being inclusive and nonjudgmental as we empower our participants to make informed decisions.*

### The Ashe HIV Faith Project

*funded by the Substance Abuse Mental Health Service Administration's Center for Substance Abuse Prevention Faith and Community Based Support Initiative*

The Ashe Faith Project aims to reduce substance abuse and HIV/AIDS in communities of color by strengthening the partnerships between local community organizations and faith groups, utilizing a wealth of knowledge, experience and passion to maximize local synergies, promote program collaboration, and encourage service integration.

For more information regarding the Nia Alliance, please contact:

**Contact: Nancy Kingwood, MSHS, CHIVC**

**Project Director**

**Mount Aery Development Corporation (MADC)**

**72 George Street**

**Bridgeport, CT. 06604**

**Tel: (203) 870-0761**

**Fax: (203) 394-9957**

**Email: [ashefaithmadc@yahoo.com](mailto:ashefaithmadc@yahoo.com)**

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contribute to the  
newsletter?**

Please email your article,  
event, pictures, etc to  
[newsletter@niaalliance.com](mailto:newsletter@niaalliance.com)  
by the 10<sup>th</sup> of each month.

