



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE JUSTICE
OFFICE OF HEALTH SERVICES

**EMPLOYEE HEALTH INITIATIVE:
NATIONAL HIV/AIDS AWARENESS**



National HIV Testing Day is a national campaign held each June 27th. Coordinated by the [National Association of People with AIDS](#) (NAPWA-US), this campaign helps reach millions of Americans at risk for HIV with the message that “It’s better to know.” Young people in the United States are at persistent risk for HIV infection. This risk is especially notable for youth of minority races and ethnicities. Continual HIV prevention outreach and education efforts, including programs on abstinence and on delaying the initiation of sex, are required as new generations replace the generations that benefited from earlier prevention strategies.

Why is testing important? The CDC estimates that more than 1,000,000 people in the U.S. are now living with HIV, and approximately 25 percent are unaware of their HIV infection. The decision to take the test is the first step in taking responsibility for your health and the health of others with whom you may be intimately involved. As NAPWA puts it, “Take the test. Take control.”

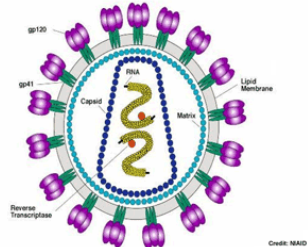
What happens on National HIV Testing Day? In observance of this day, there will be many community events that involve state and local organizations. The campaign’s outreach effort includes everyone, but especially targets high-risk populations such as African American and Latino communities; adolescents; young homosexual, bisexual, and transgendered men; women of childbearing age; and people who use contaminated needles to inject drugs.

WHAT IS HIV/AIDS?

HIV: *HIV* stands for human immunodeficiency virus. This is the virus that causes AIDS. HIV is different from most other viruses because it attacks the immune system. The immune system gives our bodies the ability to fight infections. HIV finds and destroys a type of white blood cell (T cells or CD4 cells) that the immune system must have to fight disease.

AIDS: *AIDS* stands for acquired immunodeficiency syndrome. AIDS is the final stage of HIV infection. It can take years for a person infected with HIV, even without treatment, to reach this stage. Having AIDS means that the virus has weakened the immune system to the point at which the body has a difficult time fighting infections. When someone has one or more of these infections and a low number of T cells, he or she has AIDS. For more information [view our questions and answers on HIV science](#). (Structure of the Human Immunodeficiency Virus, courtesy of NIAID).

Organization of the HIV-1 Virion



FACTS: HIV/AIDS IN THE UNITED STATES (MARCH 2008)

At the end of 2003,* an estimated 1,039,000 to 1,185,000 persons in the United States were living with HIV/AIDS [1]. In 2006, 35,314 new cases of HIV/AIDS in adults, adolescents, and children were diagnosed in the 33 states with long-term, confidential name-based HIV reporting [2]. New HIV/AIDS diagnoses tell us how many people have been diagnosed with HIV or AIDS, but do not necessarily represent new HIV infections because a person may have been infected in years past but received a diagnosis in 2006.* CDC plans to release the estimated number of new HIV infections when available. Click here for the CDC [HIV/AIDS in the U.S. FACTS](#).

- **By Sex:** In 2006, 73% of HIV/AIDS diagnoses among adolescents and adults were for males and 26% were females. This information is based on data from 33 states with long-term, confidential name-based HIV reporting.
- **By Transmission Category:** In 2006, the largest estimated proportion of HIV/AIDS diagnoses among adults and adolescents were for men who have sex with men (MSM), followed by persons infected through high-risk heterosexual contact. For all transmission categories of adults and adolescents with HIV/AIDS diagnosed during 2006 click on [HIV/AIDS in the U.S. FACTS](#). *Note: Based on data from 33 states with long-term, confidential name-based HIV reporting. *The most recent year(s) for which these data are available.*
- **By Race/Ethnicity :** Although blacks, or African Americans, made up only 13% of the population in the 33 states, they accounted for almost half of the estimated number of HIV/AIDS diagnoses made during 2006. *Note: Based on data from 33 states with long term confidential name-based HIV reporting.*
- **By Age:** In 2006, persons aged 25–34 and persons aged 35–44 accounted for the largest proportions of newly diagnosed HIV/AIDS cases.



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- **Trends in AIDS Diagnoses and Deaths:** During the mid-to-late 1990s, advances in HIV treatments slowed the progression of HIV infection to AIDS and led to dramatic decreases in deaths among persons with AIDS living in the 50 states and the District of Columbia. In general, the trend in the estimated numbers of AIDS cases and deaths remained stable from 2002 through 2005. Estimates for 2006 suggest that the number of AIDS cases remained stable and that the number of deaths decreased; however, it is too early to determine whether this trend will hold. Better treatments have also led to an increase in the number of persons who are living with AIDS.



REFERENCES

1. Glynn M, et al. Est. HIV prevalence in the US at the end of 2003. National HIV Prevention Conference; June 2005; Atlanta. Abstract T1-B1101.
2. CDC. [HIV/AIDS Surveillance Report, 2006. Vol. 18](#). Atlanta: US Department of Health and Human Services, CDC; 2008.

HOW HIV IS (and IS NOT) TRANSMITTED

HIV is a fragile virus. It cannot live for very long outside the body. As a result, the virus **is not transmitted** through day-to-day activities such as shaking hands, hugging, or a casual kiss. You cannot become infected from a toilet seat, drinking fountain, doorknob, dishes, drinking glasses, food, or pets. You also cannot get HIV from mosquitoes. HIV is primarily found in the blood, semen, or vaginal fluid of an infected person. HIV is transmitted in 3 main ways: Having sex (anal, vaginal, or oral) with someone infected with HIV; Sharing needles and syringes with someone infected with HIV; Being exposed (fetus or infant) to HIV before or during birth or through breast feeding. For more information [view CDC's questions and answers on transmission](#).

HIV also can be transmitted through blood infected with HIV. However, since 1985, all donated blood in the United States has been tested for HIV. Therefore, the risk for HIV infection through the transfusion of blood or blood products is extremely low. The U.S. blood supply is considered among the safest in the world. For more information [view CDC's question and answer on blood safety](#).



To protect yourself, remember these ABCs:

A=Abstinence

B=Be Faithful

C=Condoms

For more information [view CDC's questions and answers on HIV prevention](#).

Symptoms of HIV Infection: The only way to know whether you are infected is to be tested for HIV. You cannot rely on symptoms alone because many people who are infected with HIV do not have symptoms for many years. Someone can look and feel healthy but can still be infected. In fact, one quarter of the HIV-infected persons in the United States do not know that they are infected. For more information [view CDC's question and answer on symptoms](#).

HIV TESTING

Once HIV enters the body, the body starts to produce antibodies—substances the immune system creates after infection. Most HIV tests look for these antibodies rather than the virus itself. There are many different kinds of HIV tests, including rapid tests and home test kits. All HIV tests approved by the US government are very good at finding HIV. For more information [view CDC's questions and answers on testing](#).

FIND AN HIV TESTING SITE

Many places offer HIV testing: health departments, doctors' offices, hospitals, and sites specifically set up to provide HIV testing. Click here to [Find An HIV Testing Site Near You](#).

You can locate a testing site by visiting the [CDC HIV testing database](#) or by calling CDC-INFO (formerly the CDC National AIDS Hotline) at 1-800-CDC-INFO (1-800-232-4636) 24 Hours/Day. You do not have to give any personal information about yourself to use these services to find a testing site.



RESOURCES

- ❖ **Sources for this article and additional information on HIV/AIDS:** [National Association of People with AIDS \(NAPWA-US\)](#); [CDC Questions and Answers on HIV/AIDS](#); [CDC Fact Sheet: HIV and Its Transmission](#); [CDC Fact Sheet: HIV Type 2](#); [MedLine AIDS Tutorial \(NLM\)](#); [HIV Infection and AIDS: An Overview \(NIH\)](#); [The Evidence That HIV Causes AIDS \(NIH\)](#); [How HIV Causes AIDS \(NIH\)](#); [The Origin of HIV \(NIH\)](#); [Glossary of HIV/AIDS-Related Terms \(AIDSInfo\)](#); [Glossary of HIV/AIDS-Related Terms \(AIDSInfo\)](#);
- ❖ **Additional Resources for Basic Information:** [CDC Questions and Answers on HIV/AIDS](#); [CDC Fact Sheet: HIV and Its Transmission](#); [CDC Fact Sheet: HIV Type 2](#); [MedLine AIDS Tutorial \(NLM\)](#); [HIV Infection and AIDS: An Overview \(NIH\)](#); [The Evidence That HIV Causes AIDS \(NIH\)](#); [How HIV Causes AIDS \(NIH\)](#); [The Origin of HIV \(NIH\)](#)
- ❖ **What You Need to Know About HIV:** [The Basics on HIV Infection and AIDS](#); [Staying HIV Negative](#); [Living With HIV/AIDS: Staying Healthy, Protecting Others](#); [HIV Transmission: Questions and Answers](#) [Additional Information If You Tested Positive](#).