



FOCUS Monthly Newsletter

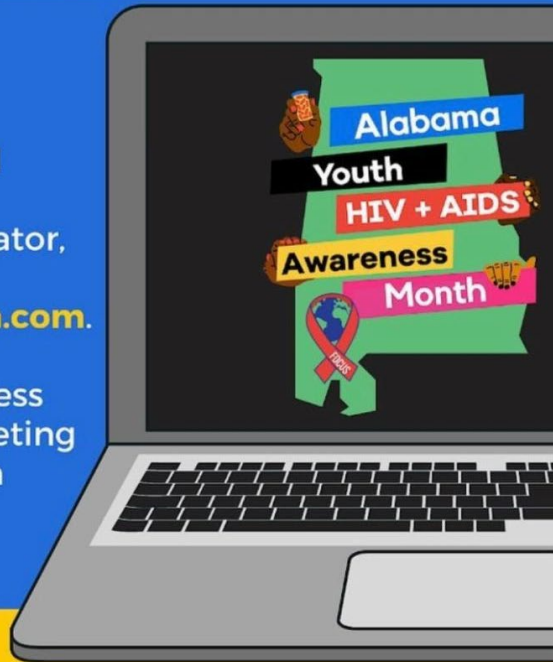
April 2022

APRIL IS ALABAMA YOUTH HIV/AIDS AWARENESS MONTH

FACILITATORS!

Get your free AYHAAM Resource Guide, HIV PowerPoint, and HIV 101 Video featuring Tom Robertson, HIV Coordinator, ADPH (Retired) at www.thefocusprogram.com.

ALSO plan your awareness event and receive marketing items for students and a backpack for teachers while they last!



Addiction
Prevention
Coalition



Health
Services
Center

The AYHAAM Resource Guide, HIV PowerPoint, and HIV 101 Video featuring Tom Robertson, HIV Coordinator, ADPH (Retired) is available at www.thefocusprogram.com. Use your facilitator password to access resources. Contact Afreitag@thefocusprogram.com for assistance.

Plan your awareness event and receive marketing items for students and a backpack for teachers while they last! For delivery, please contact Melissa Parker at (text or call) 256-419-3091 or email melissaparker@hscal.org.

Youth HIV/AIDS Awareness Campaign



IN ALABAMA, ADOLESCENTS AND YOUNG ADULTS AGED 15-29 YEARS ARE TWICE AS LIKELY TO BE INFECTED WITH HIV AS THE AVERAGE ALABAMA RESIDENT.

April 10th is National Youth HIV/AIDS Awareness Day!

PROJECT LEAP **FOCUS** 

WHAT IS HIV?

HIV (human immunodeficiency virus) is a virus that attacks the body's immune system. If HIV is not treated, it can lead to AIDS (acquired immunodeficiency syndrome).

LEARNING THE BASICS ABOUT HIV CAN KEEP YOU HEALTHY AND PREVENT HIV TRANSMISSION.



KNOW YOUR STATUS!

MANY ORGANIZATIONS PROVIDE FREE HIV TESTING AND SERVICES IN ALABAMA.

Find a service near you at: alabamapublichealth.gov/hiv/testing.html

PROJECT LEAP **FOCUS** 



MYTH:
YOU CAN TELL THAT
SOMEONE HAS HIV BY
LOOKING AT THEM.

FACT:
You CANNOT identify
people who are living with
HIV by their physical
appearance.



HIV is
transmitted
through infected
body fluids such
as semen, blood,
or breast milk,
as well as
through needles
such as those
used for drugs
or body piercing.

LEARNING THE BASICS
ABOUT HIV CAN KEEP YOU
HEALTHY AND PREVENT HIV
TRANSMISSION.



APRIL 10TH IS NATIONAL YOUTH HIV/AIDS
AWARENESS DAY!

MYTH: HIV ONLY AFFECTS
CERTAIN SEXUAL
ORIENTATIONS.

FACT: Anyone can contract HIV regardless of their
sexual orientation.



MYTH: HIV MEDICATION
CAN CURE HIV.

FACT: Medication for HIV
doesn't cure it, however
when HIV medication is
taken as prescribed, it can
reduce the amount of the
virus in the body.

APRIL 10TH IS NATIONAL YOUTH
HIV/AIDS AWARENESS DAY!



Learn the basics.

MYTH: HIV
AFFECTS
CHILDBIRTH
AND FERTILITY.

FACT: HIV DOES NOT AFFECT
FERTILITY AND CHILDBIRTH,
ESPECIALLY FOR WOMEN WHO ARE
RECEIVING APPROPRIATE AND
ADEQUATE TREATMENT. HOWEVER,
NOT TAKING MEDICATIONS WHILE
BEING PREGNANT CAN LEAD TO
MOTHER-TO-CHILD TRANSMISSION
(MTCT).



HIV + ADDICTION:
Linkage, Education, and Prevention

PROJECT LEAP IS A COLLABORATION
BETWEEN APC, UAB MEDICINE, AND AIDS
ALABAMA THAT PROVIDES EDUCATION
ON HIV AND SUBSTANCE MISUSE USING
EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICES.



Learn more at apcbham.org.

April 10th is National Youth HIV/AIDS Awareness Day!



The deadline to apply is quickly approaching!

2022 Difference Maker Award

NOMINATIONS ARE OPEN for the 2022 "Difference Maker of the Year!" The Facilitator chosen as the "Difference Maker" will receive \$1,000 cash to be used however they choose. The "Difference Maker" will be chosen based on their school's activities, their level of involvement with FOCUS, and the creation of successful prevention activities and events.

**All nominations must be received by
5:00pm on April 23, 2022.**

Click the button below for more information
or to nominate a Difference Maker!

**Nominate a Difference
Maker**



**DIFFERENCE
MAKER
AWARD**

REMEMBER to tap in to the many resources available on the Facilitator Portal at www.thefocusprogram.com.

Digital FOCUS Brochure; Implementation Guide; Videos; Posters; Character Education Resource; PowerPoint for FOCUS Extracurricular Implementation; HIV Teacher Training; HIV 101; FOCUS Group Training; Certificates of Leadership and Participating; and numerous other resources!

Visit Facilitator Portal

Register Your School



Connect with FOCUS!

Stay up to date on everything that is happening with FOCUS by following us on social media! Don't hesitate, follow us today!



Monthly Health Observances

We encourage all FOCUS schools to engage in at least one health observance activity each month. Each month has some excellent choices for students on your campuses to "Make a Difference" and to encourage their peers to participate.

April

- 1-30: Alcohol Awareness Month
- 1-30: National Child Abuse Prevention Month
- 1-30: National Distracted Driving Awareness Month
- 1-30: Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month
- 1-30: Sexually Transmitted Infections Awareness Month



National Health Observances



- 8-12: National Youth Violence Prevention Week
- 10: National Youth HIV/AIDS Awareness Day
- 15: National Prescription Drug Take Back Day

May

- 1-31 Hepatitis Awareness Month
- 1-31 Mental Health Month
- 1-31 Skin Cancer Prevention Month
- 1-31 National Teen Pregnancy Prevention Month
- 31 World No Tobacco Day



COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

FOCUS values continued partnerships with the following state and community organizations.

Alabama Department of Public Health
 Alabama Department of Education
 Alabama Campaign for Adolescent Sexual Health
 Addiction Prevention Coalition
 Children's Policy Council
 Council for Leaders in Alabama Schools (CLAS)
 Blue Cross Blue Shield of Alabama



Council for Leaders in
Alabama Schools



Addiction
Prevention
Coalition



**BlueCross BlueShield
of Alabama**

FOCUS

