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Governor

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**PINELLAS COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**WOMEN AND GIRLS NEED HIV/AIDS TESTING, TOO**



Almost 60 percent of HIV/AIDS diagnoses in Pinellas among women are attributed to heterosexual contact, with injection drug use as the second leading factor. AIDS is the leading cause of death for African-American women between the ages of 25 and 34.

March 10 is ***National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day***, which the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Office of Women's Health sponsors to remind women of the importance of prevention and testing. The Pinellas County Health Department is partnering with community groups to provide screenings this week.

From 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, March 13, the Charlie King Tutson VFW Post 10174 will host a health fair that will include screenings for HIV, blood pressure, diabetes and more. Education sessions on heart disease, HIV/AIDS, sickle cell and other topics will be available. Driving for Donors will be screening for bone marrow donors onsite.

The post is located at 1780 49th St. S., St. Petersburg. The Pinellas County Health Department's partners for the event are the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Black Nurses Association, Metropolitan Charities, the Pinellas County Urban League, Driving for Donors and Florida Blood Services.

For information about National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day, go to [www.hhs.gov/aidsawarenessdays/days/woman](http://www.hhs.gov/aidsawarenessdays/days/woman).