

Do You Know About HIV?
October Is HIV Awareness Month
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THNK Sexual Health Trainer

Twenty-two percent of all new HIV diagnoses are youth ages 12-20 years old. The Human Immunodeficiency Virus [HIV], is a viral sexually-transmitted infection that can affect anyone. HIV can be transmitted through unprotected sex or infected drug/piercing/tattoo needles. Unlike other sexually transmitted infections, a person's body is not able to get rid of HIV completely. HIV is a life-long illness that will eventually develop into AIDS, which is the last stage of the HIV infection. In 2015, 1,489 youth were diagnosed with AIDS.

In Las Vegas, as of 2015, there were 8,894 people living with HIV.

- 84% were men living with HIV; 16% were women living with HIV
- 28% diagnosed were African-American
- 24% diagnosed were Hispanic
- 43% diagnosed were White

Why should we be concerned about the transmission of HIV amongst our youth? Per the Center for Disease Control, youth with HIV are least likely out of all the age groups "to be linked to care and have a suppressed viral load". We need to provide our youth with information and resources to help reduce the risk of transmission, guide youth to make responsible sexual health choices, and be aware of treatment resources, if needed. We need to help guide our youth, so that they can continue to reach their goals or dreams.

For HIV testing:

The Gay & Lesbian Center

401 S. Maryland Pkwy
Las Vegas 89101
(702)-733-9800

Southern Nevada Health District

280 S. Decatur
Las Vegas 89107
(702)-759-0702

Planned Parenthood

3300 E. Flamingo
Suite 25
Las Vegas 89121
(702)-547-9888

Planned Parenthood

3320 W. Charleston Blvd
Las Vegas 89102
(702) 878-7776

For more information on testing hours and cost, please call

Contact The Gay and Lesbian Center for post-diagnosis services/support groups

With the True Health Needs Knowledge [THNK] Grant, SAFY has had the privilege of educating almost 300 youth in Las Vegas in the last year and a half about HIV prevention. Even though the THNK Grant provides comprehensive sexual education to youth, a focus of the curriculum is on educating youth on HIV facts, as well as how to prevent the transmission of HIV. Youth are provided resources for HIV/STI testing. Youth learn the importance of their health and how it is their responsibility to not only protect themselves, but their community, too.

If you are interested in having your youth attend class, please contact me at (702) 385-5331 or dornj@safy.org.