

National HIV Testing Day — June 27, 2019

National HIV Testing Day, observed each year on June 27, highlights the importance of testing in detecting, treating, and preventing human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection. Early diagnosis is critical to controlling HIV transmission in the United States (1). With the aim of reducing the number of new infections in the United States by 90% in 10 years, the Ending the HIV Epidemic initiative initially will focus on the 50 local jurisdictions where approximately half of diagnoses made in 2016 and 2017 were concentrated and in seven states with a disproportionate occurrence of HIV in rural areas (2). An analysis of 2016 and 2017 population-based survey data reported in this issue of *MMWR* found that overall, 38.9% of the U.S. population had ever tested for HIV infection, including 46.9% in the 50 local jurisdictions with the majority of diagnoses and 35.5% in the seven states with disproportionate occurrence of HIV in rural areas. To control HIV transmission, health care providers and public health practitioners need to develop HIV testing strategies to reach segments of the population that have never tested for HIV infection and offer at least annual testing of persons at risk for infection.

Additional information on National HIV Testing Day is available at <https://www.cdc.gov/features/HIVtesting>. Basic testing information for the public is available at <https://www.cdc.gov/hiv/basics/testing.html>. Additional information on HIV testing for health professionals is available at <https://www.cdc.gov/hiv/testing>. CDC's guidelines for HIV testing of serum and plasma specimens are available at <https://www.cdc.gov/hiv/guidelines/testing.html>.

References

1. Li Z, Purcell DW, Sansom SL, Hayes D, Hall HI. Vital signs: HIV transmission along the continuum of care—United States, 2016. *MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep* 2019;68:267–72. <https://doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.mm6811e1>
2. Pitasi MA, Delaney KP, Brooks JT, et al. HIV testing in 50 local jurisdictions accounting for the majority of new HIV diagnoses and seven states with disproportionate occurrence of HIV in rural areas, 2016–2017. *MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep* 2019;68:561–7.

HIV Testing in 50 Local Jurisdictions Accounting for the Majority of New HIV Diagnoses and Seven States with Disproportionate Occurrence of HIV in Rural Areas, 2016–2017

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Since 2006, CDC has recommended universal screening for human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection at least once in health care settings and at least annual rescreening of persons at increased risk for infection (1,2), but data from national surveys and HIV surveillance demonstrate that these recommendations have not been fully implemented (3,4). The national Ending the HIV Epidemic initiative* is intended to reduce the number of new infections by 90% from 2020 to 2030. The initiative focuses first on 50 local jurisdictions (48 counties, the District of Columbia, and San Juan, Puerto Rico) where the majority of new diagnoses of HIV infection in 2016 and 2017 were concentrated and seven states with a disproportionate occurrence of HIV in rural areas relative to other states (i.e., states with at least 75 reported HIV diagnoses in rural areas that accounted for ≥10% of all diagnoses in the state).[†] This initial geographic

* <https://www.hiv.gov/federal-response/ending-the-hiv-epidemic/overview>.

[†] The 50 local jurisdictions and seven states were identified from diagnoses made during 2016–2017 reported to CDC's National HIV Surveillance System through June 2018. Diagnosis data from 2017 were considered preliminary (<https://files.hiv.gov/s3fs-public/ending-the-hiv-epidemic-flyer.pdf>). A list of the 50 local jurisdictions and seven states is available in Table 2 of this report and at <https://files.hiv.gov/s3fs-public/Ending-the-HIV-Epidemic-Counties-and-Territories.pdf>.

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Continuing Education examination available at https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/cme/conted_info.html#weekly.

