



HIV & AIDS

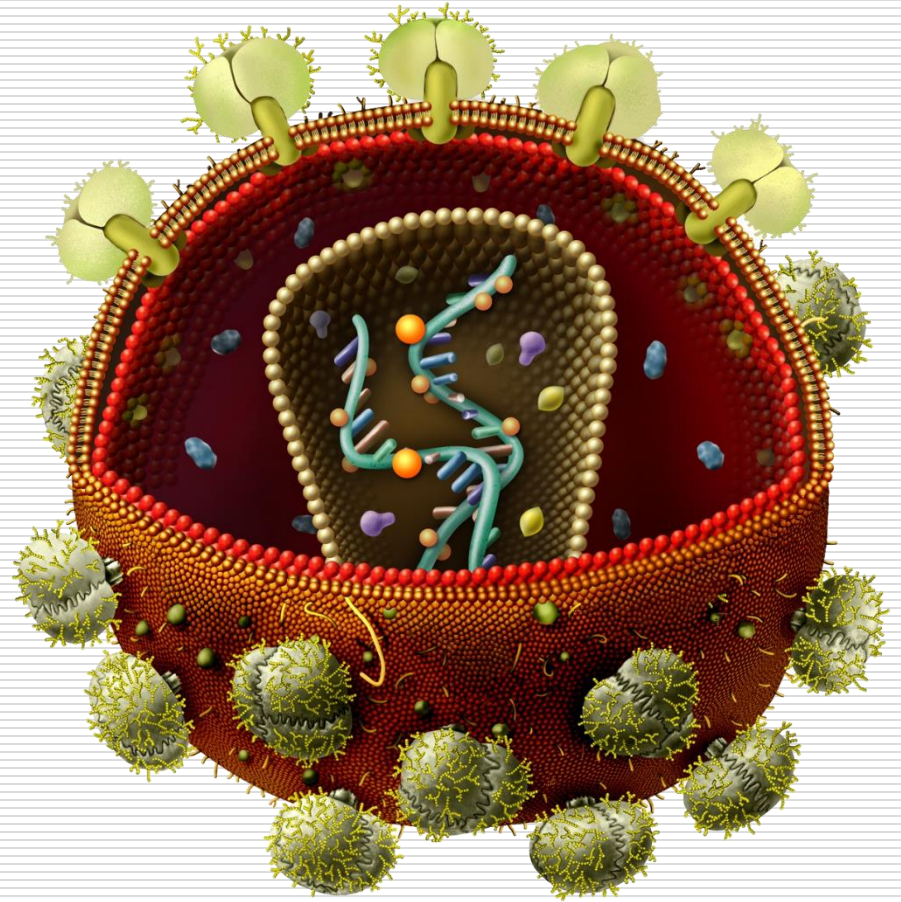
THE MYTHS & FACTS

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What is HIV?

- “HIV” stands for Human Immunodeficiency Virus.
- HIV is a retrovirus



The Mechanism of HIV

- ❑ There are multiple strands of the virus.
 - ❑ The virus enters the body and attacks the immune system, (white blood cells).
 - ❑ The body's immune system is based upon B cells (memory) and T cells (target).
 - ❑ HIV enters the T-cells (specifically CD4), replicates and in turn, weaken the body's immunity.
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How you are exposed?

- Sexual intercourse
 - Sharing needles
 - Mother to Child
 - Blood transfusions
 - Transplants/surgeries
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How you are exposed?

YOU CAN GET HIV VIA...



Unprotected sex



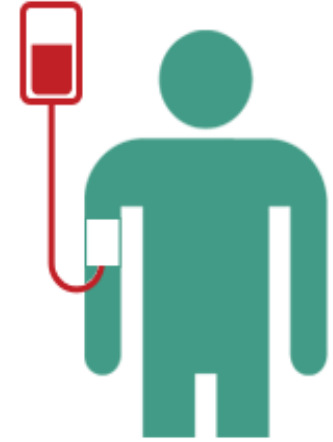
Pregnancy,
childbirth &
breastfeeding



Injecting drugs



Working in
healthcare



Blood
transfusions &
organ/tissue
transplants

How is HIV contracted?

- Transmission of **Bodily Fluids**
 - Blood
 - Semen
 - Vaginal Secretions
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HIV is contracted by:

HIV IS **NOT** TRANSMITTED BY...



Insect bites



Toilet seats



Kissing



Sharing cutlery



Touching

Why is HIV so harmful?

- ❑ The immune system is the most important line of defense for the human body.
 - ❑ HIV compromises one's immune system, causing it grow helpless against other illnesses.
 - ❑ If undetected and untreated, HIV can develop to AIDS.
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Why is HIV so harmful?

Continued...

- ❑ A person may live with HIV for 10 years or longer with no symptoms (asymptomatic).
 - ❑ Some symptoms include: flu-like symptoms: fever, chills, rash, soar throat
 - ❑ If properly treated, a small group of people never develop AIDS at all.
 - ❑ Early detection is key.
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What is AIDS?

- ❑ “AIDS” is Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome- the disease that results from HIV.
 - ❑ When the body’s T-cell count is detected to be lower than 200, a person is diagnosed with AIDS.
 - ❑ The diagnosis of AIDS represents a weakened immune system, but does not kill of itself.
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Detection

- HIV can be detected! However, it is possible that the virus is dormant for a window of 3-6 months after contraction.
 - Early detection is key:
 - Confidential HIV tests
 - Anonymous testing
 - Blood Test
 - Oral Swap
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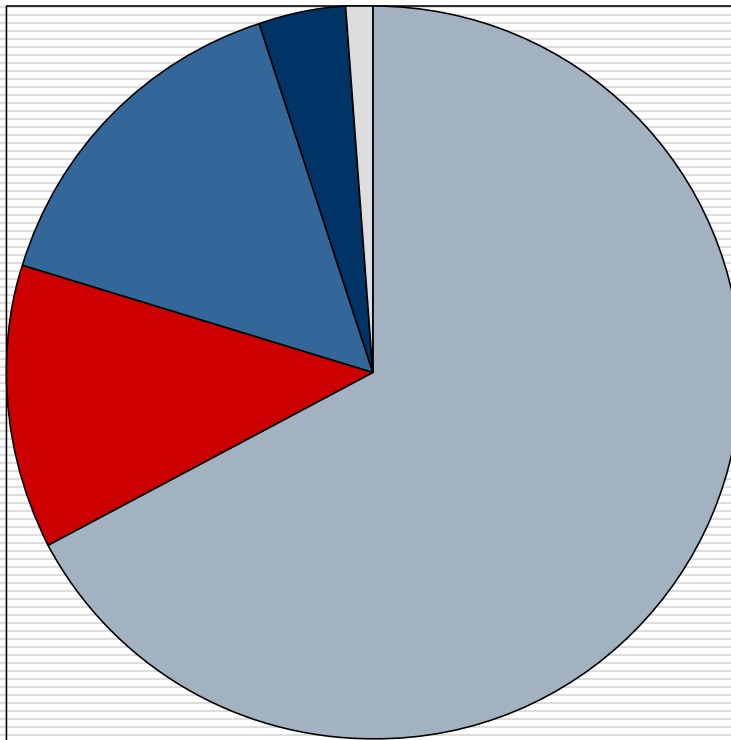
Prognosis

- ❑ People with HIV, or AIDS can lead normal lives.
 - ❑ There are TREATMENTS for HIV and/or AIDS. However, a cure has yet to be found.
 - ❑ One commonly used treatment is HAART (highly active antiretroviral therapy).
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Statistics

- ❑ Since the beginning of this great epidemic, more than half a million people have died in the United States.
 - ❑ There are currently more than one million people living with HIV and AIDS in the United States, 1/5 of those are unaware.
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U.S. Population Breakdown



Percentage of AIDS Diagnoses in 2006

- White, non-Hispanics (30%)
 - African Americans (46%)
 - Hispanics (19%)
 - Asian/Pacific Islander (1%)
 - Native American (0%)
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Why is this important?

- ❑ December is HIV/AIDS awareness month!
 - ❑ Share what you know with your peers, family and friends and be encouraged to have healthy practices towards disease prevention
 - ❑ Scientists seek to find the cure to this and many other diseases that plaque the world today.
 - ❑ Awareness leads to understanding. Understanding leads to prevention. Prevention saves lives.
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Stop AIDS.
Keep the Promise!

Thank you