Canadian HIV/AIDS Black, African and Caribbean Network (CHABAC)

April 24, 2012
Overview

- HIV among African and Caribbean populations in Canada
- CHABAC Background
- CHABAC Role and Structure
- Vision, Mission and Guiding principles
- Strategic Directions
- Capacity Building Project
- Going Forward
HIV among AC populations in Canada: Prevalence

Source: PHAC (2009)

In 2008, there were an estimated 65,000 people in Canada living with HIV.

9,250 (14%) were attributed to the HIV-endemic exposure sub-category.

Of the 65,000, it is estimated that 16,900 (26%) are unaware of their HIV infection.
In 2008, there were an estimated 2,300 to 4,300 new HIV infections in Canada. 

370 to 690 (16%) were attributed to the HIV-endemic exposure sub-category. 

The infection rate among people from countries where HIV is endemic was estimated to be about 8.5 times higher than among other Canadians in 2008. 

Source: PHAC (2009)
CHABAC Background

- In 2005, the Interagency Coalition on AIDS and Development (ICAD), the African and Caribbean Council on HIV/AIDS in Ontario (ACCHO) and Women’s Health in Women's Hands (WHIWH) embarked on a partnership to respond to the high rates of HIV infection among ACB communities in Canada.

- Purpose: conduct preliminary research that would contribute to the development of a national HIV and AIDS strategy for ACB communities.
CHABAC Background, continued


- A first of its kind in Canada, it contained an environmental scan report that provided:
  - A snapshot of programmatic and research activities and initiatives addressing HIV/AIDS and related issues in Black communities;
  - Statistical and demographic information on HIV/AIDS and Black people in Canada;
  - An annotated listing of various reports produced with findings and/or recommendations specific to HIV/AIDS and the Black communities; and
  - Information on government responses to HIV/AIDS in Black communities.
Background, continued


- **Recommendations included:**
  - Build community
  - Create opportunities and mechanisms to better connect and facilitate working together among members of the Black community around HIV and AIDS issues
  - Make addressing HIV and AIDS in the Black community a funding priority
  - Foster creation of a national body specific to addressing HIV and AIDS in the Black community
  - Increase the visibility of HIV and AIDS in the Black community
  - Enhance availability, access and quality of HIV and AIDS programs and services to the Black community

Formation of the Canadian HIV/AIDS Black, African and Caribbean Network (CHABAC)
What is CHABAC?

- A national network of organizations, individuals and other stakeholders who are dedicated to responding to issues related to HIV and AIDS in Canada’s African, Caribbean and Black communities.

- CHABAC aims to:
  - complement activities related to the government’s Federal Initiative to address HIV/AIDS among people from countries where HIV is endemic in Africa and the Caribbean; and
  - further the work to address HIV/AIDS in ACB communities in Canada through research and information sharing, capacity building and advocacy.
Role of CHABAC

- To provide leadership and to coordinate a national response to policy, research and service delivery issues affecting African, Caribbean and Black communities in Canada.

- To identify priorities and advocacy for the inclusion of issues affecting African, Caribbean and Black communities in Canada at the national, provincial and community levels.

- To facilitate the sharing of information and expertise, which accurately documents the African, Caribbean and Black reality.

- To serve as a link between relevant national and international networks and allies.
Structure of CHABAC

- ICAD has provided administrative support to the network since its formation in 2010
- Long-term vision of autonomy and being national leader
- Steering Committee guides the work of CHABAC
- General membership is being developed
- CHABAC links with the African and Black Diaspora Global Network on HIV and AIDS (ABDGN)
CHABAC Steering Committee

1. Mary Stella Anidi, Sexuality Education Resource Centre (Winnipeg, Manitoba)
2. Robert Bardston, individual member (Medicine Hat, Alberta)
3. Shayna Buhler, Interagency Coalition on AIDS and Development (ICAD) (Ottawa, Ontario)
4. Janice Dayle, individual member (Montreal, Quebec)
5. Tsion Demke Abate, HIV Edmonton (Edmonton, Alberta)
6. Elisa Hatten, BlackCAP (Toronto, Ontario)
7. Tanya Lary, Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC, ex-officio member) (Ottawa, Ontario)
8. Irene Mlambo, Somerset West Community Health Center (SWCHC) (Ottawa, Ontario)
10. Lori Root, Nova Scotia Advisory Commission on AIDS (Halifax, Nova Scotia)
11. Wangari Tharao, Women’s Health in Women’s Hands Community Health Centre (WHIWH) (Toronto, Ontario)
Vision and Mission

Vision

• To end the HIV/AIDS epidemic among the African, Caribbean and Black population in Canada.

Mission

Guiding Principles

1. Meaningful Involvement of People Living with HIV/AIDS
2. Transparency and Accountability
3. Anti-Oppression Framework
4. Harm-Reduction Framework
5. Social Justice
6. Diversity, Inclusion and Accessibility
7. Capacity Building and Leadership Development
8. Collaboration and Partnerships
9. Advocacy
10. Overall Representation of African, Caribbean and Black people
Strategic Directions (1)

Build Our Organizational Capacity

- CHABAC will build its internal capacity to achieve its mission
- Finalize model of operation including developing an inclusive and effective membership structure that is grounded in our guiding principles
Strategic Directions (2)

Raise Our Profile and Awareness of the Issues

- Leveraging our members and partnering Networks, we will raise the profile of CHABAC.
- Develop a multi-pronged communication and community engagement strategy in order to build the capacity of stakeholders to respond effectively and appropriately to the needs of ACB communities in all regions of Canada.
Strategic Directions (3)

Focus on Long Term Sustainability

- Seek out opportunities to support the work CHABAC does by strengthening and diversifying its membership base and creating a fund development plan that supports its primary objectives
Capacity Building Project

- Strengthening the Capacity of Service Providers to Deliver Prevention Programs to the African Diaspora in Canada Project

- ICAD received funding from the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) for this Project, which was undertaken in partnership with ACCHO and WHIWH

- CHABAC Steering Committee acted as Advisory Committee
Capacity Building Project Purpose

- Ensure that ACB communities in Canada are meaningfully engaged in HIV prevention efforts

- Build the capacity of service providers (mainstream and ACB specific) to deliver prevention and other services to the target community
Capacity Building Project Activities

- Production of a gap analysis to identify and document front-line service provision gaps in primary and secondary prevention support services affecting ACB communities and individuals

- Capacity building needs assessment report
Capacity Building Project Activities, continued

- Training package and curriculum developed

- 5 Capacity building workshops across Canada: Calgary, Winnipeg, Toronto, Montreal, Halifax
  - overwhelming majority of participants indicated increased knowledge and skills as well as an intent to take action based on the training

- Workshops co-hosted with regional “hubs”

- Hubs received training so that they can continue to act as focal points for resource dissemination and have the capacity to respond to HIV prevention issues amongst service providers working with ACB communities
CHABAC Going Forward

- Steering committee
  - Work towards full national representation
  - Develop a communications plan
  - Seek additional funding
  - Along with general membership, continue to reevaluate options for the network’s long-term future

- Membership
  - CHABAC will build a general membership
  - Develop listserv to share relevant information across the country and encourage discussion

- Hubs
  - Continue to support and mentor the regional “hubs”
To become involved:

- Join the CHABAC Listerv- email sbuhler@icad-cisd.com and you will be contacted when it’s up and running!
- Publications available at www.icad-cisd.com
Thanks for listening!

Questions? Comments?