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GET TESTED!

Almost one in eight Americans with HIV doesn't know his or her HIV status. Men often report risky behaviors, such as having sex with other men, to their doctor. But a women's risk may be determined by the often-unknown behavior of their partner or partners. This lack of knowledge can prevent women from recognizing their risk and getting tested.

DECEMBER IS HIV/AIDS AWARENESS MONTH

On Friday December 1st the global community commemorated World Aids Day.

World Aids Day is an opportunity for people worldwide to unite in the fight against HIV, to show support for people living with HIV and commemorate those who have died from AIDS related illness. Today the medical community has more knowledge about HIV and how to prevent infection than at any other time in the history of the disease – but significant challenges remain.

Each year in the US, as many as 50,000 people become infected with HIV and nearly 13,000 people with AIDS die annually. As a nation we have become too complacent! Too many Americans no longer view HIV as a serious concern. A recent study by the Kaiser Family Foundation found that the percentage of Americans who rank HIV as a serious health problem is substantially lower than it was a decade ago. Each new generation needs to be reminded of the still serious nature of HIV and the importance of prevention.

More than three decades after the CDC, reported the 1st cases of AIDS, the sense of a national crisis may have waned - but our resolve cannot.

DID YOU KNOW:

One in four people living with HIV in the US is a woman.

- All women are at risk for HIV but African American and Hispanic women are disproportionately affected by HIV.
- Center for Disease Control (CDC) data shows that lesbian, gay, and bisexual high school students are at substantial risk for serious health outcomes including HIV infection.
- Sexual risk behaviors place teens at risk for HIV infection, other sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) and unintended pregnancy.
- CDC recommends that all adolescents and adults 13-64 get tested for HIV at least once as part of routine medical care.

The most effective way to re-energize awareness is through community education campaigns locally and nationally. We must remain vigilant and continue targeting at risk groups and the community at large.

**Q: ANYONE?
A: ANYONE!**

**HIV/AIDS
DOESN'T
DISCRIMINATE
KNOW YOUR STATUS**



**Let's start the conversations about the reality of HIV/AIDS.
As individuals we can take action.**

- Talk with your health care provider about your risk for HIV.
- Talk with family, friends, and colleagues about HIV prevention and about its impact on your community.
- Provide support to people living with HIV/AIDS. Volunteer at a local service organization.
- Learn about using digital communication in response to HIV
- Encourage community leaders to address HIV prevention challenges by increasing resources for HIV prevention and education.

