

Health: The Reaction of Black Americans to the Report by the BAI

Producer/Reporter: St Jean

TRT: 1:10

TC	Video	Audio
General Tape 3:28:57 – 3:29: 50 3:31:02 – 3:31:05 3:31:14 - 3:31:26	America has AIDS booth AIDS is a Black Disease sign Left Behind footage Footage of Black Americans	AT THE XVII INTERNATIONAL AIDS CONFERENCE HELD IN MEXICO CITY ACTIVISTS SOUNDED THE ALARM ON THE EPIDEMIC’S AFFECT ON BLACK AMERICANS.  BLACKS MAKE UP 13% OF THE UNITED STATES POPULATION BUT ACCOUNT FOR OVER 50% OF NEW HIV CASES.
Dub Tape 01:01:11 – 01:01:20	Conference Center people walking about in the exhibition center	ACTIVISTS BLAMED AFRICAN AMERICANS FOR RELYING TOO MUCH ON THE U.S. GOVERNMENT FOR SOLUTIONS.
Tape C 02:32:24-02:32:37	Larry Bryant – AIDS Activist	“It’s unfair and irresponsible and shortsighted of us to keep pointing the finger and saying what other people should be doing. We are here and no one knows us, our priorities and our needs better than we do.” “
Tape C 01:01:20-01:01:56	Footage of conference attendees	SOME ATTENDEES ALSO BELIEVE THAT BLACKS MUST TAKE THE PROPER PRECAUTIONS IN THE BEDROOM, TO SAVE THEMSELVES.
Tape C 02:36:14-02:36:30	Beatrice Lors Conference Attendee	There are those that have sex with men but don’t identify themselves as gay. There are those that are bisexual, however, they don’t tell their families and friends because they will feel discriminated against and stigmatized.”
Standup	Martha St Jean	MOST ACTIVISTS JUST WANT EVERYONE TO KNOW THAT PLAYING THE BLAME GAME WON’T HELP ANYONE IN THE END. GETTING A UNIFIED RESPONSE TO THE PREVENTABLE CRISIS THAT IS HITTING HARDEST IN BLACK AMERICA WILL HELP PREVENT FURTHER DEVASTATION.

This story was reported at the XVII International Aids Conference in Mexico City, from August 3-8, 2008.

I was given the unique opportunity to travel to Mexico City, Mexico to cover the XVII International AIDS Conference. At the conference, I focused on the impact of AIDS in Black America. The challenge in shaping this story was finding something all Americans, especially those who are young and susceptible to the disease, can relate to. Journalists need to be able to cover this worldwide epidemic with dignity, respect and give it a voice. How do I as a journalist take the fact that African-Americans make up 13% of the United States population but about 50% of new AIDS cases, and make sure that people truly understand the numbers and all that they imply? I decided the best way to write this story was by starting with this hypothetical, "If Black America were its own country it would rank number 16 in the global AIDS epidemic." People sometimes get lost in the numbers; it is my job as a reporter to make sure they see everything clearly.