HIV/AIDS AWARENESS MONTH IN THE DETROIT COC

DECEMBER 2025

THE IMPACT OF HIV/AIDS IN DETROIT

- Detroit continues to have one of the highest HIV prevalence rates in Michigan.
- New diagnoses disproportionately affect Black residents, LGBTQ+ individuals, and people facing housing instability.
- Many people are diagnosed late, missing opportunities for early treatment.
- Viral suppression rates remain lower in Detroit compared to state and national averages.
- HIV intersects with poverty, racism, stigma, and structural inequality—shaping who is most at risk.

CHALLENGES & RISK FACED BY THE HOMELESS POPULATION

- Unstable housing increases exposure to survival sex, needle sharing, and other high-risk situations.
- Lack of transportation, ID, or phones makes it hard to access or stay connected to medical care.
- Stigma and distrust of healthcare systems delay testing and follow-up.
- Mental health needs and substance use can interfere with medication adherence.
- Limited HIV education and misconceptions worsen fear and avoidance of services.

CURRENT RESPONSES & COMMUNITY STRENGTHS

- Mobile testing vans provide rapid HIV testing at shelters, drop-in sites, and encampments.
- Detroit Health Department clinics offer free or low-cost HIV testing, treatment referrals, and prevention services.
- Outreach teams deliver HIV/STI education directly to people experiencing homelessness.
- Free self-testing kits, condoms, dental dams, and PrEP/PEP info expand access to safer-sex tools.
- PrEP/PEP coordination helps clients with same-day prescriptions, insurance, and adherence support.
- Community partners strengthen linkage to care.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR ACTION & IMPROVEMENT

- Expand mobile testing, self-testing kits, and PrEP/PEP outreach within the CoC.
- Increase peer navigation to support follow-up care and medication adherence.
- Bring routine HIV testing into shelters, transitional housing, and warming centers.
- Strengthen partnerships between health providers, outreach teams, and homelessness services.
- Advocate for funding that supports Housing-First models and improves HIV outcomes.
- Promote “U=U” messaging to reduce stigma and empower people living with HIV.

GET INVOLVED

Advocate
Ask leaders for equitable health funding, expanded mobile outreach, and housing access.

Support Local Groups
Volunteer or donate to Detroit groups addressing HIV prevention and housing needs.

Get screened
Free and confidential HIV testing is available throughout Detroit.

SOURCES AND MORE INFORMATION:

- DETROIT HEALTH DEPARTMENT: DETROITMI.GOV/DEPARTMENTS/DETROIT-HEALTH-DEPARTMENT
- MICHIGAN DHHS – HIV/STI: MICHIGAN.GOV/MDHHS/HIVSTI
- CORKTOWN HEALTH (LGBTQ+ HEALTH CENTER): CORKTOWNHEALTH.ORG
- HENRY FORD HEALTH – HIV CARE & PREVENTION: HENRYFORD.COM/SERVICES/HIV-CARE
- UNIFIED – HIV HEALTH & BEHAVIORAL SERVICES: MIUNIFIED.ORG
- AIDS PARTNERSHIP MICHIGAN / MICHIGAN AIDS COALITION: MICHIGANAIDSCOALITION.ORG
- CDC – HIV RESOURCES: CDC.GOV/HIV

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HOMELESS ACTION NETWORK OF DETROIT