

SUNDAY MORNING Health Corner

HIV/AIDS Awareness: Shattering Stigma

Annually, The Balm In Gilead gathers in prayer and education for the National Week of Prayer for the Healing of AIDS, March 06-March 13, to increase awareness about HIV/AIDS and stigma. An estimated 1.2 million Americans live with HIV, with nearly 500,000 of those affected being African American. Yet, HIV stigma and discrimination remain complex issues that make it challenging to address barriers that limit HIV advocacy and prevention efforts.

What is HIV stigma?

HIV stigma is negative attitudes and beliefs about people with HIV. It is the prejudice that comes with labeling an individual as part of a group that is believed to be socially unacceptable.

What is HIV discrimination?

While stigma refers to an attitude or belief, discrimination is the behaviors that result from those attitudes or beliefs. HIV discrimination is the act of treating people living with HIV differently than those without HIV.

What can be done about HIV stigma and discrimination?

Talk About HIV

Talking openly about HIV can help normalize the subject. It also provides opportunities to correct misconceptions and help others learn more about HIV.

Take Action

We can all help end HIV stigma through our words and actions in our everyday lives. Lead others with your supportive behaviors.



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