



# National Transgender HIV Testing Day

## April 18, 2017

National Transgender HIV Testing Day (NTHTD) is a day to recognize the importance of routine HIV testing, status awareness and continued focus on HIV prevention and treatment efforts among transgender and gender non-binary people.

### **Goals of the NTHTD initiative:**

- increase status awareness among all trans and gender non-binary people;
- increase the capacity of local health jurisdictions, CBOs and partners to meet the HIV testing, prevention, and treatment needs of trans people;
- reduce HIV and other health related disparities experienced by trans women, with a specific focus on trans women of color; and
- increase community engagement of trans people in HIV testing, planning, prevention and care services throughout the US.

### **United States**

- ⌘ Trans women of color, especially African-Americans and Latinx, experience disproportionately high rates of HIV.
  - Transphobia, heterosexism (assumption that heterosexuality is the norm), and racism increase stigma and risk among trans women of color.
- ⌘ HIV prevalence among African-American trans women is three times higher than among white trans women.
- ⌘ Many trans women are not aware of their HIV status and the CDC reports that 73% of trans women living with HIV infection are not aware of their HIV positive status.
- ⌘ Trans individuals experience a number of barriers to knowing their HIV status due to a lack of knowledge, skills, and willingness of the healthcare system to meet their needs. Compounding barriers include urgent needs such as housing, employment, support with legal documentation, and threats to daily physical and emotional safety. Layers of discrimination, marginalization, isolation, and related stress can lead to depression and other mental health issues that may hamper self-caring practices such as uptake of HIV testing services.

### **Louisiana**

- ⌘ At the end of 2015, there were 196 trans women living with HIV in Louisiana who were aware of their diagnosis and who had identified as transgender to their medical providers.
  - ⌘ Over 80% of trans persons living with HIV are black, 11% are white and 6% are Latinx.
  - ⌘ 55% of trans persons living with HIV in Louisiana live in the New Orleans region and an additional 22% living in Baton Rouge.
- ⌘ From 2014 to 2015, there were 25 new HIV diagnoses among trans women.
  - ⌘ 24 of the 25 new diagnoses were black and one trans woman was Latinx.
  - ⌘ 56% of the new HIV diagnoses were among trans women between the ages 18-24 years old, and an additional 36% were 25-29 years old.
  - ⌘ 44% of the new HIV diagnoses among trans women were in New Orleans and 36% were in Baton Rouge.

\*Data on transgender individuals is an underestimate due to the inability of systems to capture accurate gender variables.

*For more information, visit [louisianahealthhub.org](http://louisianahealthhub.org)*