



National Black Gay Men's Advocacy Coalition, Inc.



Understanding The 12 Cities Project

What is "The 12 Cities Project?"

An important component of the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services' (HHS) National HIV/AIDS Strategy [Operational Plan](#) is what is known as "the 12 Cities Project." The 12 Cities Project will build upon the foundation by CDC's Enhanced Comprehensive HIV Prevention Planning (ECHPP). This HHS-wide project supports and accelerates comprehensive HIV/AIDS planning and cross-agency response (HRSA, SAMHSA, HHH, HIS, and CMS and other federal partners) in the 12 U.S. jurisdictions that bear the highest AIDS burden in the country.

The 12 Cities

New York City, New York	-	Los Angeles, California	-	Washington, DC
Chicago, Illinois	-	Atlanta, Georgia	-	Miami, Florida
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania	-	Houston, Texas	-	San Francisco, California
Baltimore, Maryland	-	Dallas, Texas	-	San Juan, Puerto Rico

Key Principles of National HIV/AIDS Strategy and 12 Cities

- ✓ Concentrate resources where the epidemic is most severe
- ✓ Coordinate Federal resources and actions across categorical program lines
- ✓ Scale-up effective HIV prevention, care and treatment strategies
- ✓ Innovate

Each of the 12 Cities have a designated health department official in the jurisdiction to oversee implementation of the project. NBGMAC is committed to tracking the implementation of the 12 Cities Project at the federal level to ensure accountability and fidelity at each site to the epidemiology of the local epidemic. NBGMAC will provide ongoing web-based updates on the project and produce educational materials related to each of the 12 cities. The success of The 12 Cities Project heavily depends on local community engagement of state and local government in order to more effectively reach those who are in greatest need and would benefit the most from successful implementation of this project.

12 Cities Project Timeline

Phase I of this project (October 2010 – April 2011) focuses on data collection and planning, with an explicit focus on identifying gaps in coverage in terms of populations, interventions, and services. \$11.6 million dollars of funding have been dedicated to this phase of the project. Health Departments submitted their plans to CDC in April 2011. The second phase of this project (May 2011 – September 2011 and beyond) will focus on responding to the results of the enhanced planning process, including redirecting resources consistent with the epidemiology of the local epidemic to optimize outcomes.

10 Things You Can Do to Make The 12 Cities Project Work For Your Community

1. Read the [Nation HIV/AIDS Strategy](#).
2. Visit the [blog.aids.gov](#) and view post about the 12 Cities Project.
3. Meet with your health department 12 Cities Project contact to learn about your city's plan.
4. Meet with other Black gay men to review the local plan and identify the ways it can serve your community.
5. Actively participate as a unified group in this project to improve HIV-related services for Black gay men.
6. Organize town hall meetings with your health department, local service providers and planners present.
7. Share information about your experiences with the local planning process on info@nbgmac.org
8. Share your local plan and the ways it supports Black gay men on info@nbgmac.org
9. Invite NBGMAC representatives to your local community to provide news of its federal efforts.
10. Join NBGMAC at www.nbgmac.org

The National Black Gay Men's Advocacy Coalition (NBGMAC) is committed to improving the health and well-being of black gay men through advocacy that is focused on research, policy, education and training.

www.NBGMAC.org – Facebook, [facebook.com/NBGMAC](https://www.facebook.com/NBGMAC) – Twitter, twitter.com/NBGMAC



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Understanding The 12 Cities Project Baltimore - Towson, Maryland

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NBGMAC strongly encourages community participation to aid the implementation efforts of The 12 Cities Project/ECHPP. Gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men (MSM) represent approximately 2% of the U.S. population, yet are the population most severely affected by HIV and are the only risk group in which new HIV infection have been increasing steadily since the early 1990s. Black gay men have been especially impacted with studies showing nearly half are HIV positive. Among all Black MSM in the country, there are more new HIV infections (52%) among young Black MSM (aged 13-29 years) than any other racial or ethnic age group of MSM ([CDC, 2010](#)).

Baltimore – Towson, Maryland

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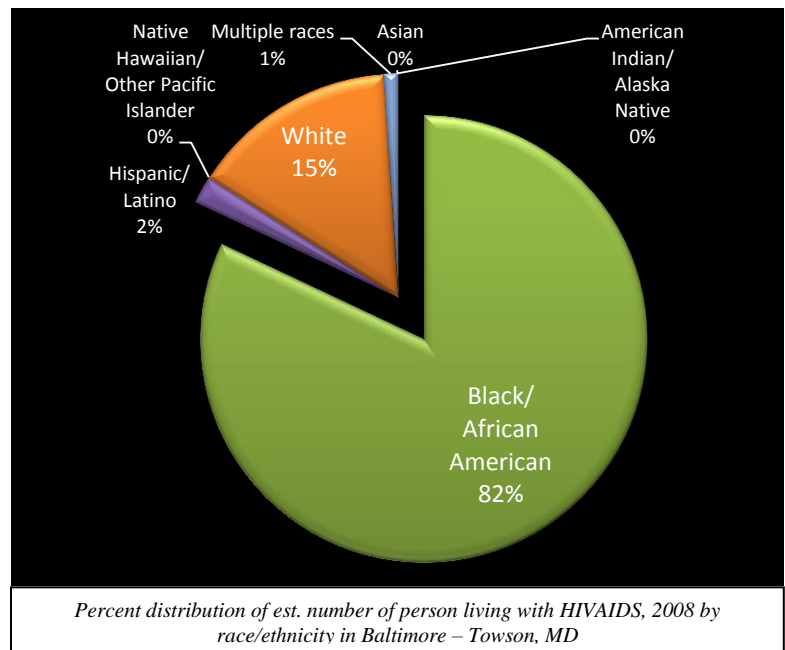
2010 Total population – **620,961** ([U.S. Census, 2010](#))

2008 Est. number of people living with AIDS – **10,543**

2008 Est. number of Black/African American living with HIV/AIDS – **8,645 / 82%** (*of all new cases*)

2008 Est. number of MSM reported HIV diagnoses – **185 / 32%** (*of all new cases*)

2008 Est. number of MSM reported AIDS diagnoses – **60 / 18%** (*of all new cases*)



Source: [Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene](#)

The success of The 12 Cities Project heavily depends on local community engagement of state and local government in order to more effectively reach those who are in greatest need and would benefit the most from successful implementation of this project. If you are in need of the plan for your city, please contact your 12 Cities project contact, listed above. If you have any additional questions, please feel free to contact us at info@NBGMAC.org.

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