

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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The Branch-Hillsdale-St. Joseph Community Health Agency, along with the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) recognizes December 1st As World AIDS Day.

The theme for this year's World AIDS Day, which is officially acknowledged as Dec. 1, is **Stop AIDS. Keep the Promise: Lead - Empower - Deliver.** As of Oct. 1, 2008, a total of 18,000 people were estimated to be living with HIV in Michigan, over half of whom have a diagnosis of AIDS.

Further breakdown reveals that 59 percent of those infected are African-American, 35 percent are White, 4 percent are Hispanic, and 1 percent are other or of unknown race. Seventy-seven percent of those infected are males. In the Detroit metro area, 8,980 residents, or 65 percent of those infected, are living with HIV/AIDS. Adolescents and young adult diagnoses have increased for the third consecutive year, with two thirds of those being African American.

For more information on HIV/AIDS and World AIDS Day, please go to www.mihivnews.com, or contact the MDCH Division of Health, Wellness and Disease Control at (517) 241-5900, LAAN at (517) 394-3719, or the Michigan AIDS Hotline at (800) 872-2427.

For information locally, including the most recent **Profile of HIV/AIDS in Michigan** publication, go to the Health Department website at www.bhsj.org and choose clinic services and then HIV Testing and Counseling.