

National HIV Testing Day — June 27, 2016

National HIV Testing Day (<http://www.cdc.gov/features/HIVtesting>), June 27, highlights the importance of testing in detecting, treating, and preventing human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection. Awareness of HIV infection through HIV testing is the first step to prevention, health care, and social services that improve quality of life and length of survival (1). CDC's National HIV Behavioral Surveillance (NHBS) monitors behaviors among populations at risk for acquiring or transmitting HIV infection. In 2012, NHBS data indicated that 9% of persons who inject drugs tested positive for HIV, and among those persons, 36% were unaware of their infection before testing (2). In 2013, 2% of heterosexuals at increased risk for HIV infection tested positive for HIV, and among those, 44% were unaware of their infection before testing (3). In 2014, among 22% of men who have sex with men who tested HIV-positive, 25% were unaware of their infection before testing (4).

Basic HIV testing information for consumers (<http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/basics/testing.html>) and health professionals (<http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/testing>), and CDC guidelines for HIV testing of serum (<http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/testing/laboratorytests.html>) are available online.

References

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Evaluation of the Impact of National HIV Testing Day — United States, 2011–2014

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Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) testing is the first step in the continuum of HIV prevention, care, and treatment services, without which, gaps in HIV diagnosis cannot be addressed. National HIV testing campaigns are useful for promoting HIV testing among large numbers of persons. However, the impact of such campaigns on identification of new HIV-positive diagnoses is unclear. To assess whether National HIV Testing Day (NHTD, June 27) was effective in identifying new HIV-positive diagnoses, National HIV Prevention Program Monitoring and Evaluation (NHM&E) data for CDC-funded testing events conducted during 2011–2014 were analyzed. The number of HIV testing events and new HIV-positive diagnoses during June of each year were compared with those in other months by demographics and target populations. The number of HIV testing events and

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