

UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO PREVENTION, TREATMENT, CARE & SUPPORT

An effective fight against HIV/AIDS everywhere in New York

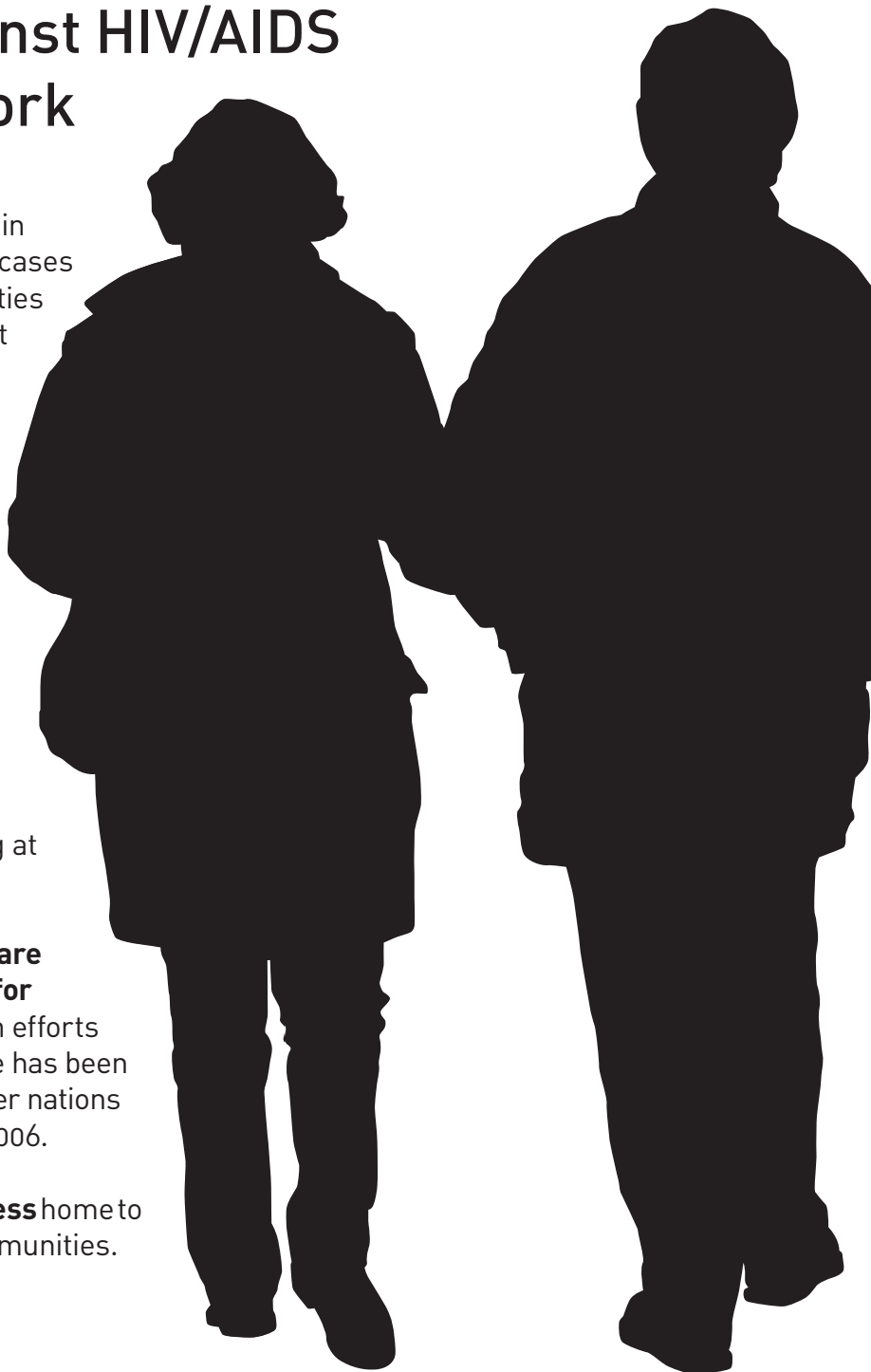
New York remains the epicenter of HIV/AIDS in America, with more HIV infections and AIDS cases than any where else in the nation. Communities of color in our state are the hardest hit: eight out of ten HIV infections and eight out of ten AIDS cases are among Blacks and Latinos.

The HIV/AIDS epidemic in New York has been accelerated by poverty, racism, discrimination based on sexual orientation, widespread homelessness, untreated mental illness and chemical dependency, and—perhaps most importantly—lack of reliable access to basic health care and services among high-risk populations.

Any effort to fight HIV/AIDS that fails to address these important factors isn't looking at the whole picture.

Universal access to prevention, treatment, care and support for people living with or at risk for HIV/AIDS is the core strategy for public health efforts to fight the epidemic worldwide. This principle has been endorsed by the United States and UN member nations in two declarations on HIV/AIDS in 2001 and 2006.

It's time to bring this principle of **universal access** home to our state, to save lives and truly protect communities.



MAKING UNIVERSAL ACCESS HAPPEN IN NEW YORK

It will take four steps by state lawmakers to achieve **universal access** and improve the fight against AIDS in New York:



A commitment to expanded voluntary HIV testing with informed consent and strong legal protections;



Statewide expansion of New York City's enhanced AIDS services and benefits for all low-income New Yorkers who are HIV-positive and rely on public benefits;



Statewide expansion of the New York City Council collaboration with the NYC Communities of Color HIV/AIDS Coalition for targeted increases in funding to front-line HIV prevention, education and testing services in communities of color where HIV is concentrated;



Passage of the Healthy Teens Act to get medically accurate, age-appropriate information on HIV prevention to young people at risk.

A high-profile push for **universal access** to HIV prevention and health care services should win national attention and praise, similar to that won by recent efforts to implement universal health care in Massachusetts, San Francisco, and California.

If we succeed in winning **universal access** in New York, our work would be a national model for legislators and activists—particularly in communities of color—struggling with HIV/AIDS, inadequate services and resources, and efforts to split and stigmatize those living with or at high risk for this disease.