



## 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, stay in treatment and care.
- Encourage those you love and your community members to get tested.
- 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](mailto:phillyfaithinaction@gmail.com).

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LET YOUR LIGHT SO SHINE  
BEFORE MEN, THAT THEY MAY SEE  
YOUR GOOD WORKS, AND GLORIFY  
YOUR FATHER IN HEAVEN.  
MATTHEW 5:16

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THEN JESUS SAID, "COME TO ME,  
ALL OF YOU WHO ARE WEARY  
AND CARRY HEAVY BURDENS,  
AND I WILL GIVE YOU REST."  
MATTHEW 11:28

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*Faith fighting health disparities*

215-990-3338  
[www.phillyfaithinaction.org](http://www.phillyfaithinaction.org)  
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IN THE SAME WAY,  
FAITH BY ITSELF,  
IF IT IS NOT  
ACCOMPANIED  
BY ACTION,  
IS DEAD.

JAMES 2:17

## FACTS ABOUT HIV/AIDS

- HIV is the human immunodeficiency virus that can lead to acquired immune deficiency syndrome, or AIDS.
- AIDS is used to describe late stages in HIV infection, when a person's immune system is severely compromised.
- An estimated 1.1 million people live with HIV in the United States.
- HIV can be transmitted through sexual contact, from a mother to a child during childbirth and breastfeeding, and through blood contact.
- Many people think they aren't at risk for HIV, but 20% of infected people do not know they are infected.
- Where you live can raise your risk for contracting HIV. If you live in a community with high rates of infection, you have a greater chance of coming into contact with the virus, even if you don't engage in risky behavior.
- HIV/AIDS is now a manageable chronic illness; people infected with HIV/AIDS who take medications can live long, normal lives.
- People living with HIV/AIDS have higher rates of other chronic illnesses like diabetes, heart disease and cancer.
- Free treatment is available for anyone who tests positive for HIV. Please contact us for more information about where to get free treatment.

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**MY PEOPLE PERISH  
FOR LACK OF KNOWLEDGE  
HOSEA 4:6A**

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## FACTS ABOUT THE HIV/AIDS EPIDEMIC IN PHILADELPHIA

- Approximately 20,000 individuals have been diagnosed with HIV in Philadelphia and an additional 5,000 more are HIV-positive and unaware of their HIV infection.
- Philadelphia has HIV infection 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 (both male and female).
- 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.
- Free testing and treatment services are available throughout the city.

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**JESUS REPLIED, "THE SECOND  
IS EQUALLY IMPORTANT: 'LOVE YOUR  
NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.'  
NO OTHER COMMANDMENT IS  
GREATER THAN THESE."  
MARK 12:29-31**

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## BE AWARE

- Know the facts: Understand how HIV is transmitted.
- Know your status: 50% 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. If there is more virus in your community, then you are more likely to come in contact with the virus, even if you don't engage in high-risk behavior.
- HIV/AIDS is not a gay disease! Philadelphia has a heterosexual AIDS epidemic.

## FIGHT STIGMA

- Silence around HIV/AIDS in our community 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.

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**DO NOT JUDGE, AND YOU  
WILL NOT BE JUDGED. DO NOT  
CONDEMN, AND YOU WILL NOT  
BE CONDEMNED. FORGIVE,  
AND YOU WILL BE FORGIVEN.  
GIVE, AND IT WILL BE GIVEN TO YOU.  
LUKE 6:37**

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