



Jeb Bush  
Governor

M. Rony François, M.D., M.S.P.H., Ph.D.  
Secretary, Department of Health

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October 25, 2006



iSaludos!

On behalf of the Miami-Dade County Health Department, we are thrilled that you have joined us this evening for this historical event. Tonight as we reflect on the 25<sup>th</sup> year of the AIDS pandemic, we renew our commitment and revitalize our strategies in raising HIV/AIDS awareness and prevention education within Florida's Hispanic community through the "25 Mitos/25 Realidades" campaign.

In the past 25 years we have seen remarkable progress in the treatment and prevention of HIV/AIDS. However, there are still many persons living with HIV in our community who are unaware of their status. Sadly, Miami-Dade County ranks second in the nation among metropolitan areas in the rate of AIDS cases and fourth in the nation with the total number of HIV infections since 1981.

It is our hope that this campaign increases awareness as to the potential risk of HIV infection and that the people of our community learn their HIV status. Our goal as public health is for people to take control of their lives by taking that first step --- getting tested.

I extend my sincere appreciation to all those who worked hard on this campaign. Through our partnerships we will end the AIDS pandemic.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Lillian Rivera".

Lillian Rivera, RN, MSN  
Administrator  
Miami-Dade County Health Department