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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **New Data Confirms the Need to Scale-Up Prevention Efforts for Gay Men of All Races and Ethnicities**

**Washington, DC – September 27, 2010** - A study of 21 major U.S. cities, released last week in the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's [Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report](#), finds that 19 percent of men who have sex with men (MSM) are HIV infected and 44 percent of those men are unaware of their HIV status. The data confirm that HIV prevalence among MSM remains high, many HIV-infected MSM are unaware that they are infected, and minority MSM are disproportionately affected by HIV. The release of this data reinforces the [Statement of Urgency](#) about the HIV and STD crisis among gay men, released in June by the NASTAD and the National Coalition of STD Directors (NCSD).

"These data are further evidence that prevention for gay and bisexual men of all races must be our highest priority at all levels," said Julie M. Scofield, NASTAD's Executive Director. "It is time to value the lives of gay men in our communities. We must fight for their lives," continued Scofield.

The [Statement of Urgency](#) highlights the commitment of NASTAD and NCSD members to examine existing programs and the allocation of resources targeting gay and bisexual men. Despite past progress, the organizations acknowledge that our nation's efforts are not currently sufficient to arrest new infections among these men. The statement asserts that this crisis requires a critical examination of prior efforts and a sharpening of focus to prevent new infections among gay and bisexual men of all races.

In recognition of today's National Gay Men's HIV/AIDS Awareness Day (NGMHAAD), NASTAD, along with leadership at the Georgia and Florida Departments of Health are facilitating a video-discussion of state responses to the HIV/AIDS epidemic among gay men and other MSM. The goal of the discussion is to identify facilitators and barriers to effective programming targeting gay men and establishing measureable goals for program scale-up. NGMHAAD serves as a call to action to refocus attention on a community that continues to be disproportionately impacted by the HIV epidemic in the United States and around the world.

Founded in 1992, NASTAD is a nonprofit national association of state and territorial health department HIV/AIDS program directors who have programmatic responsibility for administering HIV/AIDS and viral hepatitis health care, prevention, education, and supportive services programs funded by state and federal governments. For more information, visit [www.NASTAD.org](http://www.NASTAD.org).

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