



## THE AIDS INSTITUTE

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### THE AIDS INSTITUTE SUPPORTS WORLD HEPATITIS DAY 2008: AM I NUMBER 12? *An Urgent Call to Action for the United States and the World*

**Washington, DC** – The AIDS Institute applauds the organizers of World Hepatitis Day 2008 and the campaign launch that takes place today, May 19, 2008

Did you know that 1 in 12 people around the world are infected with hepatitis B or C? That's about 600 million people -- a staggering number. And yet, the issue of hepatitis isn't one that captures headlines or ranks high on the global health agenda. "Am I Number 12?" is a campaign that's launched today worldwide.

#### **Did You Know?**

- 500 million people worldwide are currently infected with hepatitis B or C
- This is over 10 times the number infected with HIV/AIDS
- Between them, hepatitis B and C kill 1.5 million people a year
- One in every three people on the planet has been exposed to either or both viruses
- Most of the 500 million infected do not know

#### **World Hepatitis Day**

World Hepatitis Day is observed on Monday, May 19, 2008, and marks a brand new, entirely patient-led initiative. The day has been launched in response to the concern that chronic viral hepatitis has nowhere near the level of awareness nor the political will to tackle it that is seen in HIV/AIDS, TB and malaria. This is despite the fact that the numbers chronically infected with, and annually killed by, hepatitis B and C viruses are on the same scale. 'AM I NUMBER 12?' campaign materials are available in over 40 languages – for logo images, postcards, posters and banner ads please contact the World Hepatitis Alliance at [worldhepday@fleishman.com](mailto:worldhepday@fleishman.com)

#### **World Hepatitis Alliance**

World Hepatitis Day is being coordinated by the World Hepatitis Alliance, a newly established Non-Governmental Organization which represents more than 200 hepatitis B and hepatitis C patient groups from around the world. The World Hepatitis Alliance is governed by a representative board of patient groups from seven world regions: Europe, Eastern Mediterranean, North Africa, North America, South America, Australasia & Western Pacific. For more information visit [www.worldhepatitisalliance.com](http://www.worldhepatitisalliance.com).

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For more information and to become involved in AIDS advocacy work, please contact  
The AIDS Institute at: (202) 835-8373, or by email at: [Info@theaidsinstitute.org](mailto:Info@theaidsinstitute.org) or [www.TheAIDSInstitute.org](http://www.TheAIDSInstitute.org)

*The AIDS Institute is a national nonprofit agency that promotes action for social change  
through public policy research, advocacy and education.*