



The National Library of Medicine (NLM) collaborates with rural, underserved, and minority communities to improve access to health information. Outreach efforts to special populations include (but are not limited to) NLM database training, providing Internet access, acquisition of computer equipment, and Web site development. NLM offers competitive awards to community-based organizations and libraries through the AIDS Community Information Outreach Program. This program offers funding to design and conduct projects that will improve access to HIV/AIDS-related health information for patients, the affected community, and their caregivers. NLM also cosponsors the Arctic Health and American Indian Health Web sites, which provide health information for and about American Indians and Alaska Natives.

### Barriers

NLM recognizes the many barriers that affect the availability and accessibility of HIV/AIDS information, such as the lack of:

- Computer stations with Internet access in community settings.
- Privacy.
- Computer skills.
- Relevant and appropriate sites for special populations.
- Qualitative, authoritative, and accurate information on the Internet.

## Breaking Down the Barriers: AIDS Community Information Outreach Program

NLM offers funding for communities to design Funding can help improve areas such as: Types of organizations and consortia include: and conduct projects with the following goals:

Information retrieval.

Public libraries.

- Promote improved access to HIV/AIDS information for healthcare professionals, patients, the affected community, caregivers, and the general public.
- Encourage partnerships and communityfocused activities.
- Promote awareness and use of technology applications for improved information access.

- Skills development.
- State-of-the-art resources. Resource development.
- Document access.



- Community-based organizations or patient advocacy groups.
- Health departments or other local, municipal, or state agencies.
- Faith-based organizations.
- Partnerships among the above-listed organizations.

## **NLM Web Resources**

**Arctic Health Web Site** 

http://www.arctichealth.org

AIDSinfo Web Site

http://aidsinfo.nih.gov

**NLM AIDS Web Site** 

control, and prevention

eral government

Information on HIV/AIDS treatment,

http://www.sis.nlm.nih.gov/hiv.html

Information portal for Arctic region

inhabitants, with a focus on Alaska

**American Indian Health Web Site** 

http://americanindianhealth.nlm.nih.gov

Gateway to health information for and about American Indians

# American Indian Health • Healthcare Access Organizations and Links Tribal Information • Other Indigenous Peoples NLM Programs and Services with Native

## American Indian Health

 Native American and HIV/AIDS - Journal citations from (National Library of Medicine) **National Native Americans AIDS Prevention Center Native American AIDS Resource Sampler** National Network of Libraries of Medicine/Pacific Northwes

ational Library of Medicine/University of Alaska Anchorage) **HIV/AIDS Facts For American Indians** 

sociation of American Indian Physicians)

**HIV/AIDS Among American Indians and Alaska Natives** 

- **HIV Transmission and Prevention in Native Americans** UCFS Center for AIDS Information)
- lational Institute for Allergy and Infectious Diseases)

## **Case Studies**

The following projects were conducted within Alaska and serve as models for adaptation and use by other Native American and rural communities.

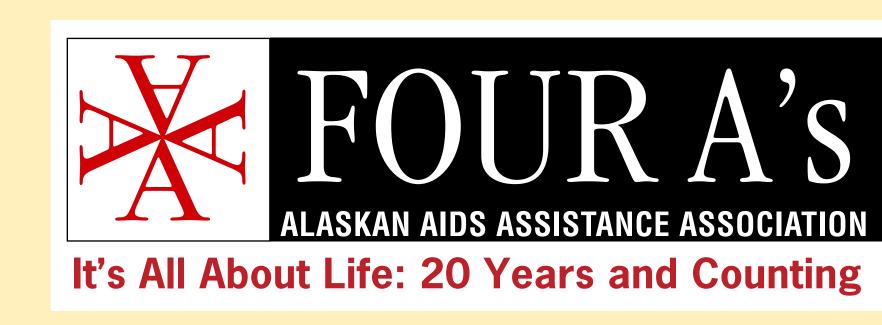
Alaskan AIDS Assistance Association (Four A's), Four A's Resource Library Expansion (Anchorage, AK) http://www.alaskanaids.org

Type of organization Community

Establish a well-stocked and updated HIV/AIDS resource library that is accessible to clients, family members, staff, and the community through the purchase of up-to-date books, journals, and other publications.

### Results

The Four A's Library Expansion Project allowed the resource library to catalogue existing library resources and purchase over 60 books, journals, and publications containing current information about HIV/AIDS. Accessibility to and organization of library resources were further enhanced by the purchase of new shelving and magazine files. The Four A's advertised the library's opening and expansion of the resource library to local schools, colleges, doctors' offices, and other agencies that partner with HIV/AIDS services. A complete list of resources is listed on the Four A's Web site.



Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium, "Community Drum: An Alaska Native/Rural Alaska AIDS Information Community Outreach Project" (Anchorage, AK) http://www.communitydrum.org

## Type of organization

Community, Healthcare, Clinic

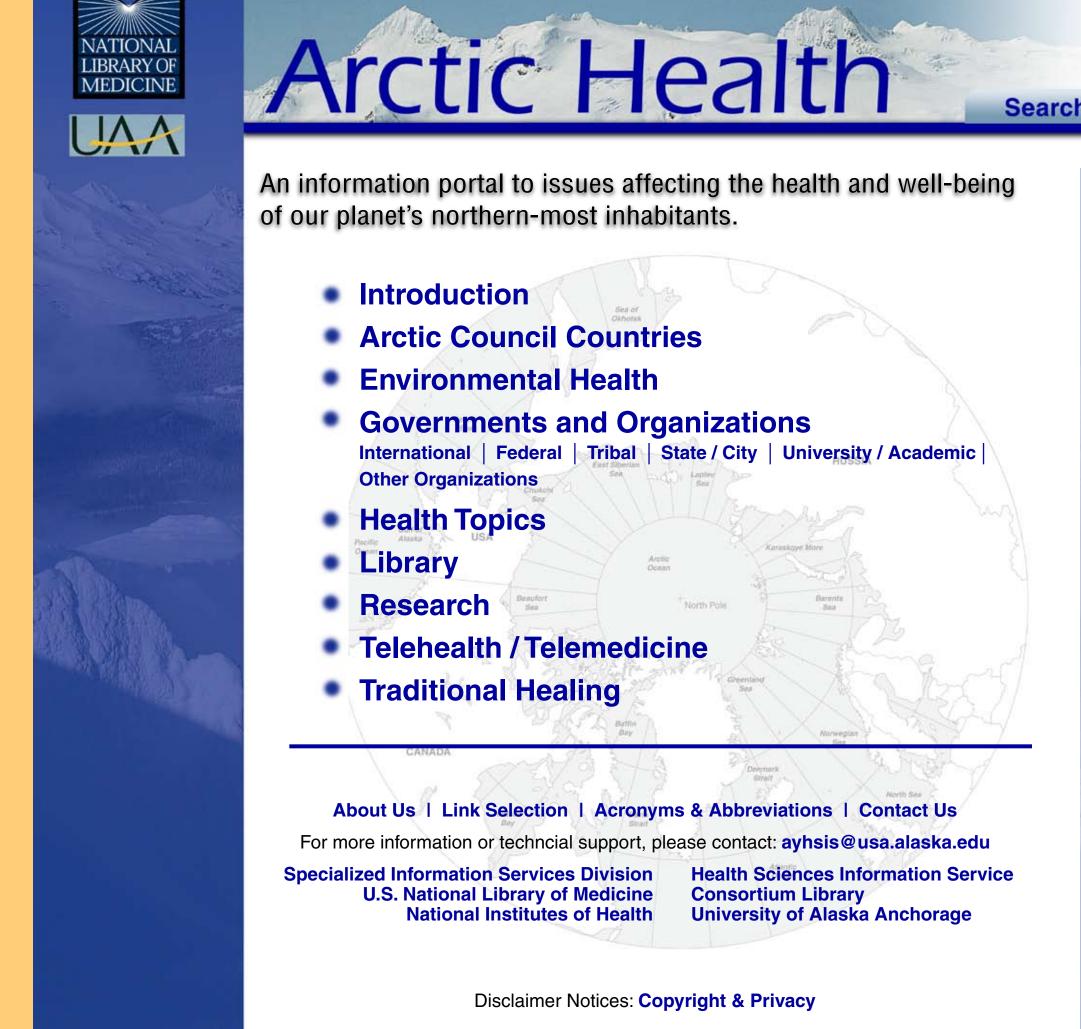
Improve education and information access to quality HIV/AIDS information and establish an online community for Alaska Native HIV/AIDS patients, affected family members, and the community. The project includes:

- Informational Web site with message board and links to credible HIV/AIDS Web resources.
- Community support networks.
- Web-based CD for use by clients without Internet access.
- Database of area HIV/AIDS service providers and resource centers.

Community Drum is the first HIV/AIDS Web site that is specifically written for the Alaska Native patient population and includes interviews,

poems, and the cultural tradition of storytelling by Alaska Natives living with HIV/AIDS. The project was driven by what Alaska Native consumers indicated they wanted when looking for HIV/AIDS information: interviews, stories, and poems. The site uses traditional languages, graphics, and stories to facilitate patient, family, and community communications. Computers were purchased for client access and development of the Web site.





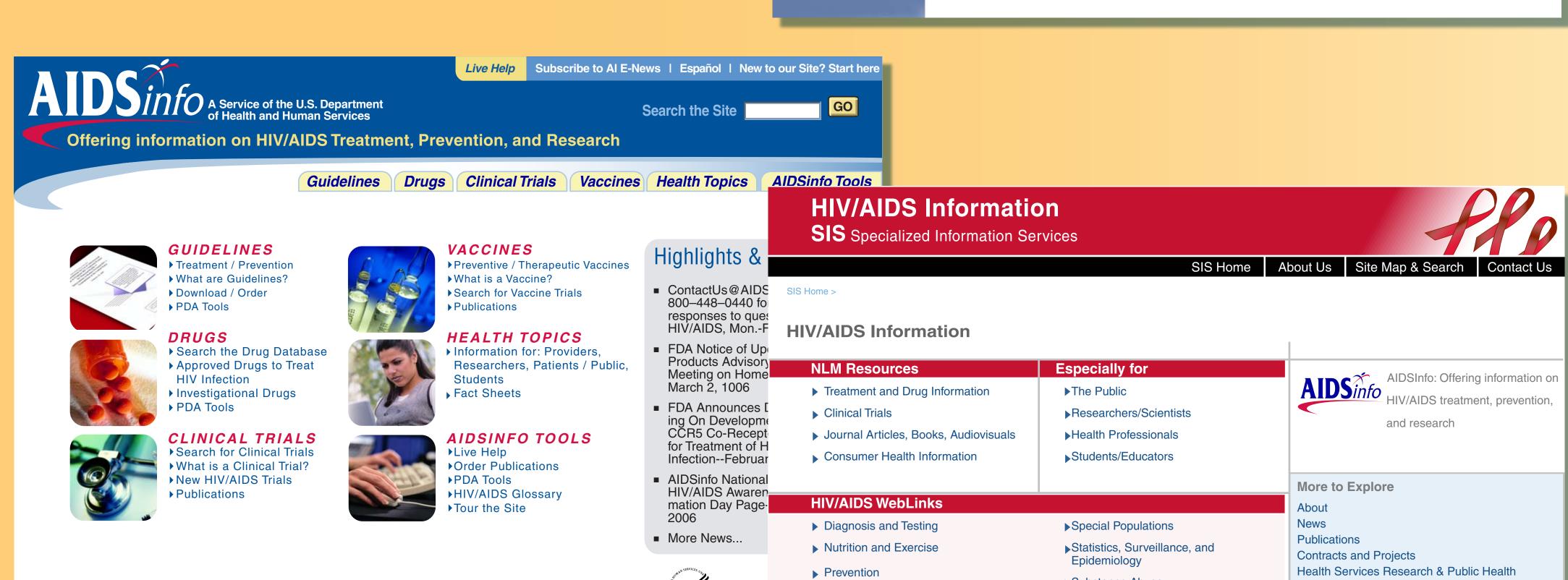


Information Programs

Clinical Trials of HIV/AIDS Vaccines

**Featured Site** 





▶ Research and Research Too