

FIGHTING HIV/AIDS IN PHILADELPHIA

Facts about HIV/AIDS

- HIV is the human immunodeficiency virus that can lead to acquired immune deficiency syndrome, or AIDS.
- HIV can be transmitted through sexual contact, from a mother to a child during childbirth and breastfeeding, and through blood contact.
- An estimated 1.1 million people live with HIV in the United States.
- HIV/AIDS is now a manageable chronic illness; people infected with HIV/AIDS who take medications can live normal lives.
- People living with HIV/AIDS have higher rates of other chronic illnesses like diabetes, heart disease and cancer.

Facts about the HIV/AIDS epidemic in Philadelphia

- Approximately 20,000 individuals have been diagnosed with HIV in Philadelphia. An estimated 5,000 more are HIV-positive and unaware of their infection.
- Philadelphia has HIV incidence rates 5 times higher than the national average, and higher than New York City.
- Nearly 70% of new infections are among African Americans.
- Philadelphia has a heterosexual HIV/AIDS epidemic; 55% of new infections are among heterosexual individuals.
- New infection rates among children and young adults age 13–24 represent 15% of new HIV infections.
- Women of all ages are increasingly infected and affected, including very young women and women over the age of 50.

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO FIGHT HIV/AIDS

Be Aware

- Know the facts: Understand how HIV is transmitted.
- Know your status: 20% of HIV infections are transmitted by people who don't know their status, often because they don't think they are at risk.
- In Philadelphia, where you live can put you at greater risk for contracting HIV. People living in communities with higher rates of HIV are more likely to come in contact with the virus even if they do not engage in high-risk behavior.
- HIV/AIDS is not a gay disease! Philadelphia has a heterosexual AIDS epidemic.

Take Action

- Get tested for HIV. Ask your doctor or healthcare provider for an HIV test, and get tested at least once a year. If you test positive, take your medications regularly.
- Encourage those you love and your community members to get tested.
- Protect yourself. You can protect yourself in many ways: abstinence, reducing your number of sexual partners, and practicing safe sex.
- Get involved! To learn more, or to get involved in a citywide HIV prevention movement, call Philly Faith in Action at 215-990-3338 or email phillyfaithinaction@gmail.com.

Fight Stigma

- Silence around HIV/AIDS in our communities contributes to high infection rates.
- Fight stereotypes! Members of the faith community can inspire hope by breaking the silence. Many of us may know someone who has been affected or infected with HIV. Show love, compassion, and support for those who have been affected.

Philly Faith in Action: Faith Fighting Health Disparities
215-990-3338 www.phillyfaithinaction.org Find us on Facebook