



WNCAP

Western North Carolina AIDS Project

ALL SERVICES
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1-828-252-7489
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www.wncap.org

WNCAP PROVIDES HIV OUTREACH & TESTING TO LOCAL FARM WORKER COMMUNITY

By Victor Palomino

In recent decades, Latinos / Hispanics in the United States have become the largest minority group and the fastest growing population. According to the Census Bureau, in 2012 the Latino population in the United States was 53 million, making up 17% of the total population. This growth has presented strongly in the Southwest, where cities such as Houston, Atlanta and Charlotte are replacing New York and Los Angeles as the place of arrivals for the majority of new immigrants. In North Carolina, the Latino population went to 377,084 in the year 2000 to 828,210 in 2011 - one of the highest in the country according to figures from the Pew Research Center.

This summer, WNCAP's Latino Outreach Program held several HIV testing and prevention events in Latino communities in Buncombe, Henderson and Polk counties. We participated in three Clinicas Del Campo (farm workers clinic) in collaboration with Blue Ridge Community Health Services, and held the first Clinica Del Campo in Buncombe County in the community of Sandy Mush. We also organized health days at community centers in Asheville and Hendersonville.

While we spread awareness about HIV and knowledge about prevention, there is still more work to be done. The number of new infections in the Latino population continues to grow. In 2010, Latinos had more than one fifth of new HIV infections in the country, 21% of all new infections and 9,800 cases according to the CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention www.cdc.gov). The rate of new HIV infections among the Latino population in 2010 was 3 times higher than in the white population in the United States - 27.5 vs 8.7 among 100,000 (per 100,000).

The lack of comprehensive sex education, HIV stigma, and low condom use, are among the many reasons for the high number of new infections.

Get tested and invite your friends to know their status, so we can begin to combat the spread of HIV infection in our community.

For more information or contact
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HIV
TREATMENT
WORKS

**"HIV: This is not the end.
It's just the start of a new way of life."**

Jennifer - Asheville, NC

Living with HIV since 1997.

When I learned I had HIV, the doctors told me I had just 6 weeks to live. As a transgender woman, it was hard to find a doctor who understood my needs, but I kept looking and finally found someone. Now, 17 years later, I take just one pill a day—with very few side effects. I also run my own organization called TransHealth Coordinators that helps health care providers learn how to care for the unique needs of transgender people. Staying healthy leaves me with plenty of energy to pursue my other passions, too, such as painting, gardening, and operating a mountain guest house.

Get in care. Stay in care. Live well.

cdc.gov/HIVTreatmentWorks

