



# 17 THINGS YOU CAN DO TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE FOR SURVIVORS LIVING WITH HIV

## WHY?

---

- ★ 55% of women living with HIV have experienced domestic violence.<sup>1</sup>
- ★ Domestic violence victims have a 4x greater risk of contracting STIs, including HIV.<sup>2</sup>
- ★ Victims of domestic violence have higher rates of antiretroviral failure.<sup>3</sup>

## HOW?

---

1. Talk with your [state or territory domestic violence coalition](#)<sup>4</sup> about offering a session on domestic violence & HIV at their next conference.
2. Know Your State Laws on:
  - ★ HIV: [testing](#),<sup>5</sup> [partner notification](#),<sup>6</sup> [criminalization](#),<sup>7</sup> and [confidentiality](#).<sup>8</sup>
  - ★ Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault: [confidentiality](#)<sup>9</sup> and [protection orders](#).<sup>10</sup>
  - ★ Mandatory Reporting<sup>11,12</sup> & Duty to Warn.<sup>13</sup>
  - ★ [Advocate Confidentiality](#)<sup>14</sup> (*if your state has this*).
3. Learn more about [how domestic violence advocates can conduct testing](#)<sup>15</sup> from frontline advocates at Sojourner House in Providence, RI.
4. Talk about the intersection of domestic violence and HIV. Have an informed conversation and help decrease stigma by using [NNEDV's tip sheet](#).<sup>16</sup>
5. Meet with the HIV community-based organization(s) or domestic violence and sexual assault organization(s) in your community to create a safe and warm referral for survivors accessing services at your program.
6. View videos on domestic violence and HIV with staff then use our [Discussion Guide](#)<sup>17</sup> to talk about themes and considerations for survivors with your staff.



7. Create safe spaces. Survivors living with HIV need to feel safe and supported and have the opportunity to talk with others living with HIV. Ask survivors what they need and create space for open dialogue.
8. Work with your local HIV community-based organization or domestic violence and sexual assault organization(s) to create or strengthen policies that protect survivors' confidentiality.
9. Download NNEDV's informational brochure (*available in English and Spanish*) to highlight the importance of addressing both HIV and domestic violence.
10. Be vocal in your community!
  - ★ Domestic violence and sexual assault organizations: join a Ryan White Planning Council in your community.
  - ★ HIV organizations: join your Coordinated Community Response (CCR) team.
11. Identify gaps in services and collaborate with organizations that address other issues affecting survivors and individuals living with HIV, such as affordable housing, employment, and more.
12. Create safe physical spaces. Offer to accompany survivors to appointments and meetings, if that will help them feel safer.
13. Display NNEDV's awareness-raising posters around your organization so survivors know they can discuss their HIV status or getting tested.
14. Domestic violence, sexual assault, and HIV organizations can partner for events throughout the year to raise awareness on this intersection:
  - ★ January – Stalking Awareness Month
  - ★ March 10 – National Women & Girls HIV AIDS Awareness Day – #NWGHAAD
  - ★ April – Sexual Assault Awareness Month
  - ★ April – National Child Abuse Prevention Month
  - ★ April 10 – National Youth HIV & AIDS Awareness Day – #NYHAAD
  - ★ April 18 – National Transgender HIV Testing Day – #NTHTD
  - ★ June 27 – National HIV Testing Day – #NHTD
  - ★ September 27 – National Gay Men's HIV/AIDS Awareness Day
  - ★ October – Domestic Violence Awareness Month
  - ★ November – National Homelessness Awareness Month
  - ★ December 1 – World AIDS Day
  - ★ ...and more! Go to [AIDS.gov](http://AIDS.gov) for the full list of HIV awareness days



15. Follow NNEDV on [Facebook](#),<sup>19</sup> [Twitter](#),<sup>20</sup> [Instagram](#),<sup>21</sup> [Pinterest](#),<sup>22</sup> and [Google+](#)<sup>23</sup> for more information about the intersection of domestic violence & HIV. Use the hashtags #PositivelySafe and #DVandHIV to join the conversation.
  
16. Changing language can change the culture. Challenge yourself and others about the things we say and do that further stigmatize survivors and individuals living with HIV.
  - ★ For example, if you hear, “She deserved it.” Try, “No one deserves abuse. Survivors deserve respect. Period.” Get more ideas from [NNEDV’s October 2016 #31n31 campaign](#).<sup>24</sup>
  
17. Know your status. Help end the stigma on HIV testing by [getting tested today](#).<sup>25</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> Machtinger 2012; Black 2011

<sup>2</sup> Campbell JC, Soeken K. 1999

<sup>3</sup> Machtinger, et al 2012

<sup>4</sup> National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV). “US State & Territorial Coalitions.” [NNEDV.org/Coalitions](http://nnedv.org/Coalitions)

<sup>5</sup> Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC). “HIV Testing.” <https://www.cdc.gov/hiv/testing/>

<sup>6</sup> AIDS.gov. “Sexual Partners.” <https://www.aids.gov/hiv-aids-basics/just-diagnosed-with-hiv-aids/talking-about-your-status/sexual-partners/>

<sup>7</sup> CDC. “HIV-specific Criminal Laws.” <http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/policies/law/states/exposure.html>

<sup>8</sup> The Center for HIV Law & Policy. “Confidentiality and Disclosure.” <http://www.hivlawandpolicy.org/issues/confidentiality-and-disclosure>

<sup>9</sup> NNEDV. VAWA & FVPSA Confidentiality. <http://nnedv.org/policy/issues/vawaconfidentiality.html>

<sup>10</sup> WomensLaw.org. “Restraining Orders.”

[http://www.womenslaw.org/laws\\_state\\_type.php?statelaw\\_name=Restraining%20Orders&state\\_code=GE](http://www.womenslaw.org/laws_state_type.php?statelaw_name=Restraining%20Orders&state_code=GE)

<sup>11</sup> State Statutes Search. <https://www.childwelfare.gov/topics/systemwide/laws-policies/state/>

<sup>12</sup> Family Violence State Statutes. <http://www.aaos.org/CustomTemplates/Content.aspx?id=22253&ssopc=1>

<sup>13</sup> Mental Health Professionals’ Duty to Warn. <http://www.ncsl.org/research/health/mental-health-professionals-duty-to-warn.aspx>

<sup>14</sup> NNEDV. Summary of U.S. State Laws Related to Advocate Confidentiality.

[http://nnedv.org/downloads/SafetyNet/OVW/CI\\_USAdvocateConfidentialityStateLawChart\\_Oct2010.pdf](http://nnedv.org/downloads/SafetyNet/OVW/CI_USAdvocateConfidentialityStateLawChart_Oct2010.pdf)

<sup>15</sup> <http://nnedv.org/resources/dv-hiv-aids-toolkit/169-service-provider-resources/5214-dv-advocates-conducting-hiv-testing.html>

<sup>16</sup> <http://nnedv.org/resources/dv-hiv-aids-toolkit/168-dv-hiv-aids-handouts/5215-having-an-informed-conversation-on-domestic-violence-hiv.html>

<sup>17</sup> <http://nnedv.org/resources/dv-hiv-aids-toolkit/168-dv-hiv-aids-handouts/5150-starting-the-conversation-with-staff.html>

<sup>18</sup> AIDS.gov. “HIV/AIDS Awareness Days.” <https://www.aids.gov/news-and-events/awareness-days/>

<sup>19</sup> NNEDV Facebook. <http://facebook.com/nnedv>

<sup>20</sup> NNEDV Twitter. <https://twitter.com/nnedv>

<sup>21</sup> NNEDV Instagram. <https://www.instagram.com/nnedv/>

<sup>22</sup> NNEDV Pinterest. <https://www.pinterest.com/nnedv/>

<sup>23</sup> NNEDV Google+. <https://plus.google.com/b/107972157782664561024/+NnedvOrg>

<sup>24</sup> NNEDV Pinterest Board. “#31n31 October 2016.” <https://www.pinterest.com/nnedv/31n31-october-2016/>

<sup>25</sup> CDC. “HIV Testing.” <https://www.cdc.gov/hiv/testing/>