

NEW JERSEY AIDS/HIV/STD HOTLINE

PRESS RELEASE

April 2015

Youth Fight against HIV and AIDS April 10, 2015

(Newark, NJ) – National Youth HIV & AIDS Awareness Day, April 10, 2015, is an opportunity to remind the public that HIV infection still remains a serious health concern for Americans, especially among populations heavily affected by the virus (African Americans and Latinos).

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports that youth aged 13 to 24 in the United States account for a significant number of new HIV infections. Youth aged 13 to 24 accounted for an estimated 21 percent (%) of new HIV infections in the U.S. in 2013. Most new HIV infection in the 13 to 24 age group occur among gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men. Black/African American or Hispanic/Latino gay and bisexual men are affected at the greatest rate.

This day was created to raise awareness of HIV and AIDS prevention, testing, care, and treatment among all youth; key strategies in reducing the impact of the disease in their communities. HIV testing has never been quicker and easier than it is today, yet fear and misperceptions can still stop someone from finding out their status. You can now have a rapid test done in select sites around the state and know your HIV status in less than an hour.

KNOW YOUR HIV STATUS – GET OUT & GET TESTED

More than half of youth living with HIV in this country do not know they are even infected, according to CDC data. Since many new infections are transmitted by people who are unaware of their infected status, undiagnosed infections continue to fuel the epidemic. This means that those infected with HIV are not receiving ongoing care and treatment for their infection and are unknowingly transmitting the virus to others. Testing is the only way to identify infected individuals so they can be receive immediate, life-saving medical care to ensure their health. Early detection and huge strides in medical treatment make it possible for HIV-positive individuals to enjoy long, healthy lives.

Since STDs including HIV do not discriminate, the healthcare professionals at the New Jersey AIDS/HIV/STD hotline strongly urge everyone including youth to get tested and know your status! The current recommendation is that all individuals between the ages of 13 and 64 get tested for HIV as a routine part of medical care. If you do not know your HIV status, don't wait to get tested. You cannot rely on symptoms to know if you are HIV-positive. Many people who are HIV-positive do not have any symptoms for years.

For more information about HIV, HIV testing (free, state-funded testing sites), linkage to HIV treatment, and/or questions/concerns about STDs or hepatitis, contact us by phone at 1-800-624-2377, text/email at 8006242377@njpies.org, or chat www.njhivstdline.org. Calls are free and confidential.

Services available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, every day of the year

- Referrals for testing sites and other related services
- HIV/AIDS, STD and hepatitis prevention information
- HIV counseling and treatment locations
- HIV treatment information