

take control of your health and your life

Get Tested for HIV



Women and HIV/AIDS

There are more than 1 million adults and adolescents in the United States living with HIV. Approximately one-fifth of them (21%) do not know that they are HIV-infected. Could you be one of them? The only way to know if you have HIV is to get tested.

HIV is the virus that causes AIDS, and it is taking a devastating toll on women. In 2006, women made up one-quarter (25%) of the persons living with HIV in the United States. Women also represented 27% of new HIV infections in 2006.

The proportion of AIDS diagnoses among women has increased since the beginning of the epidemic. Women represented 26% of new AIDS cases in 2006, compared to only 11 percent of new AIDS cases reported in 1990.

Women of color are especially affected by the disease. HIV/AIDS is a leading cause of death for both African American and Hispanic women ages 25-34 and 35-44.

In 2006, 72% of women living with HIV were infected through heterosexual contact. Another 26% were infected through injection drug use.

Know Your Status. Get Tested for HIV.

If you do not know if you are infected with HIV, you could be spreading it to others. If you are HIV-positive, you must take steps to prevent passing your HIV infection to another person.

If you find out that you have HIV, it does not mean that you are going to get sick and die. While there is no cure for HIV, new drugs are available that can help you stay healthy and decrease the amount of HIV virus in your body.

Some women have already gotten tested for HIV, but not enough of them. In 2006, 61% of pregnant women and 13% of non-pregnant women reported getting an HIV test in the past year. Those percentages are considerably lower than for other infectious diseases, such as hepatitis B, rubella, and syphilis.

What Is the HIV Test?

The HIV test detects whether or not you have been exposed to the HIV virus. There are several different kinds of tests: blood tests, urine tests, and an oral (mouth) test. Only a very small amount of blood is needed for the blood tests.

HIV tests can take a few days to 2 weeks for results, or with rapid HIV tests you can get results in about 20 minutes.

Where Can I Get Tested?

Free and confidential or anonymous HIV tests are available. To find an HIV testing site near you, visit <http://www.hivtest.org>.

Or, call: 1-800-CDC-INFO (1-800-232-4636)

TTY: 1-888-232-6348

In English, en Español

Open 24 hours a day — Confidential

What Else Can I Do?

You have the power to help stop the spread of HIV.

- **Be safe.** The best way to prevent HIV is to abstain from having sex. If you do have sex, use a new latex condom every time. Do not share needles or syringes.
- **Talk about it.** Talk about sex and HIV with your partners. Find out when they were last tested for HIV and what their status was. Be clear that you will be having safer sex...or none at all.
- **Talk to your doctor.** If you are sexually active, you should get tested for HIV at least once. Do not assume your doctor will ask you to be tested for HIV.
- **Spread the word.** Thousands of women are infected with HIV each year. Set an example by getting tested and spreading the word that others should do the same.

For more
information
about HIV
and AIDS, visit:
<http://www.aids.gov>.



**NATIONAL
HIV TESTING
MOBILIZATION
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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES