

NEW JERSEY AIDS/HIV/STD HOTLINE**PRESS RELEASE**

November 2015

Stand Together in the Fight against HIV/AIDS
World AIDS Day 2015
Getting to Zero

(Newark, NJ) – On Monday, December 1, 2015 millions of people around the world will stand together in the fight against AIDS. We stand to provide encouragement to people living with HIV, to acknowledge those working to care for HIV infected patients, and to remember those who have died as a result of the disease. This day also serves as an important reminder that HIV and AIDS still remain a major global health priority with millions worldwide continuing to be infected with HIV each year.

U.S. Quick Facts¹

- Gay and bisexual men of all races are the most severely affected by HIV.
- More than 1 million people are infected with HIV – 1 in 8 Americans living with HIV are unaware of their infection.
- About 1 in 4 new HIV infections is among youth ages 13-24. Most of them do not know they are infected, are not getting treated, and can unknowingly pass the virus on to others.

World AIDS Day gives us all an opportunity to remember that everyone is at risk for HIV infection regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, or sexual preference. The virus doesn't discriminate so be sure to know your HIV status! You cannot rely on symptoms to know if you are HIV positive. Many people who are positive do not show any symptoms for years. Testing is the ONLY way to know for sure.

TAKE ACTION – KNOW YOUR HIV STATUS – GET TESTED

Combining HIV testing, counseling, treatment, and other prevention interventions such as using condoms during sexual activity and not sharing or re-using needles and works to inject drugs can dramatically lower the rate of new HIV infections. Early diagnosis and treatment can save lives and stop the spread of the disease. Our unified goal is to strive for a future of zero new HIV infections, zero HIV-related deaths, and zero tolerance for discrimination related to HIV infection.

Creating an AIDS-free generation is a shared responsibility - so take control of your own health and get tested. The NJ AIDS/HIV/STD hotline is a resource for all. If you are looking to find a free, state-funded testing site near you for initial testing, follow-up care, or have questions about HIV/AIDS, STDs, or hepatitis, contact us either by calling 800-624-2377, text/email at 8006242377@njpies.org, or chat via our site at www.njhivstdline.org; the hearing impaired may also use their TTY and call 973-926-8008. We are always here to help 24 hours a day/ 7 days a week! Calls are free and confidential.

¹ <https://www.aids.gov/hiv-aids-basics/hiv-aids-101/statistics/index.html>

Services available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, every day of the year

- Referrals for free, testing sites and other related services
- HIV/AIDS, STD and Hepatitis Prevention Information
- HIV Counseling and Treatment Locations
- HIV Treatment Information
- Referrals for free, clean needles/syringes

For more information on NJ's World AIDS Day Events, search the Division of HIV, STD and TB Services' (DHSTS) World AIDS Day Events Calendar at <http://web.doh.state.nj.us/apps2/aids/events.aspx>.

About NJPIES

As New Jersey's only poison control center, the New Jersey Poison Information & Education System provides information on poison prevention and treatments. Chartered in 1983, NJPIES provides free consultation through telephone hot line services and the Web. Medical professionals such as physicians, registered nurses and pharmacists offer confidential advice regarding poison emergencies and provide information on poison prevention, drugs, food poisoning, animal bites and more. These specialists are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

NJPIES coordinates state poison education and research and is designated as the regional poison center by the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services and the American Association of Poison Control Centers. It tracks incidences of adverse reactions to food, drugs and vaccines in order to monitor potential public health issues and provide data to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. A division of the Department of Emergency Medicine of the New Jersey Medical School of Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey. NJPIES has a state-of-the-art center located on the school's Newark campus. NJPIES is funded, in part, by the NJ Department of Health and the United States Department of Health and Human Services.

New Jersey residents seeking immediate information about treating poison emergencies, and those with any drug information questions, should call the toll-free hot line, **800-222-1222**, any time. The hearing impaired may call **973-926-8008**. For more information, visit www.njpies.org or call **973-972-9280**.

About Rutgers

Established in 1766, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, is America's eighth oldest institution of higher learning and one of the nation's premier public research universities. Serving more than 65,000 students on campuses, centers, institutes and other locations throughout the state, Rutgers is the only public university in New Jersey that is a member of the prestigious Association of American Universities.

Rutgers Biomedical and Health Sciences (RBHS) is the health care education, research, and clinical division of Rutgers University, comprising nine schools and their attendant faculty practices, centers, institutes and clinics; New Jersey's leading comprehensive cancer care center; and New Jersey's largest behavioral health care network.

###