Michigan Group Promotes HIV Testing Among Black Sororities

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The Kalamazoo, Michigan-based Community AIDS Resource and Education Services (CARES) center recently teamed with a variety of historically African-American sororities to encourage locals—especially those in the black community—to get tested for HIV, the *Kalamazoo Gazette* reports. CARES organized a testing event February 19 in cooperation with the graduate chapter of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority Inc.

According to the article, blacks represent 14 percent of Kalamazoo's population, but they account for 59 percent of its HIV/AIDS cases.

"When I first saw the numbers about the black community, they were staggering," said Ondraya Dixon, a Zeta Phi Beta sorority member who participated in the testing drive. "People seem to have a fear of knowing. They just want to live life to the fullest, when they can be impacted even if they're being careful."

In addition, HIV specialists at CARES are working with sororities to produce one-minute YouTube videos aimed at educating the black community about the virus.

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