

## Sistas Organizing to Survive (SOS) Speaking Points and Fact Sheet

### Sistas Organizing to Survive (SOS)

- *Sistas Organizing to Survive (SOS)* is the grassroots mobilization of black women in the fight against HIV/AIDS, and was the first of its kind in the nation.
- Introduced on June 20, 2008, *SOS* encourages black women to get tested where they live, work, play, and worship.
- The goals of *SOS* are: teach black women about HIV/AIDS, empower them to take control of their sexual health, connect them to HIV/AIDS resources, and offer tools that enable black women to educate others.
- More than 100,000 black women were tested for HIV in 2010.
- Since its inception, eight local *SOS* conferences have been conducted, 7,510 people have taken the online pledge, and 280,792 black women have been tested.

### Florida HIV/AIDS Statistics Among Black Women

- In 2009, the HIV rate among adult black women was 20 times higher than among white women.
- 1 in 64 black women were living with HIV/AIDS in 2008; compared to 1 in 1,153 white women.
- HIV is the fourth leading cause of death among females between the ages of 25-44. Among females of this age group, HIV is the number one leading cause of death among black women.
- In 2009, 1,448 AIDS and 1,451 HIV cases were reported among women, with the majority being black women.

### We Make the Change

- Launched by the Florida Department of Health in 1999, *We Make the Change (WMTC)* is a statewide campaign designed to increase the awareness of HIV/AIDS and its impact on minority communities throughout Florida.

### References

- [www.WeMakeTheChange.com](http://www.WeMakeTheChange.com)
- [www.facebook.com/SistasOrganizingtoSurvive](http://www.facebook.com/SistasOrganizingtoSurvive)
- Florida Department of Health, Bureau of HIV/AIDS
  - HIV/AIDS Among Women fact sheet
  - HIV/AIDS Among Blacks fact sheet