The theme of this year's National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day is “Every Moment is a Deciding Moment.”

United States

- In the US, a woman tests positive for HIV every 35 minutes. Nationally, 1 in 4 persons living with HIV infection is female.

- From 2006 to 2009, the estimated number of newly diagnosed HIV cases decreased 8% among females. In 2009, there were 9,973 new HIV diagnoses among females.

- The most common transmission route for new HIV infections for women is high-risk heterosexual contact (85%) followed by injection drug use (15%).

- Black women and other women of color are disproportionally affected by the HIV epidemic. Black women had the highest rate of new infection in 2009.

- Since the beginning of the HIV epidemic, the proportion of AIDS diagnoses among women has increased from 11% in 1990 to almost 25% in 2009.

- At the end of 2009, approximately 174,057 women in the US were living with HIV infection. This is a 7% increase since 2006.

- HIV infection is among the top 10 leading causes of death for black females aged 10-54 and Hispanic/Latina females aged 15-54.

- It is especially important for women of child-bearing age and pregnant women to receive HIV testing. Approximately 25% of women do not receive an HIV test during prenatal care.

- Women face a variety of risk factors including substance use, biologic vulnerability, lack of recognition of a partner’s status and most importantly, high-risk heterosexual behaviors.

For more information, call the Louisiana Statewide STD/HIV Infoline at 1-800-99-AIDS-9 (1-800-992-4379) or visit www.HIV411.org
In 2010, 1,141 people in Louisiana were newly diagnosed with HIV; 327 (29%) were women.

Black women have consistently made up the largest proportion of new HIV diagnoses among Louisiana women. Of the 327 women diagnosed with HIV in 2010, 282 (86%) were black, 33 (10%) were white, and 7 (2%) were Hispanic.

In 2010, 5,180 women were living with HIV in all Louisiana parishes, with the largest numbers in the New Orleans and Baton Rouge regions.

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In 2010, 26% of new female diagnoses were among young women under the age of 25. Women, aged 15-44, made up a total of 73% of new HIV diagnoses among females.

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In 2010, 80% of the new HIV diagnoses for females were in women infected through high risk heterosexual contact; 19% of the diagnoses were in women infected through injection drug use.

In 2010, there were 327 females who were newly diagnosed with HIV. At the time of HIV diagnosis, 23% of the women had a diagnosis of AIDS. Within 6 months of the HIV diagnosis, an additional 10% of the women were diagnosed with AIDS. Prevention measures must aim to increase the number of women being tested for HIV in order to identify them at an earlier stage of their disease progression.

Since the beginning of the epidemic in Louisiana, a total of 309 children have been infected with HIV via mother to child transmission. In 2010, 4 infants were perinatally infected with HIV in Louisiana. Increased HIV testing that targets pregnant women should help reduce the number of future perinatal HIV infections.

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