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Page 1 of 1

NEVADA STATE HEALTH DIVISION

NEWS RELEASE

28th Annual International AIDS Candlelight Memorial: Sunday, May 15th, 2011

Carson City – People with HIV/AIDS are living longer, healthier lives as a result of improved medications; however, deaths due to HIV/AIDS continue to be among the top ten leading causes of death in the U.S. for individuals 15-54. Although the rate of deaths among people with HIV/AIDS has remained relatively stable in recent years, there were an estimated 16,088 deaths in 2008 that were attributed to AIDS. Since the beginning of the pandemic in 1985, an estimated 594,496 people with AIDS have died in the US alone.

Since 2005 the annual numbers of AIDS diagnoses have been relatively constant, with an estimated 227 newly diagnosed AIDS cases in 2010 in Nevada. In total, an estimated 8,390 people are living with HIV/AIDS in Nevada. The death rate among people with AIDS has also remained relatively stable in recent years; there were an estimated 138 deaths in 2009 among individuals with HIV/AIDS. The death rate among AIDS cases in Nevada disproportionately affects African Americans. In 2009, the crude overall death rate of Blacks was five and a half times that of Whites (17.4 vs. 3.21 per 100,000) and six times that of Hispanics (2.8).

Nevada has dedicated statewide efforts that focus on HIV/AIDS treatment and care for infected individuals to ensure longer, healthier lives for infected individuals, as well as continued HIV prevention efforts through education and outreach.

Please join the Nevada State Health Division, Southern Nevada Health District, Washoe County Health District, Northern Nevada Outreach Team, and many community based organizations throughout Nevada in observation of the 28th Annual International AIDS Candlelight Memorial and the many activities and outreach efforts to increase awareness and prevention of HIV/AIDS.

ActionRED and Sin City Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence will host a candlelight memorial service honoring friends and family infected and affected by HIV/AIDS on Sunday, May 15, 2011, at 6 pm, at Emergency Arts, 520 Fremont Street, downtown Las Vegas. Community leaders and concerned community residents will assemble for a day of remembrance and a celebration of life.

For more information, please call: Sandi Noffsinger, HIV/STD Surveillance and Control Manager, Office of Epidemiology, Nevada State Health Division, at 702-486-6515 x 261 or snoffisnger@health.nv.gov.

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