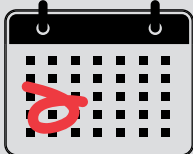


Know Your HIV Status



1.2 million in the U.S. are living with HIV infection and 1 in 5 are unaware of their infection.¹



Why are people unaware of their status?

For a person newly infected with HIV, it can take as many as

3 to 4 weeks for the body to make detectable antibodies (the body's reaction to the virus).²

During this time, conventional, antibody-only tests may show that someone is HIV- when one is HIV+.

The right test at the right time.

Immediately after exposure to HIV, only antigens from the actual HIV virus exist in the body.

HIV combination tests can detect both antigens and antibodies, and offer results up to **20 days earlier** than traditional tests.³



What is HIV?

Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) is a retrovirus that causes AIDS, a condition in humans in which progressive failure of the immune system allows life-threatening opportunistic infections and cancers to thrive.

36% of HIV diagnoses are made late,⁴ when the disease is already advanced, making treatments less effective and **opportunities** to prevent transmission are **lost**.



There is a **89% reduction** in HIV transmission by starting therapy earlier.⁵

Once a patient is on antiretroviral therapy, ongoing viral load molecular testing is critical, helping doctors ensure their patients are receiving the most effective course of treatment possible.



SPREAD THE WORD, NOT THE VIRUS: GET TESTED

Only testing can inform you and your healthcare provider as to whether you have HIV as most people show **NO** symptoms. The CDC recommends that persons at high risk for HIV infection should be screened for HIV at least annually. Talk to your healthcare provider about whether you should get tested for HIV. Visit **AIDS.gov** for more information.

Every **9.5 minutes** someone in the U.S. is infected with HIV.⁶

More than half of new HIV cases are transmitted by people who don't know they're carrying the disease.⁷

In just the past seven days, nearly **1,000** people in the U.S. alone were infected with HIV.⁸

References

¹ "HIV At-A-Glance Fact Sheet," U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, March 2012 ² Stekler et al. Screening for Acute HIV Infection: Lessons Learned, *Clinical Infectious Diseases*, 2007; 44:459-61 ³ Marquez et al. HIV testing: An update, *Medical Laboratory Observer*, February 2008 ⁴ "Late HIV diagnosis," National Quality Forum Measure Submission and Evaluation Worksheet for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, May 2012 ⁵ Cohen et al. Prevention of HIV-1 Infection with Early Antiretroviral Therapy, *New England Journal of Medicine*, 2011; 365:493-505 ⁶ Fact Sheet: The HIV/AIDS Epidemic in the United States." The Kaiser Family Foundation, September 2009 ⁷ Marks et al. Estimating sexual transmission of HIV from persons aware and unaware that they are infected with the virus in the USA. *AIDS*, 2006, 20:1447-1450 ⁸ "HIV At-A-Glance Fact Sheet," U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, March 2012