

HIV/AIDS

A LEADING CAUSE OF DEATH FOR BLACK MEN

WHAT IS HIV?

HIV stands for Human Immunodeficiency Virus and it affects specific cells of the immune system, called CD4 cells or T-cells. HIV can lead to Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS). AIDS occurs when T-cell drop below 200cells/ mm³ and the body can no longer protect itself against common diseases/ infections.

SYMPTOMS

Many people who are HIV positive do not have symptoms and/or are unaware of their status. Symptoms may vary. Often people only begin to feel sick when the disease progresses to AIDS.

Disease Progression Timeline

- During Acute Infection (2-4 weeks): may experience acute illness or severe flu like symptoms
- During clinical latency (up to 10 years): Virus is less active and has no signs
- During AIDS: T-cells drop, body becomes too weak to fight common infections.

WHO IS AT RISK?

HIV is spread by the transmission of specific body fluids from a HIV-infected person. Below are examples of transmissions of bodily fluids known to transmit HIV infection. Below are examples transmission categories.

- Sexual transmission
- Blood transmission
- Mother-to-child

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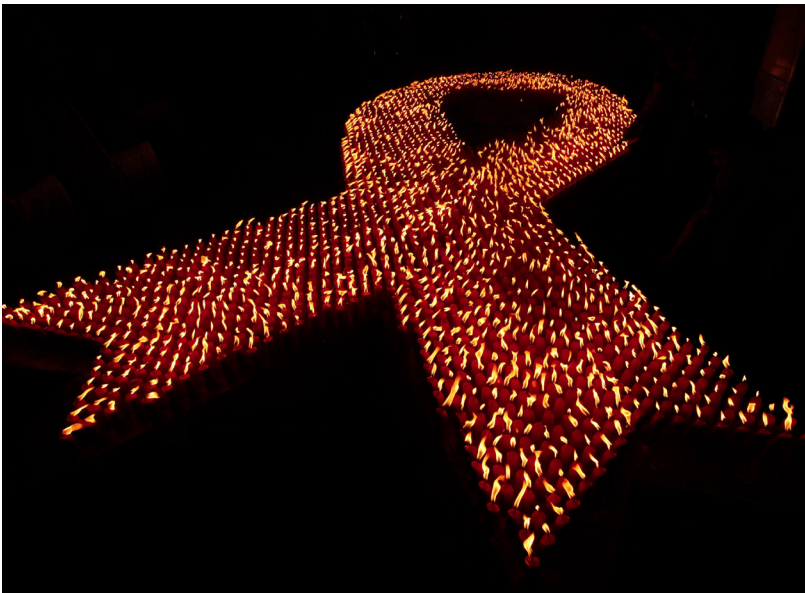


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IMPACT

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, black males aged 13-29 are at high risk for HIV. The rate of new HIV infections among young black males aged is 7 times as high as young white males and 3 times as high as young Hispanic males.



PREVENTION

There are several steps you can take to protect yourself and partner from the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

You can prevent the transmission of HIV by abstaining from needle sharing and contact with any persons body fluids.

You can reduce the risk of HIV transmission by using a latex condom, knowing your HIV status and being in a mutual monogamous relationship.

RESOURCES

Unsure about your status? Find a testing center and GET TESTED: Hivtest.cdc.gov



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