

One in six with HIV is undiagnosed

The federal government released two new reports (see <http://bit.ly/HIVreports>) that include an updated estimate of the proportion of people living with HIV (PLWH) who are undiagnosed.



The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) now estimates that 15.8% of people (one in six) living with HIV (PLWH) in the

United States are undiagnosed, an improvement from the previous estimate of 19.1% (one in five).

Of the roughly 180,000 people in the U.S. who

are unaware of their infection, the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) estimates that at least 1,000 live in Oregon.

However, OHA does not have an exact number or “one in” estimate for our state. Please note that national HIV statistics are often different from Oregon data (see www.healthoregon.org/hivdata).

We hope the rate of undiagnosed HIV infection will continue to decline as public health programs provide testing and linkage to early treatment for populations most affected and as health care providers integrate HIV screening as a routine practice (see <http://bit.ly/HIVscreen>).

Oregon HIV laws guide

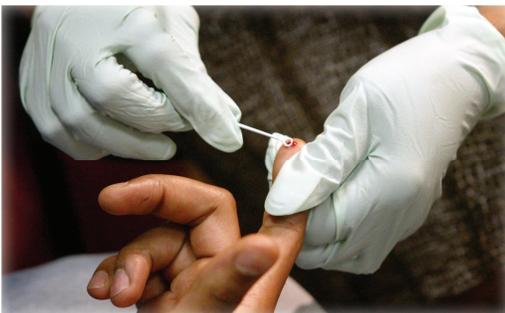
OHA revised its HIV laws guide for service providers and advocates. The document can be accessed on the OHA website at <http://bit.ly/HIVlaws>. The guide discusses HIV testing, the manner in which HIV-related information can be disclosed, legal protections for PLWH regarding employment and insurance, and HIV education in Oregon schools.

The guide is intended to provide helpful information for providers and advocates. It is not intended to provide legal advice nor as a substitute for consultation with an attorney.



HIV test guidance for contractors

Per policy changes that occurred in 2012 and 2013 to remove barriers to HIV testing, clients receiving an HIV test from a licensed health care provider or designee must be 1) notified that HIV testing may occur and 2) given an opportunity to decline testing. That's it.



Patients can be notified verbally by any member of a health care team or in writing via a general medical consent form, brochure, fact sheet, sign-in sheet or signage in a waiting area.

An ordering physician oversees each OHA-funded HIV test site. Thus, sites may implement opt-out HIV testing as described or may continue to use an HIV test consent form (an opt-in model); this is a local decision. OHA is no longer providing a model HIV test consent form.

Find more information about the HIV test process at <http://bit.ly/HIVtestOR>. Contact Dano Beck at (971) 673-0170 or daniel.w.beck@state.or.us if you have questions.

Upcoming events

American Sign Language/ Deaf coffee meet up

Jan. 25, 3–5pm at Pivot in Portland
Free coffee, snacks and HIV testing
Every last Saturday

Contact Letty at lmartinez@cascadeaids.org for more information.

National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day

Feb. 7

Learn more at www.blackaidsday.org.

National Condom Week

Feb. 9–15

Learn more at <http://bit.ly/NaCoWeek>.

LGBTQ Meaningful Care Conference

March 28 in Portland

An LGBTQ cultural competency training for health care and social service professionals

Register at <http://bit.ly/MCC2014>.

Enjoy a 10% discount if registered by Jan. 15.

Oregon's incarcerated honor World AIDS Day

On Dec. 1 of each year, people all over the world pause to recognize World AIDS Day. It's a day to reflect upon the number of lives affected by HIV,



as well as the challenges and progress we've made to address the pandemic. It's a day to commit to testing

or treatment and to help raise awareness within one's community. In Oregon correctional facilities, more than 200 inmates did just that.

Members from the Hepatitis/HIV/AIDS Awareness Program (HHAAP) facilitated two World AIDS Day events at the Oregon State Penitentiary and the Oregon State Correctional Institution. HHAAP is a long-standing, inmate led peer-education program that supports information dissemination throughout the Oregon Department of Corrections institutions. HHAAP planning committees at both locations put together programs to support the World AIDS Day theme, "Getting to Zero: Zero

new HIV infections. Zero discrimination. Zero AIDS-related deaths."

At the Oregon State Correctional Institution, inmates attended the World AIDS Day event, which featured a keynote presentation by Jude Leahy, Adult Viral Hepatitis Prevention Coordinator for the Oregon Health Authority, Public Health Division. Many HIV-related questions were answered during the event, and requests for HIV testing and enrollment in an upcoming HHAAP class skyrocketed!

At the Oregon State Penitentiary, inmates attended the World AIDS Day event with HHAAP peer educators and board members. Maurice Evans gave the keynote presentation. Incarcerated attendees made commitments to support "Getting to Zero" efforts on individual, community and institutional levels.

By all accounts, this year's HHAAP World AIDS Day events were a tremendous success.

The HIV and STI connection

Clients who are at risk for or living with HIV should be offered or referred to testing for other sexually transmitted infections (STIs). While all STIs are spread through sexual contact, most STIs are more common and more easily transmitted than HIV.

STIs can cause inflammation or breaks in genital tissue, which make HIV transmission more likely. People with STIs are at least two to five times more likely than uninfected individuals to acquire

HIV if exposed to the virus through sexual contact. People living with both HIV and another STI are more likely to transmit HIV through sexual contact than people living with only HIV.

Just as we recognize that HIV treatment is HIV prevention, it is important to understand how STI prevention and treatment support HIV prevention, as well. For more information about the connection between HIV and other STIs, visit www.cdc.gov/std/hiv/.