

FACT SHEET ABOUT HIV



WHAT WE KNOW ABOUT HIV

- Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) is a virus that can only infect humans and leads to the weakening of the immune system - the body's system for fighting disease.
- HIV is transmitted through **blood, semen, vaginal secretions, rectal fluids, and breast milk.** ⁴
- **Knowing your status** through frequent testing is a vital way to help lower the transmission of HIV. ³
- While there is currently **no cure for HIV**, early **medical care and treatment** have the greatest effect on **prolonging life** and lowering transmission rates. ³

WHAT WE KNOW ABOUT WHO IS IMPACTED BY HIV

- One in four people living with HIV in the United States are women. ¹
- An estimated 1.2 million people are living with HIV in the United States. ²
- Of those living with HIV, one in eight (13%) are unaware of their status. ⁵
- Blacks/African Americans are the most impacted racial/ethnic population, with Hispanic/Latino folks being the second most impacted. ³
- Men who have sex with men (MSM) are the most impacted populations across all races/ethnicities. ⁶

WHAT WE KNOW ABOUT TRANSMISSION OF HIV

- Heterosexual sexual contact is the most common method of HIV transmission among women (84%), followed by sharing contaminated prep and needle supplies in injection drug use (16%). ⁷
- Perinatal transmission – transmission from mother to child during pregnancy, labor and delivery, or breastfeeding – is the most common way for children to contract HIV. The transmission of HIV can be reduced to 1% or lower with proper medication use during and after pregnancy. ⁸
- Drugs and alcohol, which lower inhibitions, create higher probability for HIV transmission during sexual contact. ⁹

ENDNOTES

- 1 What body fluids transmit HIV? <https://www.cdc.gov/hiv/basics/hiv-transmission/body-fluids.html>
 - 2 AIDS.gov, CD4 Count. <http://www.aids.gov/hiv-aids-basics/just-diagnosed-with-hiv-aids/understand-your-test-results/cd4-count/>
 - 3 AIDS.gov, What is HIV/AIDS. <http://www.aids.gov/hiv-aids-basics/hiv-aids-101/what-is-hiv-aids/>
 - 4 HIV and Women: Knowledge of Status. <https://www.cdc.gov/hiv/group/gender/women/status-knowledge.html>
- U.S. Statistics Fast Facts. <https://www.hiv.gov/hiv-basics/overview/data-and-trends/statistics>
- What Is the Impact of HIV on Racial and Ethnic Minorities in the U.S? <https://www.hiv.gov/hiv-basics/overview/data-and-trends/impact-on-racial-and-ethnic-minorities>
- 7 HIV and Women <https://www.cdc.gov/hiv/pdf/group/gender/women/cdc-hiv-women.pdf>
 - 8 HIV and Pregnant Women, Infants, and Children. <https://www.cdc.gov/hiv/group/gender/pregnantwomen/index.html>
 - 9 HIV and Substance Use <https://www.cdc.gov/hiv/basics/hiv-transmission/substance-use.html>