

## history

Asian Health Coalition of Illinois (AHCI) is a grassroots organization, created by community members and health care providers. AHCI received non-profit 501(c)(3) status in 1998. Today, the coalition is composed of a diverse array of community based organizations, health care providers, and public health officials.

## mission

Our mission is to improve the health and well being of all Asian American and Pacific Islanders (AAPI) in Illinois through the development of an AAPI health agenda that includes:

- Advocating for culturally and linguistically appropriate services and programs.
- Providing technical assistance for programs promoting culturally and linguistically appropriate community health education and disease prevention while overcoming barriers to health care access.
- Serving as a clearinghouse, think tank, and resource center for all Illinois based health related organizations for AAPI issues.
- Combating invisibility by increasing and improving the collection, analysis, and dissemination of data about AAPI population and sub-populations.



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COALITION OF ILLINOIS

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ASIAN HEALTH  
COALITION OF ILLINOIS

**7 million Asians** live with  
HIV/AIDS

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What about **Asians in Illinois?**

## Facts You Should Know



- Globally, of the 42 million People Living with HIV/AIDS, 7 million people are of Asian descent.\*
- Illinois has the 6<sup>th</sup> largest Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) population in the United States.\*\*
- Among AAPI females diagnosed with AIDS, 47% were due to heterosexual contact – the highest percentage among all racial/ethnic groups. \*\*
- Among cumulative HIV cases “risk not reported or identified” accounted for 44% of the cases reported among AAPI women-- the highest percentage among all racial/ethnic groups.\*\*

\* WHO and UNAIDS, 2002

\*\* 2000 Census

## Cook County AAPI HIV/AIDS Capacity Building



AHCI (Asian Health Coalition of Illinois) was funded by the Cook County Department of Public Health to examine the HIV/AIDS needs of the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community. AAPI women, who were either Limited English Proficient (LEP) or undergraduate students, were the targeted groups.

### Common Themes



- Majority of LEP AAPI women have never been tested for HIV and do not know their HIV status.
- Overall, AAPI women preferred female clinicians as their providers.
- In addition, LEP AAPI women identified ethnicity (of AAPI origin), and language (AAPI specific), as important characteristics to have in a health provider.

## What Can AHCI Do For Your Organization?



- Train staff around AAPI HIV/AIDS cultural competency issues.
- Conduct a needs assessment on HIV/AIDS issues for AAPI communities that you serve.
- Provide HIV/AIDS material in AAPI languages: Cambodian, Chinese, Filipino (Tagalog), Gujarati, Hindi, Indonesian, Japanese, Korean, and Vietnamese.
- Provide on-line resources at [www.asianhealth.org](http://www.asianhealth.org).
- Serve as a national resource for AAPI HIV/AIDS programs as a national AAPI HIV Capacity Building Partner with funding from the CDC.

### Other Current AHCI Projects



- Annual AAPI health conference.
- Opening Doors cultural competence training program for health care providers.
- Tobacco control capacity building, youth mobilization, and cessation.
- Focus groups to identify barriers to childhood immunization among AAPIs.
- Quarterly membership meetings to share information and resources.