

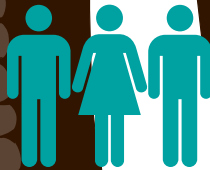
 **9½**

More than 56,000 people in the US are newly infected with HIV each year — about one new person gets infected every 9½ minutes.

11M+

In 2009, 82.9 million people reported that they had ever been tested for HIV. This is 11.4 million more people since 2006, an average 3.8 million more people getting tested for the first time each year. Even so, more than half of Americans aged 18–64 have never been tested for HIV.

1 in 3



At least 1 in 3 Americans who test positive for HIV is tested too late to get the full advantage of treatment.

HIV Testing in the US

HIV (human immunodeficiency virus) is a serious infection that, without treatment, leads to AIDS (acquired immunodeficiency syndrome) and early death. An estimated 1.1 million people are living with HIV in the US and as many as 1 in 5 don't know they are infected. About 55% of adults aged 18–64 have never been tested for HIV. Even among people at higher risk for HIV infection, 28% have never been tested. CDC recommends routine HIV testing in health care settings. People need to get tested so they can get treated and not infect others. Being tested will save their lives and the lives of other people.

Learn what you can do to get more people tested.

→ See page 4

Want to learn more? Visit

[www !\[\]\(95b425611cbd2b8716a140cf67c81822_img.jpg\) http://www.cdc.gov/vitalsigns](http://www.cdc.gov/vitalsigns)

[www !\[\]\(b4eeff342f60cc7bcd67d869b4fedca2_img.jpg\) http://www.hivtest.org](http://www.hivtest.org)

HIV Testing

Problem

Too many people have never been tested for HIV. Some people need to be tested more often than others because they are at greater risk.

1. Although HIV testing has increased in the US during the past few years, more people still need to get tested.

- ◇ In 2006, about 40% of Americans aged 18–64 reported that they had been tested for HIV at some time in their lives. By 2009, that percentage grew to 45%.
- ◇ About 40% of men and 50% of women aged 18–64 reported that they had been tested.

2. Many Americans are not getting tested for HIV as often as they should.

- ◇ Young people aged 18–24 have similar rates of HIV infection as other age groups, yet they are less likely to have ever been tested for HIV.
- ◇ African Americans made up more than half of people found to have HIV in 2008. Yet, only about 3 in 5 African Americans reported that they have ever been tested.
- ◇ Gay, bisexual or other men who have sex with men (MSM) are at high risk of getting HIV. They made up more than 55% of the people found to have HIV in 2008 in the US.
- ◇ CDC recommends that MSM get an HIV test at least once a year. But a 2008 study in 21 major US cities found that about 40% of MSM had not been tested in the past year.

3. People with HIV need to be tested and treated earlier in their infection.

- ◇ Treatment for HIV is most effective before symptoms develop. It can do much to slow the infection that leads to AIDS and death.
- ◇ Without treatment a person infected with HIV will develop AIDS in about 10 years. With early treatment a 25-year-old adult can survive on average 39 more years.
- ◇ In 2007, nearly one-third (32%) of the people found with HIV were diagnosed late. This means that they likely had HIV for a long time without knowing it because they developed AIDS soon (less than one year) after their HIV test. Meanwhile, they may have infected others before they knew they were infected.

HIV Testing in Medical Settings – CDC Recommends:

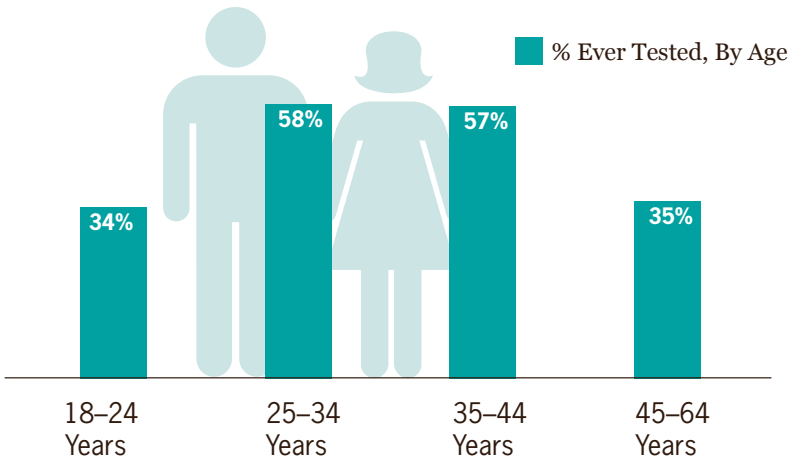
Adults and adolescents get tested for HIV.

People at increased risk get an HIV test at least every year.

Women get an HIV test each time they are pregnant.

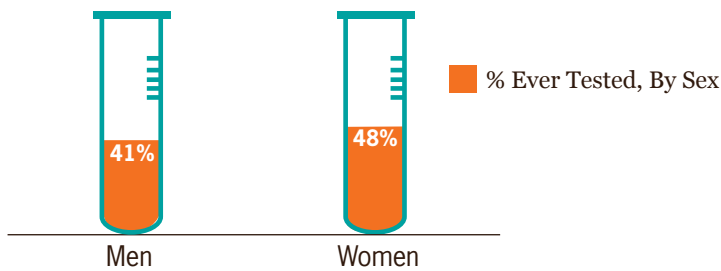
Estimated percentage of persons aged 18–64 years who reported ever being tested for HIV, United States, 2008

Percentage ever tested, by Age



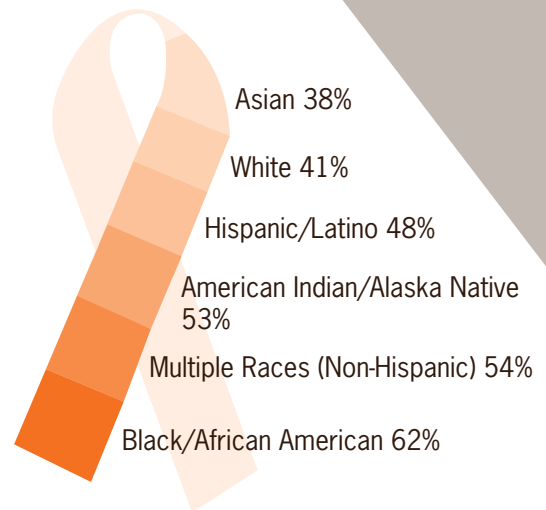
SOURCE: National Health Interview Survey, 2008.

Percentage ever tested, by Sex



SOURCE: National Health Interview Survey, 2008.

Percentage ever tested, by Race/Ethnicity



SOURCE: National Health Interview Survey, 2008.

US State Info

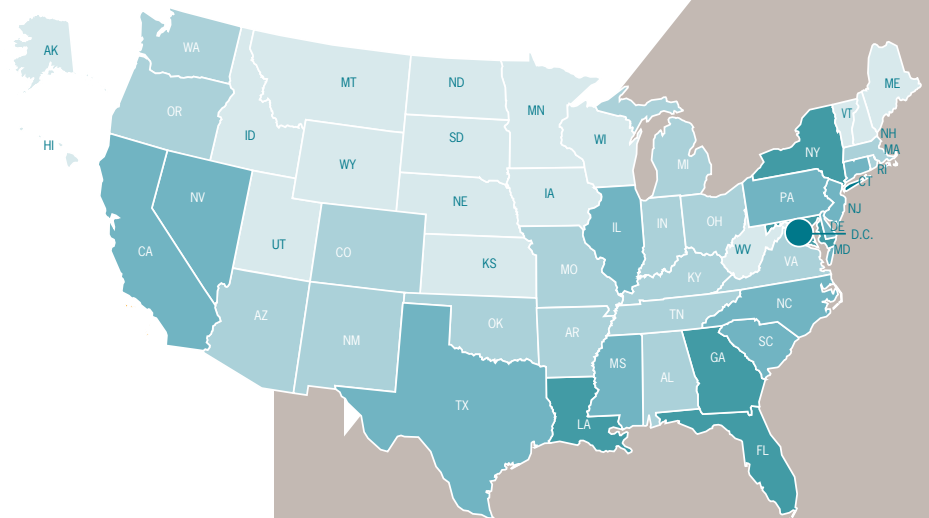
Some people should get tested for HIV more often, such as those living in communities or areas where HIV and risky behavior are more common. AIDS rates vary across states and show where more testing is needed. The South and the Northeast regions and states with the most people have higher rates of AIDS than other parts of the country.



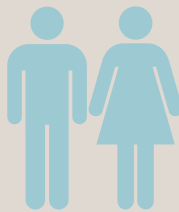
Rates per 100,000 population

SOURCE: National HIV Surveillance System, 2008.

Rates of AIDS diagnosis among persons aged 18-64 years, by area of residence 50 States and District of Columbia, 2008



What Can Be Done



Everyone can

- ◇ Get tested for HIV.
 - Ask your doctor for an HIV test and get tested.
 - If you live in a community where more people have HIV, get tested more often—maybe even once a year.
 - People who inject drugs should get an HIV test at least once a year.
 - Gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men (MSM) should get an HIV test at least once a year.
 - Find a place to get tested in your community at www.hivtest.org.
 - Learn more about HIV/AIDS and how to protect yourself at www.actagainstaids.org.



Doctors can

- ◇ Offer patients HIV tests as a routine part of their health care.
- ◇ Test women for HIV each time they are pregnant.
- ◇ Connect people at high risk for HIV to services that help them lower their risk and prevent them from getting infected.
- ◇ Make sure people who have HIV get treatment and the services they need to lower their risk of infecting others.

Communities can

- ◇ Support HIV testing and make it more available.
- ◇ Provide services such as medical care, social services, and programs shown to change behavior and lower risk to people at risk for HIV, as well as people living with HIV.

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For more information, please contact

Telephone: 1-800-CDC-INFO (232-4636)

TTY: 1-888-232-6348

E-mail: cdcinfo@cdc.gov

Web: www.cdc.gov

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- ◇ Take action on social issues that increase the risk of HIV, such as poverty, homelessness, racism, sexism, and prejudice against people who are gay or bisexual.
- ◇ Support people living with HIV with needed services such as housing, job training, family planning, and mental health and substance abuse services, and fight stigma and discrimination.

State and local health departments can

- ◇ Create programs and adopt policies to get those at high risk tested early and often.
- ◇ Make sure that those who have a positive test get care quickly.
- ◇ Educate people about how HIV testing and early treatment benefits them and their communities.
- ◇ Link people to services that prevent HIV and provide care to people living with HIV.
- ◇ Promote and use national referral systems for places to get tested, such as www.hivtest.org.
- ◇ Support community efforts to prevent HIV infection and treat those with HIV and AIDS. This includes working with, for example, community and faith-based organizations and businesses.

US Government can

- ◇ Work to achieve the goals of the National HIV/AIDS Strategy (See <http://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/onap/nhas>).
- Reduce new HIV infections and get those infected into health care.
- Continue to provide funding to help those at highest risk.
- Target differences in HIV infection rates by focusing on high-risk communities. Priority communities should include MSM, African Americans, Latinos and people who inject drugs.

www

<http://www.cdc.gov/vitalsigns>

www

<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr>