



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Department of Public Health

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National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day Event March 10

FAYETTEVILLE – The second annual National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day event will be held March 10 at 5 p.m. at the Old Wilmington Road Resource Center, 229 Lincoln Dr. The public is invited to this free event, which will focus on the impact HIV/AIDS has on the county's female population.

Guest speakers will include Catherine Wyatt-Morley, founder and CEO of the organization Women On Maintaining Education and Nutrition (W.O.M.E.N.); Stephanie Brown, HIV Advocate for Community Health Intervention; Sherri McGregor, McGregor's Traveling Angels; Pat Whitfield, CDC Disease Intervention Specialist with the Cumberland County Department of Public Health and Erica Welch-Hoyte, a community lay leader. Various vendors will be on site sharing resources. HIV Rapid Testing will also be available.

At the end of 2013, there were 36,300 people living with HIV infection in North Carolina; 65 percent of the HIV patients were African-Americans. According to the N.C. Communicable Disease Branch, African-American women are 13 times more likely to become infected with HIV/AIDS than women of other races and ethnicities. Unprotected sex, injecting drugs and mother-to-baby transmission are the main ways HIV is spread.

“We must increase our efforts to ensure all people know how to prevent HIV transmission, know their HIV status and get linked to care, treatment and prevention,” said Public Health Educator II Phyllis McLymore. “We can stop HIV together by getting the facts, getting tested and getting involved.”

For more information, please contact Phyllis McLymore at 910-433 3894 or Karen Moore 910-483-2945 ext. 1104.

If you would like more information about the Cumberland County Department of Public Health's programs and services, health-related data, or community resources, please call 910-433-3600 or visit with someone at the information desk, or visit our website at co.cumberland.nc.us/health.aspx#. Comments are welcome and can be submitted on our website at co.cumberland.nc.us/health/comment_form.aspx. The Health Department is located at 1235 Ramsey St. in Fayetteville.