



**Responding to the Call:**

# A Guide to HIV/AIDS Education in Faith Communities

On Common Ground: AIDS Institute's Faith Communities Project

New York State Department of Health



# A Guide to HIV/AIDS Education in Faith Settings

## Table of Contents

|  |    |
|--|----|
| Introduction .....   | 3  |
| About the AIDS Institute’s Faith Communities Project.....        | 4  |
| HIV Education Belongs in Communities of Faith .....              | 5  |
| HIV and AIDS in New York State .....                             | 6  |
| HIV/AIDS Facts You Need to Know .....                            | 7  |
| Guidelines for Educating Faith Group Members About HIV/AIDS..... | 15 |
| Responding to HIV and AIDS in Your Faith Community:              |    |
| Forming HIV Congregational Ministries .....                      | 18 |
| Suggested Activities for Faith-based HIV/AIDS Prevention .....   | 20 |
| National HIV/AIDS Observances .....                              | 22 |
| Providing Pastoral Care .....                                    | 23 |
| Age-Appropriate HIV/AIDS Education                               |    |
| Children Ages 5-8 .....  | 26 |
| Children Ages 9-12.....  | 27 |
| Teenagers, Ages 13-19.....                                       | 28 |
| Suggested Group Activities                                       |    |
| Children Ages 4-8 .....  | 31 |
| Preteens and Teens .....   | 33 |
| Teens or Adults .....  | 36 |
| Appendix   |    |
| HIV/AIDS Vocabulary List.....                                    | 37 |
| HIV/AIDS Resources.....  | 39 |
| National Networks and Organizations.....                         | 44 |
| National Technical Assistance Providers .....                    | 47 |
| Annotated Bibliography .....                                     | 51 |
| Acknowledgements.....  | 62 |

## Interfaith Prayer Flags

-  **Christian Cross** The traditional cross reminds us not only of Jesus Christ's death, but of the older origins of this symbol as an intersection of two energy flows, one flowing between earth and heaven, and the other spreading out from side to side, representing the 4 directions.
-  **Great Goddess** From the ancient Middle Eastern Tradition, this Goddess Image and many like it were the earliest known religious symbols and represent the fertile Mother from which life springs.
-  **Sun Circle and Dot** Originally a symbol of the primal womb of creation, with the spark of life within the circle of life, this became the sign for the sun, for air, and for contemplation of the mystery of inner and outer realities.
-  **Shinto** Shinto is an ancient Japanese religion. Shinto has no written scriptures, no body of religious law, and only a very loosely organized priesthood. Ancestors are deeply revered and worshipped. All human life and human nature is sacred. Tradition and the family are very important.
-  **Winged Sufi Heart** The awakened heart, which contains the star of perfected light and receptiveness of the moon, becomes capable of soaring to the heights of Spirit. Sufism is a mystical path related to Islam.
-  **Jewish Star of David** The traditional interweaving of the upward pointing and downward pointing triangles, representing the unity of earthly and heavenly energies. It represents the union of God and the Shekina, the male and female energies in harmony.
-  **Islamic Moon and Star** The star of perfected light, which can be seen as the perfected human, and the receptiveness of the moon, which allows the light of the Divine to fill it. Islam is a tradition from the Middle East, emphasizing devotion and community.
-  **Baha'i Star** The Baha'i religion is one of the newest of the religions of the prophets, and encourages world peace by teaching tolerance and honoring all paths to God. Their symbol is a nine pointed star.
-  **Confucian** The social ethics and moral teachings of Confucius are an ethical system to which rituals at important times during one's lifetime have been added. His writings deal primarily with individual morality and ethics, and the proper exercise of political power by the rulers.
-  **Sikh** The circle of unity contains the double-edged sword representing the power of truth, and is surrounded by two curved daggers representing the act of willingness to defend the faith.
-  **Taoist Ying Yang** The interplay between primal opposites is an eternal dance, such as (light/dark, male/female, day/night, life/death) and within the heart of the light is a core of dark, and within the core of darkness lies light.
-  **Wiccan pentacle** Symbolic of life and health in ancient times, the pentacle has been used as a strong protective charm. The five-pointed star is used in many traditions, and in Wicca, a shamanic nature religion from Europe, it shows an image of how energy flows through stages of life, corresponding to the five points of the human body.
-  **African Goddess** The Akua'ba is a Goddess symbol used for good luck in many parts of Africa, and is especially worn by women and children as a charm to lend protection, fertility and good fortune. It is primarily from the Ashanti tribe in Nigeria.
-  **Native American Medicine Wheel** The four directions of the east, south, west and north are honored in the wheel of life, hung with sacred eagle feathers. These primal directions represent the stages of energy cycles such as the cycles of time: spring, summer, fall, winter, and human life as in birth, youth, maturity and old age.
-  **Jain** Jainism contains many elements similar to Hinduism and Buddhism. The world's almost 4 million Jains are located almost entirely in India. They practice Ahimsa – non-violence. Committing an act of violence against a human, animal, or even vegetables generates negative energy.
-  **Buddhist Prayer Wheel** The Buddha taught the eightfold path to enlightenment, represented here by a prayer wheel. The eight paths are right conduct, right contemplation, right effort, right faith, right occupation, right resolve, right self awareness, and right speech.
-  **Hindu Om** The OM is the sound of the universal vibration, the primal sources from which all creation manifests. It is the mantra mantrika, or "Mother of all sounds" the first of all creative spells spoken by the Goddess, chanted to attune oneself to the Divine. The original meaning was "womb".
-  **Zoroastrian** The sacred fire burns on an altar, representing the light which gives all life. Following the prophet Zoroaster, this tradition emphasizes purity and Divine light.

Adapted with permission from Interfaith Marketplace, Barbara@interfaithmarketplace.com



## Introduction

This guide was developed in 1997 and updated in 2010 to provide leaders of faith communities with basic information and guidance on HIV and AIDS. In turn, it can be used to teach members of their communities/congregations how to protect themselves and their families and how to care for those who are impacted by HIV and AIDS. The guide presents facts about HIV and AIDS; explores issues of concern; suggests how to teach congregants/members about HIV prevention; provides activities and materials that can be adapted for use in local programs, and lists resources to contact for more information and support.

This is only a guide. It does not cover every issue or answer every question about HIV and AIDS. This guide will be most effective if users adapt its contents to address the unique needs of their faith communities.



## About the AIDS Institute's Faith Communities Project

The New York State Department of Health AIDS Institute (AI) works with faith-based organizations and community-based organizations to meet the HIV prevention needs of individuals, families, and communities across various racial/ethnic groups, cultures, and languages. The AI Faith Communities Project was created in 2001 in recognition of the key role that faith communities play in the lives of New York State residents. The project was also developed in response to recommendations made by families and individuals impacted by HIV and AIDS, and within various reports, to include all faith communities in HIV prevention and health care strategies, especially for communities of color.

The goal of the Faith Communities Project is to increase awareness and the involvement of faith communities in HIV prevention and health care efforts by fostering partnerships between faith communities and community-based organizations. Working through regional committees, the project has conducted needs assessments and implemented activities such as: clergy roundtable discussions, community dialogues, and forums on HIV-related issues in faith communities. In addition, the project has developed mechanisms to enhance access to regional information and resources; an e-mail distribution list and list-serv are used to disseminate regional information.

For more information about the Faith Communities Project, please go to the NYSDOH website, [www.health.state.ny.us/diseases/aids/faith\\_communities/index.htm](http://www.health.state.ny.us/diseases/aids/faith_communities/index.htm).



## HIV Education Belongs in Communities of Faith

Many people turn to their communities of faith for comfort, support, and guidance when they face problems and challenges in life. HIV and AIDS present such a challenge.

Faith communities and their leaders touch the lives of many people. They exist in almost every community and are respected for their advice and guidance. They have a history of using their belief system and teachings to help their members understand others and to accept differences. Faith communities and their leaders are used to advising their members about social issues and health issues like HIV/AIDS. For these reasons, communities of faith should take a lead role in responding to the AIDS crisis.

### Why are faith communities an appropriate setting for HIV/AIDS education?

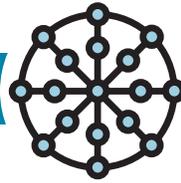
- Most people say they belong to a faith or spiritual tradition.
- Faith communities serve all classes, races, and age groups.
- Faith leaders are respected as a credible source of advice and guidance.
- Faith communities have a history of responding to the social justice issues affecting communities.
- Faith communities can reach populations that traditionally are not reached by public information efforts.
- Faith communities are a socializing force in America, particularly for communities of color.



## HIV and AIDS in New York State

To understand the scope of the AIDS epidemic in New York State, consider these facts:

- At the end of 2008, 108,194 New York State residents had died of HIV/AIDS and 125,718 were living with HIV or AIDS. As many as 50,000 more New Yorkers may be infected with HIV without knowing it. People of color account for an increasing percentage of the newly diagnosed HIV cases in New York State.
- AIDS cases diagnosed in New York State account for nearly 20 percent of the one half million cases that have been reported in the United States.
- In New York City in 2008, AIDS was the third leading cause of death for people aged 35 to 44 years. In New York State, AIDS ranks in the top five causes of death for people 20 to 49 years.
- For current statistics on HIV/AIDS in New York State, go to:  
**[www.nyhealth.gov/diseases/aids/statistics/index.htm](http://www.nyhealth.gov/diseases/aids/statistics/index.htm)**
- For more information on AIDS in New York City, go to:  
**[www.nyc.gov/html/doh/html/dires/hivepi.shtml](http://www.nyc.gov/html/doh/html/dires/hivepi.shtml)**



## HIV/AIDS Facts You Need to Know

To discuss HIV/AIDS with members of your faith community, you will need to know the facts yourself so that you can provide accurate and complete information. By providing the facts, you can reduce the fears, anxieties, prejudices, and discrimination that continue to be associated with HIV and AIDS.

### What is HIV?

HIV is the **Human Immunodeficiency Virus**, the virus that causes AIDS. You may hear that someone is HIV-infected or has HIV disease. Both terms mean that the person has HIV in his or her body and can pass (transmit) the virus to other people.

Having HIV disease does not mean a person will develop AIDS and die. If HIV is diagnosed early, it can be treated with medications to slow the progression of the disease. In many cases, people who take HIV medications and lead a healthy lifestyle can live healthy, productive lives for many years.

HIV infection attacks the body's immune system. Normally, the immune system protects the body from many common forms of infection so that a healthy person does not become sick. If HIV infection is left untreated, it weakens the immune system to the point where it can no longer protect the body from infection. This can lead to more serious diseases — called AIDS-related illnesses — that can be fatal.

There are medications that fight HIV infection and help the immune system stay stronger for a longer time. But, there is no cure that removes HIV infection from the body and no shot (vaccine) to prevent HIV infection. Once a person has HIV infection, he or she has it for life and can pass the virus to others.

## What is AIDS?

AIDS stands for Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome. It is the late stage of HIV infection. A person has AIDS when the immune system becomes very weak from HIV infection or when he or she gets one or more serious illnesses because of the HIV.

People with HIV infection often do not get AIDS for up to ten years or longer. However, some people have lived with HIV infection for more than 20 years. HIV medicines have helped people with HIV live healthy, productive lives for more than 10 years.

## How do you get infected with HIV?

Your age, sex, race, ethnic group, religion, income, or sexual orientation does not matter — anyone can get infected with HIV.

### You can get HIV in these ways:

- **By having unprotected sex** with someone who has HIV infection. **Unprotected sex** means having sex without using a condom.
- By sharing syringes, or other equipment (such as spoons, cotton, bottle caps) that have already been used by someone who has HIV infection to shoot drugs, steroids, or even vitamins or medicine. This equipment is also called works.
- Women with HIV infection can pass the virus to their babies during pregnancy, delivery, or breastfeeding.
- Healthcare workers can get HIV infection if they get stuck with syringes or other sharps that have blood or body fluids with HIV. This can happen by accident at work.

### You cannot get HIV from:

- **Casual contact** — being near someone who has HIV or by shaking hands, touching, or hugging someone with HIV.
- Someone with HIV sneezing or coughing near you or on you.
- Someone's tears, saliva, or sweat.
- Sharing drinking glasses, plates, forks, knives, or spoons.
- Using public bathrooms and drinking fountains.
- Mosquito bites or other bug bites.
- Swimming pools or hot tubs.
- Pets.

## What is “safer sex”?

“Safer sex” means knowing how HIV infection is transmitted and taking precautions to reduce your risk of getting HIV infection and other STDs and infections. Examples of safer sex are:

- Always use a male or female condom each time you have sex, making sure that they are properly used.
- Always ask your partner about his/her HIV status before having sex.

## What are the physical signs or symptoms of HIV infection?

You can't tell if a person has HIV infection just by looking at him or her. Most people infected with HIV have no symptoms for up to ten years, and they may not be aware that they are infected.

Soon after being infected with HIV, some — but not all — people have flu-like symptoms (fever, muscle aches, feeling tired) that last a few days and then go away. This is sometimes called **seroconversion illness or acute HIV infection**. But, these can also be symptoms of other illnesses that are more common than HIV. Only an HIV test can show whether a person has HIV infection.

## When does a person with HIV infection have AIDS?

According to the U.S. government Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), a person with HIV infection has AIDS when:

- The person's CD4 cell count, a way to measure the strength of the immune system, falls below 200 (a normal CD4 cell count is 500 or higher); OR
- The person develops any of the specific serious conditions — also called AIDS-defining illnesses — linked with HIV infection.

## How can you find out if you have HIV?

The only sure way to tell if you have HIV infection is to get an HIV test — either a blood test or an oral fluid test (which takes a swab from the inside of the mouth).

In New York State, you can be tested anonymously or confidentially:

- An **anonymous** HIV test means you do not give your name. Instead, you are given an ID number to identify your signed consent form and get your test results. Anonymous testing is only available at state-sponsored testing sites.
- A **confidential** HIV test means you give your name when you are tested. Your test results become part of your private medical record.
- In many places you can get a **rapid HIV test** and get results in about half an hour. If your rapid test result shows that you might have HIV infection, you will need a second test to confirm your result.

HIV tests provide accurate results more than 99% of the time.

## Any person, no matter what age, can get an HIV test as long as he or she understands:

- What the test is for.
- What the test result (positive or negative) means.
- What types of care and treatment are available if he or she tests positive for HIV.

Many local health departments, community health centers, community-based organizations, hospitals, family planning clinics, and doctors offer confidential HIV tests. Call the phone numbers at the end of this booklet (page 43) to find testing sites near you.

## Why is it important for pregnant women or women who are planning a pregnancy to be tested for HIV infection?

All women of childbearing age should be tested for HIV prior to pregnancy. If a woman is infected during pregnancy, she can pass the virus to the baby. HIV infection can be passed during pregnancy, during labor and delivery, and through breastfeeding. Without treatment, about 1 of every 4 babies born to women with HIV becomes infected. If women take HIV medicines before and during birth, and their babies are given these drugs after birth, HIV transmission is reduced from 25% to less than 2% (fewer than 2 cases per 100 births). The sooner a pregnant woman knows she has HIV infection, the sooner she can begin treatment to lower the risk of passing the virus to the baby and improve her own health. Doctors and healthcare providers must recommend testing and provide HIV counseling to pregnant women. In New York State, it is recommended that all pregnant women be tested for HIV infection during their first visit to a healthcare provider. Pregnant women who initially test negative should be tested again in the third trimester. By law, all newborns are tested for HIV infection.

## How are HIV and AIDS treated?

HIV infection and AIDS can be treated in several ways. Treatment should be handled by a doctor or healthcare practitioner.

### 1. Antiretroviral medications

These drugs can strengthen the immune system and reduce the amount of HIV infection in the blood. A combination of different drugs is usually taken, but it varies depending on the individual and his or her treatment history. The drugs often have side effects such as nausea, diarrhea, and fatigue. If a person does not take the drugs as a doctor has prescribed them, the drugs will stop working. This is called **drug resistance**. Antiretroviral drugs have become more effective in recent years and have helped people with HIV infection lead longer, healthier lives.

### 2. Preventive medications

These drugs can be taken to prevent immune system illnesses such as **pneumocystis jiroveci pneumonia** and **mycobacterium avium complex (MAC)**. People with HIV infection should start taking these drugs when their CD4 cell count is very low.

### 3. Treatment for AIDS-related illnesses

If HIV infection progresses and the immune system becomes very weak, the person may develop infections and cancers that can be treated with antibiotics and chemotherapy.

### 4. Healthy lifestyle practices

Good health habits can help people with HIV infection stay healthy while they also take antiretroviral medications. These habits include:

- Avoiding street drugs, tobacco, and alcohol.
- Eating healthy foods.
- Exercising without overdoing it.
- Getting enough sleep.
- Managing stress.

## Where can people with HIV infection or AIDS get medical care?

Anyone with HIV infection or AIDS should seek medical treatment. These are some options they have:

- Hospitals. There are facilities in New York State called Designated AIDS Centers (DACs) that provide special care and services.
- Community health centers.
- Private doctors' offices. Doctors can prescribe antiretroviral drugs. People with HIV infection or AIDS should try to see doctors called **HIV specialists** who have special training and knowledge.
- Day treatment programs.
- Home care programs.
- Skilled nursing facilities. These are nursing homes for people with HIV/AIDS who are very ill.

Other programs provide non-medical support, outreach, and educational services to people with HIV and AIDS, their families, partners, and others whose behaviors put them at risk for infection.

Services include:

- Informational hotlines.
- HIV prevention and risk reduction.
- Case management.
- Support groups.
- Short-term counseling.
- Help accessing other needed services.
- Help with civil rights and legal issues.

See pages 39-43 for contact information.

## How can people with HIV/AIDS pay for their medical care?

Most private insurers pay for medical treatment, but some have a maximum amount they will cover. Government programs (like Medicaid and Medicare) also pay for treatment for those who are eligible. People with HIV infection who are on Medicaid can be covered by HIV Special Needs Plans (SNPs), which provide special services and allow them to choose HIV specialists as their primary care doctors. SNPs are only available in the New York City area. The New York State Medicaid Program pays for drugs for people on Medicaid. Uninsured people with HIV infection can be covered by the HIV Uninsured Care Program: AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP), ADAP Plus, HIV Home Care Program, and ADAP Plus Insurance Continuation Program. For more information on these options, see page 39.

## Should a person who has HIV infection tell his or her partners?

No matter how a person got HIV infection, the right thing to do is to inform their partner(s). Even if the person they got it from didn't know, didn't tell them, or wasn't able to tell them, they can make sure their partner(s) are told. Informing their partner(s) will help them take care of themselves and may prevent many other people from getting HIV infection.

Partner Services is a free Health Department program that assists people with HIV infection by helping them plan the best way to notify their current or past sex and/or syringe sharing partner(s) that they may have been exposed to HIV infection or other STDs. When a person wants help in notifying their partner(s), a Partner Services Specialist can work with them to make a notification plan. The person shares information that will help locate their partner(s). The Partner Services Specialist then notifies their partner(s) that they should be tested for HIV infection, without telling them anything about the person. Partner Services Specialists are trained to protect partners' privacy. No names or personal identifying information, including the gender and the dates of sex or syringe sharing, are ever revealed. Partner Services can also help prepare the person, when he or she wants to tell a partner themselves.

Reasons to notify current or past partner(s):

- Helps stop the chain of HIV transmission.
- Gives present and past partners an opportunity their partner(s) might not have had.
- Partner(s) can get medical care sooner, if he or she tests positive for HIV infection.
- Relieves stress and guilt.
- Improves a partner's health.
- Makes the community a healthier place.

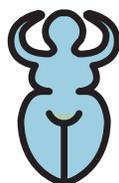
Your health care provider can help connect you to Partner Services. For more information, call the NYS AIDS Hotline at 1-800-541-AIDS (2437). For Spanish language, call 1-800-233-7432. In New York City, please contact (212) 693-1419.

## Are there laws that protect people with HIV or AIDS?

Yes. People who have HIV infection or AIDS or who are believed to be infected have the same rights as other citizens. They cannot be discriminated against by employers, landlords, neighbors, co-workers, health care providers, or health insurance companies. The New York State Division of Human Rights, Office of AIDS Discrimination Issues, investigates discrimination complaints. You do not need a lawyer to file a complaint and there is no fee. For more information, call **1-800-523-AIDS**.

New York State laws protect the confidentiality of people with HIV infection or AIDS. When a person tests positive for HIV infection, the agency that performed the test can only share the results with agencies authorized by state laws. The person who tests positive for HIV infection can also give permission for the test results to be shared with other healthcare providers. When the healthcare provider gets informed consent to perform the HIV test, the provider explains to the person the circumstances where they can release the test results to anyone else. The testing agency cannot inform landlords, employers, or unauthorized persons or agencies. In addition, the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Civil Rights, also investigates HIV discrimination complaints. Call the toll free hotline at **1-800-368-1019**.

For more information on HIV testing and other HIV-related services, see the Resources section for NYSDOH hotline numbers and a website address, page 39.



## Guidelines for educating faith community members about HIV infection or AIDS

HIV infection is spread through behaviors that people can change — like having unprotected sex and sharing syringes and drug injection equipment. The most effective way to stop the spread of HIV infection is to educate your members about ways they can reduce their risk of becoming infected.

The guidelines in this section have been developed to help leaders of faith communities plan and implement educational efforts to prevent new HIV infections.

### Content

The biology of HIV infection, the signs and symptoms of HIV infection and AIDS, and the social and economic costs of the disease can be good discussion topics. A single film, sermon, or group discussion can be an appropriate way to introduce the HIV/STD topic. To ensure that your members will fully understand how to protect themselves and will practice risk reducing behaviors, you will need to ensure ongoing dialogue takes place. Stay up-to-date on new findings about HIV infection and AIDS and share this information with your members.

Try to answer all their questions honestly. By doing this, you will make it clear to your members that you are available to talk about subjects that are not always comfortable, such as sex and drugs. If someone asks you a question that you cannot answer, call the New York State Department of Health toll-free HIV/AIDS hotline at **1-800-541-AIDS**.

The age at which members should receive specific information about HIV infection and AIDS will vary depending on the needs of your members and the larger community where they live. For example, in areas where HIV infection and AIDS are more common and many families have been affected by the epidemic, it may be best to give young children more age-appropriate detailed information. However, being comfortable with facts about HIV infection will better prepare members for teachable moments to discuss HIV-related issues.

People whose behavior increases their risk of HIV infection are also disproportionately at risk for STDs and viral hepatitis (hepatitis B and hepatitis C) due to similar modes of transmission. Thus, it's important to include this information in your disease prevention messages to reduce their risk of infection. Public health departments and faith communities share a common goal of advocating for vulnerable populations to improve the community's overall health and wellness. In addition to risk reduction information, health and prevention messages should also include the availability of resources, services, and activities in your community.

Some HIV prevention programs are directed only toward increasing knowledge. These efforts fail to address the attitudes, behaviors, and social skills that people need to reduce their risk of HIV infection and transmission. A truly comprehensive approach to HIV prevention is both affirming and empowering. This health promotion approach provides people with accurate and complete information about HIV infection and AIDS; helps people develop attitudes, beliefs, and behaviors that prevent the transmission of HIV infection; and endorses social support for people living with HIV infection, other STDs, or AIDS.

Instead of focusing on **high-risk groups**, health promotion focuses on **high-risk behaviors**. HIV infection and AIDS can affect anyone, regardless of race, religion, age, sexual orientation, or socioeconomic status. Prevention efforts should focus on reducing behaviors that expose people to HIV infection and other STDs. Prevention is most effective when it is incorporated into discussions and activities that encourage positive, responsible behaviors, and individual wellness.

HIV infection and AIDS health promotion programs in faith communities should assure that members of all ages acquire the knowledge and skills they will need to adopt and maintain behaviors that virtually eliminate their risk of becoming infected. Prevention programs should focus on reducing behaviors that expose people to HIV infection and other STDs. Such programs should:

- Provide complete and accurate information.
- Address the attitudes, behaviors, and social skills that people need to reduce their risk of infection and transmission of HIV and other STDs.
- Be positive and empowering.
- Include discussion and activities that encourage positive behaviors and individual wellness.
- Endorse and/or provide social support for people with HIV infection, other STDs, or AIDS.

People who are infected with HIV or other STDs or who have AIDS pose no threat to family members, friends, neighbors, faith community members, co-workers, or casual acquaintances. There is no reason to avoid or shun them. In fact, supportive and compassionate caring is most appropriate and needed.

Design programs and activities to encourage and support people who have not had sex and who have not shared syringes to:

- Abstain from sexual intercourse.
- Refrain from sharing syringes or drug injection equipment for any reason.

Persons who have had unprotected sex or who have shared syringes and drug injection equipment should be encouraged to:

- Stop having unprotected sex until they are ready to establish a mutually monogamous relationship with a person whose HIV status is known.
- Be faithful to their partner.
- Use male or female condoms (and other barriers such as dental dams).
- Stop sharing syringes and drug injection equipment.
- Be tested for HIV and STDs.
- Learn their partner's HIV status.

Persons who are married and who do not know their HIV status should be encouraged to:

- Learn their HIV status.
- Be faithful to their partner.

Your community may denounce drug use, extramarital sex, use of condoms, and various sexual practices. However, it is important to be prepared to counsel or make a referral to an HIV service organization for people who engage in behaviors that place them at risk for HIV/STD infection to help them reduce harm to themselves or eliminate their risk of infection.

Your advice might include the following:

- Avoid unprotected sexual contact with anyone who is known to be infected with HIV or STDs, who is at risk of being infected, or whose infection status is not known.
- When having sexual intercourse, use a male or a female condom with a lubricant that does not contain the spermicide nonoxynol-9.
- Use a dry, unlubricated condom for oral sex.
- Avoid unprotected anal intercourse, the riskiest form of sexual activity.
- Do not share syringes or other drug injection equipment.
- Seek treatment if you are addicted to drugs or alcohol.
- Seek HIV counseling and testing if you have engaged in risk-taking behaviors.

HIV or AIDS education can occur during various events or activities at your place of worship. You can discuss HIV or AIDS, including the impact of the epidemic on your community, and pray for persons impacted by HIV or AIDS:

- In sermons or during worship services.
- In an age-appropriate manner during studies or discussions of sacred texts, in Sunday school, and in religious or spiritual instruction/education classes.
- In adult education classes or in meetings of groups within your faith community.
- In individual counseling sessions.
- During pre-marital counseling.



## Responding to HIV and AIDS in Your Faith Community:

### Forming HIV congregational ministries

Traditionally, faith communities have been involved in social justice issues such as human rights, civil rights, war, poverty, hunger, and homelessness. HIV infection and AIDS is a very challenging topic to discuss because it means talking about uncomfortable topics, such as premarital or extramarital sex, same-gender loving relationships, sexual orientation (homosexuality and bisexuality), gender identity, and alcohol and substance use. Many faith communities forbid these activities or do not embrace persons who engage in them. The challenge for faith communities — and perhaps for you as a faith leader — is to break the silence and bridge the gap between theology (the teachings and ideals of your faith) and the reality of human behaviors.

Faith communities play a vital role in the comprehensive response to HIV infection and other STDs: educating people to avoid risk of exposure to HIV infection, providing physical and spiritual care and support to those infected and affected, and combating stigma and discrimination. Success will require partnering with community-based organizations and others to collectively educate the community and respond compassionately to better serve the physical, spiritual, and emotional needs of persons living with HIV infection and AIDS.

Communities of faith have responded differently to the HIV infection and AIDS epidemic. Although “some religious and spiritual leaders and their followers, early in the pandemic, condemned those living with HIV, many faith communities responded to the need to care and to educate the human family on ways to prevent the spread of HIV.”\* Some incorporated HIV into existing services or ministries, such as health and wellness, substance use, and prison work, without questioning how those seeking their help became infected with the virus. Others created CARE teams to provide social support to those who are infected and affected or partnered with community-based organizations to make HIV counseling and testing available to the community. Today, more and more faith communities are developing HIV congregational ministries.

\* A Faith-Based Response to HIV in Southern Africa: The Choose to Care Initiative. Geneva: Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), December 2006, p.5.

**The following are suggestions from faith leaders who have responded to the call, on the process of developing faith-based HIV ministries:**

## **Where to start?**

### **Inreach**

**Involve key leaders.** Educate your leadership about HIV and AIDS, depending on your denomination/tradition. This might include the elders, deacons, the council or decision-making body, and the type of response that is proposed. Discuss the topic with key leaders of your faith community because they may need to formally approve these types of programs. Key leaders can also help influence the members and overcome resistance.

### **Community outreach**

**Inform the entire community.** Tell the members of your congregation that its leaders have decided to address the issue of HIV and AIDS and develop an HIV and AIDS program. You might do this after deciding what the program will offer — or perhaps you want to survey the congregation first to get their input. Stress how important it is to maintain confidentiality.

**Decide what services to offer.** What are the needs and resources of your congregation? Are their needs being met by local social service providers? Identify these service providers and learn about their services. Establish partnerships with service providers to educate the members and make referrals for people who need additional services. If their policy allows them to work with faith communities, think about forming a joint program. Look into state or federal funding for faith-based initiatives if you decide to form your own program. Refer people to local community-based organizations when services are not available within your congregation.

**Develop your program's messages.** Establish a ministry of purpose that will focus on this issue. Consider these points in shaping the main messages of your HIV and AIDS program:

- Tailor the HIV and AIDS discussion to the teachings of your faith community.
- Think about discussing HIV and AIDS as a public health issue, rather than a disease that threatens the congregation.
- Educate faith community leaders and parents first. Then involve a youth group, if one exists. Keep it real with your congregation. Talk straight about sex and other issues, without abandoning your teachings.
- Be free from judgment, blaming, and shaming. Accept the individual unconditionally as a person.
- Invite and welcome people with HIV and AIDS and their families, or those affected by HIV and AIDS, to your faith community.
- Add HIV and AIDS to the congregation's policies on nondiscrimination in employment.



## Suggested Activities for Faith-Based HIV/AIDS Prevention

1. Add HIV prevention education to existing ministries: health, prison, substance use, visiting.
2. Sponsor an annual or semi-annual health fair that includes HIV testing.
3. Use quotations from sacred texts to create role-playing activities on topics such as dating and abstinence.
4. Create posters and bookmarks that promote sexual abstinence as “the way” of your faith and as the only 100% effective way to prevent the transmission of HIV.
5. Sponsor the attendance of your faith community leaders at an HIV and AIDS educational training session.
6. Set up a short course to help parents sharpen their skills for communicating with young people about sexuality, sex, and drugs.
7. Sponsor a youth retreat that provides opportunities to practice faith sharing, healthy eating, fitness, academic skills, making good decisions, and setting goals.
8. Sponsor “Pizza Party Saturdays” or other regular meals/gatherings for youth to encourage discussion of topics such as the “divine plan” for their lives.
9. Publish a list of spiritual support strategies for youth, adults, and senior citizens who want to practice sexual abstinence.
10. Start a sports program with a peer-mentoring component for HIV and substance abuse prevention.
11. Create an attractive brochure or other publication with quotations from sacred texts to encourage and comfort people with HIV and AIDS or people who are dealing with the disease.
12. Sponsor a poster contest with an HIV prevention theme.
13. Include “HIV/AIDS 101” lessons in faith instruction programs.
14. Display free HIV and AIDS or substance abuse information and resources in a central location.
15. Show films or discuss books that explore cultural patterns related to sex or drugs.
16. Create and perform an HIV prevention dance or play.
17. Talk one-on-one with youth and adults about ways to be close with their partners without having sex.



18. Create a liturgical drama related to HIV prevention.
19. Form a ministry to supply clothing, bedding, and toiletries to persons and families living with HIV and AIDS.
20. Sponsor a benefit concert or show and use the proceeds to support HIV prevention programs.
21. Reach out to people living with HIV and AIDS and to their families and friends through sermons, programs, bulletin articles. Let them know that the congregation will be supportive of and caring toward them.
22. Organize volunteers to work with HIV and AIDS service organizations. For example, congregation members can volunteer to cook and/or deliver meals to homebound people with HIV and AIDS.
23. Develop HIV and AIDS policies for the congregation.
24. Hold a service of comfort and hope for people living with HIV and AIDS or a memorial service for those who have died from AIDS. Publicize the event widely.
25. Open the congregation to local HIV and AIDS service organizations if they need space to hold training programs and support groups. Start an HIV and AIDS support group in the congregation.
26. Establish a support group for family members of people living with HIV and AIDS.
27. Encourage other congregations and faith-based organizations to address HIV and AIDS issues.
28. Create a CARE team or a buddy program that brings together congregation members and people living with HIV and AIDS.
29. Organize a visit by congregation members to HIV and AIDS patients in the local hospital or nursing home. Encourage members who are interested to visit regularly.
30. Create a “host” program to assist people from out of town who are visiting relatives or loved ones with HIV and AIDS. Prepare information about accommodations and transportation in your city, arrange home hospitality, and offer to accompany visitors to the hospital.

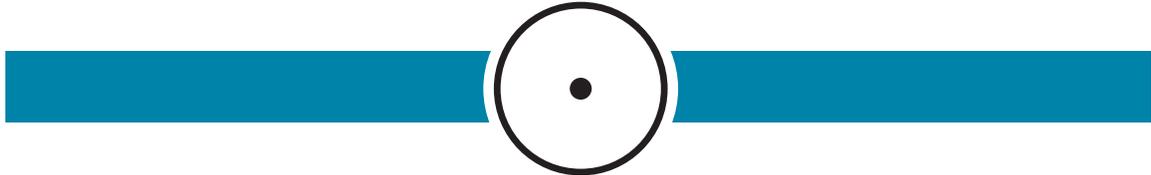
This material was adapted with permission from *20 Activities for Faith-based HIV and AIDS Prevention* (2001), published by the Interdenominational Theological Center (ITC), Atlanta, GA, and *Being A Blessing: 54 Ways You Can Help People Living with AIDS*, by Rabbi Harris Goldstein.



## National HIV and AIDS Observances

National HIV and AIDS observances are opportunities to educate, motivate, and increase community awareness about HIV and AIDS. Here are some observance days:

|   |                   |
|---|-------------------|
| National Black HIV Awareness Day                      | February 7        |
| Balm in Gilead's National Church                      |                   |
| Week of Prayer for the Healing of AIDS                | March, first week |
| National Women and Girls HIV Awareness Day            | March 10          |
| National Native HIV/AIDS Awareness Day                | March 20          |
| HIV Vaccine Awareness Day                             | May 18            |
| National Asian and Pacific Islander HIV Awareness Day | May 19            |
| National Caribbean-American HIV Awareness Day         | June 8            |
| National HIV Testing Day                              | June 27           |
| National HIV/AIDS & Aging Awareness Day               | September 18      |
| National Gay Men's HIV/AIDS Awareness Day             | September 27      |
| National Latino HIV Awareness Day                     | October 15        |
| World AIDS Day  | December 1        |



## Providing pastoral care\*

As you work with members of your faith communities who have HIV or AIDS, you will probably provide pastoral care: caring for people at home. Your services may be basic — like visiting people in their homes and counseling them — or you may become more involved and help them get health care. Rather than provide services yourself, you may want to form a team of volunteers and choose a person to coordinate the HIV ministry. The following points can help you and any volunteers help people with HIV or AIDS, their families, and their health care and social service providers.

### Provide fellowship

If the person you are visiting has just been diagnosed with HIV infection, he or she may react with fear, anger, or may feel isolated. The person may also react in these ways if his or her health gets worse or if he or she gets very sick from the disease.

**Accept the person's anger/frustration.** People may take out their anger and frustration on you because you are someone they trust and they know you will not turn away from them. They will have good and bad days — be extra patient on the bad days. They may even wish to be alone rather than have you visit.

**Accept your own frustration.** It's natural for you to feel frustrated, helpless, and sad. You can't provide all the answers. Share your thoughts and feelings with friends and colleagues and seek their support. Seek wisdom from the depth of your faith.

**Don't be judgmental.** Don't make judgments about how people became infected with HIV, their attitudes, and their day-to-day decisions, even if you disagree with them. Don't debate or take sides in personal or family problems. Help them make their own choices.

**Be a good listener.** Many people simply need someone to listen to them. Talking is good therapy.

**Be positive.** Be positive about the outside world. Talk about community affairs and current events in an upbeat manner.

**Be reliable.** Visit regularly and let the person know when you plan to visit. Don't offer to visit or help in ways that you cannot follow through on. That will only disappoint the person.

**Accept the divine plan.** Even people with strong faith can be set back by HIV and AIDS. Accepting the reality of being sick from HIV or AIDS is not the same as accepting defeat.

**Confidentiality is IMPORTANT.** Never share any information about the identity of a person with HIV infection or AIDS with your congregation, HIV ministry coordinator, and/ or volunteers unless you have written consent from that person. For more information about confidentiality law, call the New York State Department of Health Confidentiality Hotline at **1-800-962-5065**.

## Practical matters

It's easy to get involved in the daily lives of people who are ill, especially if they need help with their basic, daily living. Learn as much as you can about the support services in your area for people with HIV infection or AIDS: transportation, housing, housekeeping, personal care, medical services. Remember, you and your volunteers can't do everything. If you can arrange for someone with HIV infection or AIDS to get these other services, then you and your volunteers can focus on visiting and counseling the person.

**Plan trips or activities to get the person out of the house.** Schedule shopping trips or visits to the library, an upbeat movie, a public park, or a beach.

**Encourage the person to be with others.** Tell the person about support groups, services, and faith community events. Encourage the person to attend services, especially if he/she has been going on a regular basis.

**Be a part of special events, holidays.** If the person doesn't have anyone to be with, try to arrange for him/her to join a family or group to share a holiday. Or, offer to visit him/her at home on the holiday.

**Meals/visits.** Call and bring over a meal to share. It's a good way to provide company and nutrition. Bring a small gift — baked goods, books, flowers, or a positive written message.

**Transportation/shopping.** Make plans for providing transportation for shopping, doctor's appointments, errands, services, and visiting friends and family. Before visiting, call and ask if the person needs anything that you can buy and bring over. Ask for a shopping list.

**Household tasks.** Offer to wash clothes or dishes, water plants, do cooking, and other tasks. Ask if you can decorate or brighten up the room(s) where the person spends most of his/her time.

## Guidelines for safe visits

**Know the other caregivers.** By knowing friends, family members, and other caregivers, you can figure out your schedules together and provide better care.

**Be gentle.** Give a gentle touch or hug if that seems alright with the person. However, some people may not feel comfortable with physical contact. So, it is always a good idea to ask permission before touching a person.

**Stick to your services.** Provide the services you've agreed to. Don't do tasks that you don't know how to do or that may put the person in danger. For example, encourage the person to take all of his or her medications on time, but don't give out the medications or provide medical advice. Avoid "hands-on" help or personal care (bathing, toileting) unless you have been trained and/or certified to do them.

**Don't pass germs.** If you have a cold, the flu, chicken pox, or tuberculosis, change your schedule so that you don't visit the person until you are healthy. A person with HIV infection or AIDS has a weak immune system, and these health problems could make him/her much more ill.

**Auto insurance.** If you are driving the person in your car, check with your insurance company to make sure you are covered.

**Know emergency numbers.** Get phone numbers of family members and service providers for emergencies.

\* Some material from this section was adapted with permission from *Pastor's Guidebook for HIV/AIDS Ministry Through the Church*, California Department of Health Services, Office of AIDS, revised 2004.



## Age-Appropriate HIV/AIDS Education

### Children ages 5 to 8 years

This age is not too early to give facts that will help children know how HIV and AIDS work. Kids this age can learn the basic idea that germs cause illness. If you teach children the basics about how to stop sickness and how to make good choices to stay healthy, it will help them understand HIV/AIDS when they are older. Because people die of AIDS, be ready to talk about death and dying. It may help to talk about someone they know who has died from any cause.

#### Healthy habits

- Wash your hands to prevent the spread of germs.
- Cover your mouth when you cough or sneeze.
- Keep cuts and scrapes clean.
- If you are bleeding, find an adult you know and trust who can help.

#### HIV is hard to get and share

- HIV is a virus (germ) that causes AIDS. HIV gets from one person's blood into another person's blood and makes that person sick.
- HIV is not in everyone's blood.
- You cannot get HIV by reading, playing, talking, hugging, kissing, or eating with someone who has the virus.
- Do not touch blood. If you find syringes or sharp objects, stay away from them. Getting shots from a doctor or nurse is okay. **Do not trade blood** as blood brothers or blood sisters.
- Do not be afraid if you meet someone with HIV or AIDS. Treat that person the same way you want to be treated when you are sick — with caring and kindness. People do not get HIV infection or AIDS because they are bad.

## Children ages 9 to 12 years

Children in this age group begin learning more about HIV or AIDS at school, from television and movies, or from the internet. If they have the wrong facts about HIV and how it is spread, you can help them get the right facts.

### Talking with kids about sex and drugs

At this age, children's bodies and feelings change fast. They often feel very self-aware or awkward about their bodies. They may be more curious about sex and want to express their feelings about sex. They also may want to try alcohol and drugs.

Some children in the fourth or fifth grades may not have learned about sex and drugs. Ideally, it is the parent's responsibility to explain the basics of sexuality to their children. Some parents may feel that this is too young an age to discuss sexuality. However, you can still tell them that people get HIV by having sex and by sharing syringes and drug equipment.

Kids in this age group also feel a lot of **peer pressure** — pressure from friends and other kids their age to try new things that can hurt them (like smoking, drinking, or sex). They make fun of or bully other kids who don't take chances and make them feel "uncool" for not taking chances. Let children know that **real** friends will not pressure them or make fun of them for playing it safe. Encourage them to talk with adults they trust — their parents, teachers, older relatives, or you as a faith group leader — if they feel unhappy or threatened by peer pressure.

### HIV/AIDS basics for older children

- **Review the basics about getting HIV infection and how to prevent it** — avoid alcohol or other drugs, sex, and sharing syringes and other drug equipment.
- **If you talk about sex and drugs**, tell them it is better to wait until they are adults to have sex and to make sex part of an adult, loving relationship. **Optional:** People who do have sex should always use a condom. Having any kind of sex (vaginal, oral, or anal) without a condom is a risk for getting HIV infection and STDs.
- **Abstinence** is the only way to stay 100% safe from HIV infection and STDs.
- **Using alcohol or drugs** makes it harder to make good choices — like not having sex.
- **Do not trade blood** in **blood brothers** or **blood sisters** games.
- **Do not share syringes for any reason:** even to inject insulin (for diabetes), steroids, or vitamins or for tattooing or body piercing.

## Teenagers ages 13 to 19 years

Teens have strong personal values and make good choices every day to stay away from risky behaviors such as using alcohol and drugs and having unprotected sex. However, exploring boundaries and engaging in risky behaviors is, and always has been, a part of growing up. Young people look to caring adults for information and guidance. Adults need to be prepared to provide accurate information and support to help young people reduce their risk for HIV infection and other sexually transmitted diseases (and unintended pregnancy, too).

In addition to talking to teens about their risks and how to avoid negative risk-taking behavior, it is also important to talk to young people about their strengths and the positive assets in their lives. Building on young people's strengths and providing them with opportunities to create positive relationships with parents, caring adults, schools, institutions of faith, and the community at large has a powerful effect of protecting young people from experiencing negative behaviors and outcomes.

### HIV/STD basics for teens:

At the end of calendar year 2008, there were 4,601 young people (ages 13-24) living with HIV/AIDS in NYS. Also, during 2008, a total of 69,772 cases of STDs (chlamydia, gonorrhea, and early syphilis) were reported among young people (ages 15-24) in NYS. This number represents 63% of the total cases reported in the State even though young people ages 15-24 represent only 14% of the total State population. Moreover, HIV and STDs impact young people of color disproportionately. It is therefore important to provide guidance to young people as they develop and explore relationships with others. Help them to understand how to have healthy relationships and learn responsible ways to reduce harm to themselves and others. Talk to them about what they know about reducing their risk for HIV infection and STDs. The information below will help you have a complete conversation with a teenager about how he or she can reduce the risk for HIV infection and STDs:

**Abstinence is the only sure way to prevent the spread of HIV.** You cannot say it too often — the best way to protect yourself from HIV infection and STDs is not to have any kind of sex (vaginal, oral, or anal) and not to share syringes.

**Use a condom.** Use a male condom or a female condom the right way each time you have sex. Other forms of birth control — such as the pill, Norplant, the diaphragm, or Depo-Provera — **do not** protect you from HIV infection or other STDs.

**Be faithful to your partner.** If you choose to become involved in a relationship, talk to your partner about protecting each other in a monogamous relationship.

**Do not use alcohol and other drugs.** When you are under the influence of alcohol or drugs, it's harder to say "no" to having sex — or to use a condom if you do have sex.

**Never share syringes to inject anything.** This is harder to remember when you are drunk or high. Body piercing or tattooing syringes can also have blood with HIV or viral hepatitis. Find a piercing or tattoo artist who uses only new, clean syringes and safe tools.

**Teens, dating, and sex:** You may hear teens talk about going out with friends instead of dating. Or, you may hear them talk about **hooking up** or having **friends with benefits**. Adolescents and teens use these terms to refer to having casual sex — often oral sex — outside of relationships. These terms may not mean anything to you, but they have special meaning for young people. Learn what these terms mean and know what teens are doing. Tell teens that it is always okay to say “no” to sex. They may think that “everyone’s doing it.” Let them know that this is just not true.

## Parents

Parents are a special group of adults. They are not only responsible for their own health, but also for helping their children learn how to protect themselves from disease and illness. To fully meet this responsibility, parents must be prepared to talk with their children about sex and sexuality, in general, and HIV infection or AIDS in particular.

Dealing with their children’s sexuality makes many parents feel uncomfortable. Many parents never talked about sex with their own parents or they remember how uncomfortable their parents were with the “big talk.” Others may feel that they don’t know enough about sex and sexuality or that they have nothing to add to what children learn from television, movies, and books.

Most parents don’t realize, however, that even if they never say a word about sex, they are constantly teaching their children how they feel about it. Within the context of day-to-day life, children learn how their parents feel about such things as touching, privacy, nudity, and relationships. But, think about how much simpler things would be if parents came right out and taught their sexual values to their children!

### Parents should be encouraged to:

1. Think carefully about what they want their children to know and why.
2. Use their personal faith values and cultural beliefs for guidance.
3. Gather all the facts.
4. Look for teachable moments to discuss sexual issues. (For example, a television show or newspaper article can be a trigger for discussion.)
5. Ask what their children already know about sexual issues and HIV/AIDS and STDs.
6. Identify and correct any myths or misunderstandings.
7. Discuss sexual matters generally, without prying into children’s personal lives.
8. Share personal feelings about caring and love, about ideals and values — and how they relate to sex.
9. Collect books and other printed materials about sexuality for children to read on their own. Read the material carefully first to be sure that the information is acceptable and age-appropriate. Answer all questions as simply and honestly as possible.
10. Admit when they don’t know the answers, and look for answers WITH the child.

## HIV and AIDS Myth-Fact Quiz

Place a T in front of the statements that are true and an F in front of the statements that are false.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ People can get AIDS by being in the same room with a person with AIDS.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ There is a shot (vaccine) that will prevent AIDS.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ AIDS is passed from one person to another by sneezing.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ You can tell someone has HIV or AIDS by what they look like.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ People can get AIDS from sharing a soda.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ AIDS is caused by a virus.
7. \_\_\_\_\_ HIV affects the body's ability to fight infection.

Answers:

1. False
2. False
3. False
4. False
5. False
6. True
7. True



## Suggested Group Activities

### Children ages 4 - 8

#### Group Discussion

**Tell the children the following story:**

Children in a school find out that a classmate, Tina, has HIV, the virus that causes AIDS. But she is not sick with AIDS. Some children begin to tease Tina and refuse to play with her or sit next to her.

Divide the children into three groups. Ask one group to answer the question, “How does Tina feel?” Ask the second group to answer the question, “What can Tina do?” Ask the third group to answer the question, “How can other children help Tina?”

**Discuss the responses:**

1. Help the children appreciate how Tina might feel.
2. Focus on people who children can turn to for help when they need it — parents, teachers, neighbors, pastors, doctors, police officers.

### Children ages 9 - 12

#### Identifying risk-taking behaviors and their consequences

**Discuss “risks” with the children.**

Note that there are “positive risks” and “negative risks.” A positive risk — such as trying out for the basketball team or cheerleading squad — can have a good result that improves a person’s life. A negative risk — like deciding to try smoking cigarettes — can have a harmful result that can impair or endanger someone’s life.

**Ask the children to identify whether the following risks are positive risks or negative risks and discuss what their results (“consequences”) could be:**

1. Tasha decides to continue spending time with friends who use drugs.
2. Darnell skips school at least one day a week and hangs out with older kids.
3. Julio’s friends all smoke cigarettes and offer them to him, but he decides not to start smoking.
4. Jack’s parents are out of town. He decides to have a party and asks an older friend to bring beer.
5. Ernesto’s friend Tyrone has the virus that causes AIDS. Ernesto’s other friends tell him that they will not hang out with him if he continues to be friends with Tyrone. Ernesto decides to continue to be friends with Tyrone. He tells his other friends that they have no right to demand that he stop seeing Tyrone.
6. Tom and Cathy have gone out together for a year. Tom has started using drugs. Cathy tells him that he must choose between her and drugs.

## HIV and AIDS Myth-Fact Quiz

Put a T in front of each statement that is true and an F in front of each statement that is false.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ HIV is transmitted by hugging and kissing.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ AIDS is hard to get.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ People can look and feel healthy and still transmit HIV.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ People who shoot drugs and share syringes can get HIV.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ There is a vaccine to prevent AIDS.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ Women can transmit HIV.
7. \_\_\_\_\_ Everyone who engages in sexual intercourse is at risk for AIDS if an infected partner is involved.
8. \_\_\_\_\_ Everyone infected with HIV has developed AIDS.
9. \_\_\_\_\_ A person can get HIV from giving blood.
10. \_\_\_\_\_ There are state toll-free hotlines that provide AIDS information.

Answers:

1. False
2. True
3. True
4. True
5. False
6. True
7. True
8. False
9. False
10. True

## Preteens and Teens

### Group Discussion Exercises

The following four exercises are designed to place HIV or AIDS in contexts that can be readily accepted by pre-teens and serve as triggers for discussing HIV or AIDS risks, transmission, and prevention. Each exercise consists of a series of situations and issues for group discussion. Guidance is provided to the group leader to ensure that any confusion or misunderstandings about HIV/AIDS are addressed.

#### I. A day at school

**Situation 1: You've just learned that a new student in your class has AIDS.**

**Issue: Should kids with AIDS be allowed in school?**

Guidance: AIDS is not like a cold or flu. The virus that causes AIDS can only be spread through direct contact with blood or other body fluids. And, even then, it would have to enter your bloodstream through an opening in the skin, like a cut. There's very little chance of this happening in school.

---

**Situation 2: The new student wants to be friends with you.**

**Issue: Should you be friends with him/her?**

Guidance: People who have AIDS need people to be friendly and treat them like everyone else. The new student is probably scared and needs friends more than ever. You have the right to choose your own friends, and there's no risk in being friends with a person who has AIDS.

---

**Situation 3: In gym class, your teacher tells you that you will have to share your locker with the new student.**

**Issue: Is it safe to share a locker with him/her?**

Guidance: You can't get HIV from things that have been touched or worn by someone with HIV or from his/her sweat or tears. It's safe to share a locker with him/her.

---

**Situation 4: When you go to the cafeteria for lunch, you find that the new student has saved you a seat and got your milk and silverware for you.**

**Issue: He/she touched your knife, fork, spoon, and milk carton. Can you get AIDS?**

Guidance: HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, is not spread in the air or in food or water. It cannot be passed on dishes, silverware, or water fountains. It is safe for you to use these items.

---

**Situation 5: During lunch, your friends talk about getting together after school to pierce each other's ears.**

**Issue: Should you let your friends pierce your ears?**

Guidance: A lot of infections, including HIV infection and viral hepatitis, can be spread in blood and certain other body fluids. Some blood can remain on the syringes when the ear is pierced. If the same syringe is used by a number of people, infections can be spread. If you want your ears pierced, go to a business with people who have been trained to do it properly and safely.

## II. On the street

**Situation 1:** You and a group of friends are hanging out at the corner. An older guy you all know comes along and offers you marijuana.

**Issue:** You're curious about what it would be like to smoke pot. Should you try it?

Guidance: All drugs can affect the way you think and act. When you're high, you tend to take chances and do things you normally wouldn't do — things that could put you at risk for infection with HIV, the virus that causes AIDS. Also, marijuana can have lasting, harmful effects on your mind and body.

---

**Situation 2:** The older guy then offers you some pills. He has both “uppers” and “downers.”

**Issue:** Doctors give out pills all the time. Should you take pills?

Guidance: Pills can be dangerous. That's why only doctors can write prescriptions. They know which drug will help a person with a health problem. Pills can affect the way you think and act. They can be addictive. They can even kill you, especially if you mix them with alcohol or other drugs.

---

**Situation 3:** The older guy wants to know if you want to try cocaine (coke) or crack.

**Issue:** Should you try cocaine or crack, just once?

Guidance: Cocaine (coke) is one of the strongest drugs. It affects the way you think and act and can make you lose control entirely. Crack, which is made from cocaine, is even stronger. People can become addicted to them very quickly, and they both can kill you.

---

**Situation 4:** The older guy even has heroin, as well as the syringe and equipment needed to shoot it into a vein.

**Issue:** Do you want to shoot heroin?

Guidance: Heroin, like coke and crack, is a very dangerous drug. It's addictive and can even kill you. If you use a syringe and equipment that has been used by someone who has HIV, you could get it too.

### Follow-up

**Issue:** Even if you use drugs, you won't get HIV unless you share syringes or equipment. Right?

Guidance: Anytime you get high on drugs, there's a greater chance that you'll do something, like have unprotected sex, which could put you in danger of becoming infected with HIV. Additionally, sharing syringes or equipment with someone who is HIV positive or whose status is unknown to you poses a risk of HIV transmission.

### III. At a Party

**Situation 1:** You and all your friends are at a party. There's lots of food and good music. Everybody is having fun. A guy you know from school comes in. He has beer and offers you some.

**Issue:** Adults drink alcohol. Do you want some?

Guidance: Alcohol is a drug. It can be addictive and can affect your ability to make good decisions. This is as true for beer as it is for wine and hard liquor. When you drink, it becomes harder to tell right from wrong, and you could do something dangerous.

---

**Situation 2:** One of the girls at the party has been drinking and making out with the guy all evening. He asks her to go for a ride with him.

**Issue:** Should she go for a ride with him?

Guidance: Never ride with someone who's been drinking or using drugs. A driver who is drunk or high on drugs will often be careless or take chances that a sober driver knows are dangerous.

---

**Situation 3:** You've also heard that the guy does drugs and sleeps around a lot.

**Issue:** Is she in danger if they have sex?

Guidance: The virus that causes AIDS is spread during sex, and the chances of getting the virus are much higher if one or both people have had unprotected sex with other people or ever shared needles or works to shoot drugs. Besides HIV/ AIDS, there are many other serious infections that can be spread during sex. Gonorrhea can affect a woman's ability to have children and syphilis can cause brain damage and death. And, there's always a chance that the girl could get pregnant.

---

**Situation 4:** Some people say that she can only get HIV if he's gay.

**Issue:** Can she get HIV even if he's not gay?

Guidance: You don't have to be gay to get HIV. HIV affects men and women, young people, and adults. Anyone can get HIV by sharing syringes or equipment to shoot drugs or by having sex with an HIV-infected person, no matter how he or she was infected. The more people you or your partner have had sex with, the greater the risk of becoming infected with HIV.

---

**Situation 5:** But he looks healthy and he says he doesn't have HIV or AIDS.

**Issue:** If he looks healthy, and says he doesn't have HIV or AIDS, she's safe. Right?

Guidance: You can't tell just by looking at a person whether he or she has HIV or AIDS. It takes a special blood test to determine if someone is infected. Also, people don't always know if they've been infected. It usually takes 7 to 10 years before a person with the virus starts to feel or look sick. Or, he may just be lying.

---

**Situation 6:** If a girl has unprotected sex with this boy, becomes infected with HIV, and gets pregnant, then the baby could have the virus, too.

**Issue:** Can a baby get HIV from a pregnant woman who is HIV infected?

Guidance: A pregnant woman shares body fluids with the baby both before and during birth. So, if she has HIV, the baby can get it, too. This could happen even after the baby is born, if she breastfeeds the baby.

## Teens or Adults

### HIV and AIDS Myth-Fact Quiz

Place a T in front of each statement that is true or an F in front of each statement that is false.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Due to the ways HIV is transmitted, it is unlikely that HIV can be transmitted by sitting next to someone.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ Abstinence from sexual intercourse is the surest way to prevent transmission of HIV.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ People who look and feel healthy can still transmit HIV.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ People who shoot drugs and share their syringes can get HIV.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ There is a vaccine to prevent AIDS.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ Women cannot transmit HIV.
7. \_\_\_\_\_ Everyone who engages in sexual intercourse can be at risk for AIDS.
8. \_\_\_\_\_ Everyone infected with HIV has developed AIDS.
9. \_\_\_\_\_ A person can get AIDS by giving blood.
10. \_\_\_\_\_ AIDS itself usually does not kill a person.
11. \_\_\_\_\_ Most children with HIV got it from an infected woman.
12. \_\_\_\_\_ A person who is concerned about being infected can be tested for HIV.

Answers:

1. True
2. True
3. True
4. True
5. False
6. False
7. False
8. False
9. False
10. True
11. True
12. True



### HIV/AIDS Vocabulary List

**Abstinence:** Not having any sex or taking any alcohol or drugs.

**Addiction:** Habitual use of a substance, particularly a drug, and an inability to stop the physical and psychological craving for the substance.

**Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS):** A severe disorder of the immune system caused by a retrovirus that makes a person more prone to opportunistic infections and to certain cancers.

**AIDS:** Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome.

**Antibodies:** A protein that is produced in the blood to fight certain types of infection and which makes the body immune to certain disease-producing organisms.

**Antiretroviral therapy:** Antiretroviral drugs are medications for the treatment of infection by retroviruses, primarily HIV. When several such drugs, typically three or four, are taken in combination, the approach is known as **highly active antiretroviral therapy**, or **HAART**.

**Casual contact:** The usual daily interaction between people at work, school, church, or during social activities.

**Communicable disease:** A disease that is transmitted directly or indirectly from one person to another.

**Condom:** There are male condoms and female condoms. The male condom is a sheath used to cover the penis during sexual intercourse to prevent the transmission of semen, blood, or vaginal fluids and to protect against sexually transmitted diseases and HIV. There are natural skin condoms or **latex condoms**. Latex condoms are best for preventing HIV/STD transmission. Natural skin condoms have pores and do not protect against HIV transmission. The female condom is a sheath placed inside the vagina prior to sexual intercourse. Female condoms are made of polyurethane and protect against HIV transmission.

**Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV):** The retrovirus that causes AIDS. It attacks the body's immune system, making people vulnerable to opportunistic infections and to certain cancers that can be fatal.

**Illicit drugs:** Drugs that are illegal or that are not obtained through legal means or used for legitimate medical purposes.

**Kaposi's Sarcoma:** A cancer or tumor of the skin. It usually appears as blue-violet to brownish skin blotches or bumps.

## HIV/AIDS Vocabulary List

**Lymphocyte:** A type of white blood cell that is produced in lymph nodes. Some lymphocytes are called B-cells and produce antibodies. Other lymphocytes are T-cells that regulate the production of antibodies.

**Opportunistic infection:** An infection caused by a virus or bacteria that rarely causes disease in a person who has a normal immune system.

**Pneumocystis jiroveci pneumonia:** Formerly called **pneumocystis carinii**, it is the most common, life-threatening opportunistic infection found in AIDS patients.

**Protease inhibitors:** Drugs that slow the progression of HIV disease.

**Risk behavior:** Any activity that makes a person more likely to be exposed to HIV, the virus that causes AIDS.

**Semen:** The thick, whitish fluid that is produced by the penis during sexual activity.

**Sexual intercourse:** Physical sexual contact between individuals that involves the stimulation of the genitals of at least one of the individuals. This includes vaginal, oral, and anal intercourse.

**Sexually transmitted diseases (STDs):** Sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) are infectious diseases that are usually spread through vaginal or anal intercourse, and sometimes by oral sex. HIV is a type of STD. Most STDs can be treated, but if they are left untreated, can cause permanent physical damage. Having an STD can also increase your chances of getting HIV.

**Spermicide:** A chemical that kills sperm.

**Syringes, equipment:** Devices used to prepare and inject drugs directly into a vein and into the bloodstream.

**T-cells:** Lymphocytes that play a major role in the immune system by regulating the production of antibodies. In healthy people, about 60 percent of lymphocytes are T-cells. In people who have AIDS, only about 2 percent of lymphocytes are T-cells. With fewer T-cells, the body is unable to recognize and attack invading infections and disease.

**Transmission:** The passing of an infectious agent (a virus or bacteria) from one person to another.

**Vaccine:** A “shot” that people, particularly young children, get to help protect them from infection or disease.

**Vaginal secretions:** Fluids within the vagina.

**Viral hepatitis:** Viral hepatitis is an infection that can cause liver disease; the three most common types are hepatitis A, hepatitis B, and hepatitis C. There is a vaccine to prevent hepatitis A and B. Hepatitis C can be treated with medications, but there is no vaccine for it.



## HIV and AIDS Resources

### General information, services, and hotline numbers in New York State

#### New York State Department of Health

[www.nyhealth.gov/aids/index.htm](http://www.nyhealth.gov/aids/index.htm)

Website features general information on HIV/AIDS, HIV counseling and testing, Medicaid managed care for people living with HIV/AIDS, uninsured care programs, and training. Numerous consumer publications can be downloaded or ordered in bulk.

#### NYS HIV/AIDS Hotline (general information)

(800) 541-AIDS (2437) English; (800) 233-SIDA (7432) Spanish

#### Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

(800) 232- 4636 (CDC INFO)

TTY: (888) 232-6348 (CDC INFO)

#### HIV Counseling Hotline

(800) 872-2777 - Monday-Friday, 4 pm - 8 pm; Saturday-Sunday, 10 am - 4 pm

#### AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP)

(800) 542-AIDS (2437) English; (800) 233-SIDA (7432) Spanish

#### AIDS in Prison Project

Call collect (718) 378-7022

#### New York State Condom (NYSCondom) Program

[www.nyhealth.gov/diseases/aids/facts/condoms/nyscondom](http://www.nyhealth.gov/diseases/aids/facts/condoms/nyscondom)

#### New York State Viral Hepatitis Hotline

(800) 522-5006

[www.health.state.ny.us/diseases/communicable/hepatitis/index.htm](http://www.health.state.ny.us/diseases/communicable/hepatitis/index.htm)

### New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

#### (800) TALK-HIV (825-5448) (within NYC only)

Information and resources on HIV/AIDS and other health topics in NYC.

Or call 311 (from NYC only)

[www.nyc.gov/html/doh/html/ah/ah.shtml](http://www.nyc.gov/html/doh/html/ah/ah.shtml)

#### NYC Condom Program

Call 311 (within NYC only)

[www.nyc.gov/condoms](http://www.nyc.gov/condoms)

### National Hotline

#### Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

(800) 232-4636 (CDC INFO);

TTY: (888) 232-6348 (CDC INFO)

(800) 448-0440 (AIDS info);

TTY: (888) 480-3739

#### National Prevention Information Network (NPIN)

(800) 458-5231 (M-F, 9 am – 6 pm EST)

#### National STD Hotline

(800) 448-0440

[www.findstdtest.org](http://www.findstdtest.org)

## Local support and assistance in New York City and New York State

### NEW YORK CITY

#### Bronx

Albert Einstein College of Medicine  
Pediatric and Pregnancy AIDS  
(English/Spanish referrals)  
(800) 636-6683; [www.montefiore.org](http://www.montefiore.org)

Bronx AIDS Services (BAS)  
(718) 295-5605  
[www.basnyc.org](http://www.basnyc.org)

United Bronx Parents (UBP)  
(718) 991-7100  
[www.ubpinc.org](http://www.ubpinc.org)

VIP Community Services, Inc.  
(718) 583-5315  
[www.vipservices.org](http://www.vipservices.org)

#### Brooklyn

Brooklyn AIDS Task Force (BATF)  
(718) 596-3635  
[www.batf.net](http://www.batf.net)

Caribbean Women's Health Association  
(CWAHA)  
(718) 826-2942  
[www.cwha.org](http://www.cwha.org)

Community Health Care Network  
(718) 778-0198  
[www.chnny.org](http://www.chnny.org)

Family Services Network of New York  
(718) 455-6010

Gay Men of African Descent (GMAD)  
(718) 222-6300  
[www.gmad.org](http://www.gmad.org)

Haitian Center's Council, Inc.  
(718) 940-2200  
[www.hccinc.org](http://www.hccinc.org)

Housing Works  
(347) 473-7400  
[www.housingworks.org](http://www.housingworks.org)

Turning Point Transitional Housing  
(Discipleship Outreach Ministries, Inc.)  
(718) 439-0077  
[www.tpdomi.org](http://www.tpdomi.org)

#### Manhattan

AIDS Service Center of New York City  
(ASCNYC)  
(212) 645-0875  
[www.ascnyc.org](http://www.ascnyc.org)

Alianza Dominicana, Inc.  
(212) 740-1960  
[www.alianzadom.org](http://www.alianzadom.org)

American Indian Community House, Inc.  
New York City  
(212) 598-0100  
[www.aich.org](http://www.aich.org)

Asian and Pacific Islander Coalition on HIV/  
AIDS, Inc. (APICHA)  
(212) 334-7940  
[www.apicha.org](http://www.apicha.org)

Callen-Lorde Community Health Project  
(212) 271-7200  
[www.chp-health.org](http://www.chp-health.org)

Gay Men's Health Crisis (GMHC)  
(212) 807-6655  
[www.gmhc.org](http://www.gmhc.org)

Harlem Dowling West Side Center for Children  
& Family Services  
(212) 749-3656  
[www.harlemdowling.org](http://www.harlemdowling.org)

Harlem United Community AIDS Center  
(212) 803-2850  
[www.harlemunited.org](http://www.harlemunited.org)

Hemophilia Association  
(212) 682-5510  
[www.hemophilia-newyork.org](http://www.hemophilia-newyork.org)

Hispanic AIDS Forum  
(212) 563-4500  
[www.hafnyc.org](http://www.hafnyc.org)

Latino Commission on AIDS (LCOA)  
(212) 675-3288  
[www.latinoaids.org](http://www.latinoaids.org)

National Black Leadership Commission  
on AIDS (NBLCA)  
(212) 614-0023  
[www.nblca.org](http://www.nblca.org)

## Local support and assistance in New York City and New York State

### Manhattan

New York City AIDS Hotline  
(800) TALK-HIV (825-5448) (NYC only)

Safe Space  
(212) 226-3536  
[www.safespaceny.org](http://www.safespaceny.org)

Settlement Health and Medical Services  
(212) 360-2600  
[www.settlementhealth.org](http://www.settlementhealth.org)

### Queens

AIDS Center of Queens County, Inc. (ACQC)  
(718) 896-2500  
[www.acqc.org](http://www.acqc.org)

Clergy United for Community  
Empowerment, Inc.  
(718) 297-0720  
[www.cucegroup.org](http://www.cucegroup.org)

### Staten Island

Community Health Action of Staten Island  
(718) 808-1300  
[www.sihealthaction.org](http://www.sihealthaction.org)

### UPSTATE NEW YORK

#### Central Region

AIDS Community Resources Inc.  
Syracuse & Utica  
(315) 475-2430  
[www.aidscommunityresources.com](http://www.aidscommunityresources.com)

American Indian Community House, Inc.  
Syracuse  
(315) 470-0200  
[www.aich.org](http://www.aich.org)

Syracuse Model Neighborhood Facilities  
(FACES)  
(315) 474-6823  
[www.swccsyr.org](http://www.swccsyr.org)

#### Hudson Valley Region

AIDS Related Community Services (ARCS)  
(Mid-Hudson Valley)  
(800) 992-1442; (914) 345-8888  
[www.arcs.org](http://www.arcs.org)

The Sharing Community, Inc.  
Yonkers  
(914) 963-2626  
[www.thesharingcommunity.org](http://www.thesharingcommunity.org)

Urban League of Westchester County, Inc.  
Mount Vernon  
(914) 667-1010  
[www.ulwc.org](http://www.ulwc.org)

### Long Island Region

Economic Opportunity Council of Suffolk  
County, Inc  
(631) 968-8000  
[www.eoc-suffolk.com](http://www.eoc-suffolk.com)

Five Towns Community Center  
Nassau County  
(516) 239-6244  
[www.fivetownscommunityctr.org](http://www.fivetownscommunityctr.org)

Long Island Association for AIDS Care, Inc.  
(LIAAC)  
Nassau & Suffolk County  
(877)-865-4222  
[www.liaac.org](http://www.liaac.org)

Long Island Minority AIDS Coalition (LIMAC)  
Suffolk County  
(631) 225-5500  
[www.limacny.org](http://www.limacny.org)

### Northeastern Region

AIDS Council of Northeastern NY, Albany  
(518) 434-4686  
[www.aidscouncil.org](http://www.aidscouncil.org)

Capital District African American Coalition on  
AIDS (CDAACA), Albany  
(518) 427-2957  
[www.cdaaca.org](http://www.cdaaca.org)

Central Civico of Amsterdam, Inc. , Amsterdam  
(518) 842-3762  
[www.centrocivico.org](http://www.centrocivico.org)

Damien Center, Albany  
(518) 449-7119  
[www.albanydamiencenter.org](http://www.albanydamiencenter.org)

## Local support and assistance in New York City and New York State

### Northeastern Region

Damien Center, Schenectady  
(518) 374-0848  
(518) 374-2683  
www.sicm.us

Damien Center, Troy  
(518) 274-5920

Whitney M. Young Jr. Health Center, Albany  
(518) 463-6824  
www.wmyhealth.org

### Rochester Region

Action for a Better Community, Inc. (ABC)  
(585) 325-5116  
www.abcinfo.org

AIDS Care, Inc  
(585) 545-7200  
www.aidsrochester.org

### Southern Tier Region

Southern Tier AIDS Program, Binghamton  
(607) 723-6520 or (800) 333-0892  
www.stapinc.org

### Western Region

AIDS Community Services of Western  
New York, Buffalo  
(716) 847-0212

www.aidscommunityservices.com

AIDS Family Services of Buffalo  
(716) 881-4612

www.aidsfamilyservices.com

Erie County Medical Center (ECMC)  
(716) 898-3000

Group Ministries, Inc.  
Buffalo  
(716) 883-4367

To find a more comprehensive list of community-based organizations or community health centers in your area listed by region/area, please refer to the AIDS Institute's Regional Directory of HIV/AIDS Service Programs: [www.health.state.ny.us/diseases/aids/resources/resource\\_directory/docs/resource\\_directory.pdf](http://www.health.state.ny.us/diseases/aids/resources/resource_directory/docs/resource_directory.pdf)

## Ryan White HIV Care Network

The AIDS Institute Ryan White Part B Networks are local associations of health care providers, community-based organizations, community leaders, and persons both infected and affected by HIV or AIDS. The mission of the Ryan White Part B HIV Care Networks is to promote a coordinated community-based response that results in improved access to care and supportive services for those infected with HIV or AIDS. The Networks develop regional service plans and provide advice to the AIDS Institute on regional service needs.

For a listing of the Ryan White HIV Care Network Coordinators in your region, please check the NYSDOH website: [nyhealth.gov/diseases/aids/workgroups/ryan\\_white\\_network\\_coordinators.htm](http://nyhealth.gov/diseases/aids/workgroups/ryan_white_network_coordinators.htm)

## Anonymous HIV Counseling and Testing Programs

|              |                |                |
|--------------|----------------|----------------|
| Albany       | (518) 458-6727 | (800) 962-5065 |
| Buffalo      | (716) 847-4520 | (800) 962-5064 |
| Lower Hudson | (800) 828-0064 |                |
| Nassau       | (516) 565-4628 | (800) 462-6785 |
| New Rochelle | (914) 632-3443 | (800) 828-0064 |
| Rochester    | (585) 423-8081 | (800) 962-5063 |
| Syracuse     | (315) 426-7760 | (800) 562-9423 |
| Brooklyn     | (718) 638-2074 | (800) 462-6788 |
| Queens       | (646) 262-9100 | (800) 462-6787 |
| Suffolk      | (631) 962-2083 | (800) 462-6786 |

## National AIDS Hotlines

**800-342-AIDS (English); 800-344-SIDA (Spanish); 800-243-7889 (Hearing Impaired)**

These hotlines are operated by the American Social Health Association with funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. They operate 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

## National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) Hotline

800-662-HELP

This is a drug abuse treatment and referral hotline.



## National Networks and Organizations

### **Americans for a Sound AIDS/HIV Policy**

Children's AIDS Fund  
P.O. Box 16433  
Washington, DC 20041  
(703) 433-1560

### **American Baptist Churches in the USA**

P.O. Box 851  
Valley Forge, PA 19482-0851  
(610) 768-2000; (800) 222-3872

### **American Red Cross**

AIDS Education Office  
8111 Gatehouse Road  
Falls Church, VA 22042  
(703) 206-6000

### **Ark of Refuge**

1025 Howard Street  
San Francisco, CA 94103  
(415) 861-5382  
[www.arkofrefuge.org](http://www.arkofrefuge.org)

### **Balm in Gilead, Inc.**

701 East Franklin Street, Suite 1000  
Richmond, VA 23219  
(888) 225-6243 or (804) 644-BALM (2256)

### **Buddhist AIDS Network**

15 Washington Place, Apt. 4E  
New York, NY 10003  
(212) 674-0832

### **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)**

Division of HIV/AIDS Prevention  
Technical Information and  
Communications Branch  
Mailstop E-49  
Atlanta, GA 30333  
(404) 639-2072

### **Central Conference of American Rabbis**

355 Lexington Avenue, 18th floor  
New York, NY 10017  
(212) 972-3636

### **Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

Division for Social Ministry Organizations  
8765 West Higgins Road  
Chicago, IL 60631  
(800) 638-3522, ext. 2710  
[www.elca.org](http://www.elca.org)

### **The Foundations for AIDS Research (AmFAR)**

120 Wall St., 13th floor  
New York, NY 10005  
(212) 806-1600

### **Health Ministries USA**

100 Witherspoon Street  
Louisville, KY 40202  
1-888-728-7228  
[www.pcusa.org](http://www.pcusa.org)

### **HIV/AIDS Ministry - Seventh Day Adventist**

12501 Old Columbia Turnpike  
Silver Spring, MD 20904-6600  
(301) 680-6000  
[www.adventist.org](http://www.adventist.org)

### **Lutheran Services of America**

700 Light Street  
Baltimore, MD 21230-3850  
(800) 664-3848  
(410) 230-2710 (fax)  
[www.lutheranservices.org](http://www.lutheranservices.org)

## National networks and organizations

### **Metropolitan Interdenominational Church Technical Assistance Network (MICTAN)**

2128 11th Avenue North  
Nashville, TN 37208  
(615) 321-9791, ext. 1761  
[www.metropolitanfrc.com](http://www.metropolitanfrc.com)

### **NAMES Project Foundation**

101 Krog Street  
Atlanta, GA 30307  
(404) 688-5500  
[www.aidsquilt.org](http://www.aidsquilt.org)

### **National Association of HIV Over Fifty**

29 Miner Street  
Boston, MA 02215  
(617) 233-7107  
[www.hivoverfifty.org](http://www.hivoverfifty.org)

### **National Episcopal AIDS Coalition (NEAC)**

520 Clinton Ave.  
Brooklyn, NY 11238-2211  
(800) 588-6628  
[www.neac.org](http://www.neac.org)

### **National Institute on Aging**

P.O. Box 8057  
Gaithersburg, MD 20898-8057  
(800) 222-2225, (800) 222-4225 (TTY)  
[www.nia.nih.gov](http://www.nia.nih.gov)

### **National Minority AIDS Council**

1931 13th Street, NY  
Washington, DC 20009  
(202) 483-6622  
[www.nmac.org](http://www.nmac.org)

### **National Native American AIDS Prevention Center**

720 South Colorado Blvd., Suite 650-S  
Denver, CO 80246  
(720) 382-2244  
[www.naapc.org](http://www.naapc.org)

### **National Association of People With AIDS**

8401 Colesville Road, Suite 505  
Silver Springs, MD 20910  
(240) 247-0880 (866) 846-9366  
[www.napwa.org](http://www.napwa.org)

### **Presbyterian Health, Education and Welfare Association**

**Presbyterian AIDS Network**  
100 Witherspoon Street, Rm 4617  
Louisville, KY 40202  
888.728-7228x5800  
[www.pcusa.org/phewa](http://www.pcusa.org/phewa)

### **Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice Black Church Initiative**

1413 14th Fl. K Street  
Washington, DC 20005  
(202) 628-7700  
[www.rcrc.org](http://www.rcrc.org)

### **Southern Baptist Convention**

Religious Liberty Commission  
901 Commerce, Suite 550  
Nashville, TN 37203-3699  
(615) 244-2355  
[www.sbc.net](http://www.sbc.net)

### **Union for Reform Judaism Congregational Support**

(formerly Union of American Hebrew  
Congregations)  
475 Riverside Dr., Suite 740  
New York, NY 10015  
(212) 870-2900  
[www.urj.org](http://www.urj.org)

### **United Church of Christ**

Wider Church Ministries  
700 Prospect Avenue  
Cleveland, OH 44115  
(216) 736-2100 (3217)  
[www.ucc.org](http://www.ucc.org)

## National networks and organizations

### **United Methodist Committee on Relief**

(UMCOR Health)  
Health and Welfare Ministries  
475 Riverside Drive, 15th Floor  
New York, NY 10115  
(212) 870-3871  
[www.gbgm-umc.org](http://www.gbgm-umc.org)

### **United Methodist Seminars on National and International Affairs**

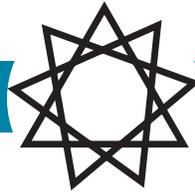
United Methodist Office of the United Nations  
(UMOUN)  
777 United Nations Plaza, 11th floor  
New York, NY 10017  
(212) 682-3633

### **Unitarian Universalist Association AIDS Resources Program**

25 Beacon Street  
Boston, MA 02108  
(617) 742-2100, ext. 451  
[www.uua.org](http://www.uua.org)

### **Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches**

4953 Franklin Avenue  
Los Angeles, CA 90027  
(323) 669-3434  
[www.mccla.org](http://www.mccla.org)



## National Technical Assistance Providers

### **American Association for World Health**

[www.aawhworldhealth.org](http://www.aawhworldhealth.org)

Develops and distributes easy-to-use healthcare educational materials for use by grassroots leaders who can most effectively reach U.S. citizens at the local level.

### **Balm in Gilead, Inc.**

[www.balmingilead.org](http://www.balmingilead.org)

A not-for-profit, non-governmental group that builds the capacity of faith-based communities to provide AIDS education and support networks.

### **Bailey House**

[www.baileyhouse.org](http://www.baileyhouse.org)

Bailey House's Technical Assistance and Program Evaluation (TAPE) department offers support to HIV/AIDS service providers, community organizations, and people with AIDS to improve the availability and effectiveness of HIV/AIDS services.

### **Children's AIDS Fund**

[www.childrensaidsfund.org](http://www.childrensaidsfund.org)

Helps individuals and families understand and deal with HIV/AIDS by providing current news, research, and resources.

### **Faith in Action**

[www.fianationalnetwork.org](http://www.fianationalnetwork.org)

A national program of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation that awards grants to local groups of volunteers representing many faiths, who work together to help those in need.

### **Latino Commission on AIDS**

[www.latinoaids.org](http://www.latinoaids.org)

A nonprofit membership organization that improves and expands AIDS services in the Latino community.

### **Metropolitan Interdenominational Church Technical Assistance Network (MICTAN)**

[www.metropolitanfrc.com](http://www.metropolitanfrc.com)

The MICTAN, funded directly by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to provide free capacity-building assistance, is a clergy-led program that builds the capacity of faith organizations and other service providers. It seeks to develop partnerships to help African Americans access and use HIV/AIDS prevention services.

### **National Black Leadership Commission on AIDS (NBLCA)**

[www.nblca.org](http://www.nblca.org)

The National Black Leadership Commission on AIDS Capacity Building Assistance (CBA) Program is funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to deliver CBA to African-American leaders, CDC-funded community-based organizations, and other community stakeholders. This is an extensive hands-on approach, requiring consistent contact with participants on the local level with ongoing monitoring and technical assistance services.

### **National Minority AIDS Council**

[www.nmac.org](http://www.nmac.org)

The National Minority AIDS Council is a national organization dedicated to addressing the challenges of HIV/AIDS in communities of color.

### **TGCI : The Grantsmanship Center**

[www.tgci.com](http://www.tgci.com)

Offers grantsmanship training and low-cost publications to nonprofit organizations and government agencies.

### **Unitarian Universalist Association**

[www.uua.org](http://www.uua.org)

Represents the interests of more than 1,000 congregations nationwide.

## Web-based resources for developing HIV prevention services in faith communities

### **Baptist AIDS Partnership of North Carolina**

[www.bapnc.org](http://www.bapnc.org)

Ministry that educates churches and individuals to increase interest and involvement with HIV/AIDS issues.

### **Catholic Agency for Overseas Development (CAFOD)**

[www.cafod.org.uk/about\\_cafod/what\\_we\\_do/hiv\\_and\\_aids](http://www.cafod.org.uk/about_cafod/what_we_do/hiv_and_aids)

CAFOD promotes long-term development, responds to emergencies, raises public awareness of the causes of poverty, speaks out on behalf of poor communities, and promotes social justice in developing countries.

### **Catholic Charities**

#### **(National Catholic AIDS Network)**

[www.ncan.org](http://www.ncan.org)

[www.catholiccharitiesusa.org](http://www.catholiccharitiesusa.org)

Catholic Charities encourages people to help themselves by learning to advocate for their rights. Catholic Charities USA is a membership organization based in Alexandria, Virginia. By providing leadership, technical assistance, training, and other resources, the national office enables local agencies to better devote their own resources to serving their communities. Catholic Charities USA promotes innovative strategies that address human needs and social injustices.

### **Catholic for Choice**

[www.catholicsforchoice.org](http://www.catholicsforchoice.org)

Catholics for Choice (CFC) is a nongovernmental organization with special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations. CFC shapes and advances sexual and reproductive ethics that are based on justice, reflect a commitment to women's well-being, and respect and affirm the moral capacity of women and men to make sound decisions about their lives. Through discourse, education and advocacy, CFC works in the United States and internationally to infuse these values into public policy, community life, feminist analysis and Catholic social thinking and teaching.

### **CDC National Prevention Information Network (NPIN)**

[www.cdcpin.org](http://www.cdcpin.org)

The U.S. reference, referral, and distribution service for information on HIV/AIDS, STDs, and tuberculosis.

### **Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance**

[www.e-alliance.ch](http://www.e-alliance.ch)

The Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance (EAA) is a new and broadly ecumenical network for international cooperation in advocacy on HIV/AIDS and global trade. It provides excellent resources for churches and church leaders looking to respond to the AIDS pandemic.

### **Healing Begins Here Ministry**

[www.healingbeginshere.org](http://www.healingbeginshere.org)

A California-based group of African-American church leaders throughout California that has partnered with the California Department of Health Services, Office of AIDS, to form the Statewide HIV/AIDS Church Outreach Advisory Board.

## Web-based resources for developing HIV prevention services in faith communities

### **Interdenominational Theological Center**

[www.itc.edu/](http://www.itc.edu/)

A Christian, ecumenical, graduate professional school of theology that educates women and men who serve the African-American church and the world community.

### **Jewish Family and Community Service**

[www.juf.org](http://www.juf.org)

A family service agency that provides mental health, and family social work services to Chicago's Jewish community and others.

### **Ministerial and Spiritual Responses to AIDS: Communities Preparing for the Year 2000**

A report sponsored by the Harvard AIDS Institute, Divinity School and AIDS Ministries.

### **National Black Catholic Congress**

[www.nbccongress.org](http://www.nbccongress.org)

The National Black Catholic Congress represents African-American Roman Catholics, working in collaboration with national Roman Catholic organizations. They commit themselves to establishing an agenda for the evangelization of African Americans and improving the spiritual, mental, and physical conditions of African Americans, thereby committing themselves to the freedom and growth of African Americans as full participants in church and society. HIV and AIDS is one of the eight Core Principles of the Congress.

### **National Catholic Council for Hispanic Ministry (NCCHM)**

[www.ncchm.org](http://www.ncchm.org)

The National Catholic Council for Hispanic Ministry is a proactive agent of a National Pastoral de Conjunto. The council supports its members' common advocacy, education, and networking. NCCHM promotes this pastoral de conjunto through its annual membership meeting, training symposia, national leadership congresses, and vehicles of communication, as well as a formal linkage to the United States Catholic Conference (USCCB). The NCCHM is the only organization of its kind in the United States. It is comprised of 56 Catholic national and regional ministerial and professional organizations, institutions, apostolic movements and religious congregations of men and women.

### **National Episcopal AIDS Coalition**

[www.neac.org](http://www.neac.org)

Works collaboratively for an effective HIV/AIDS ministry in the Episcopal Church.

### **National Muslim AIDS Initiative**

[www.angelfire.com/az/azizpage/nmai.html](http://www.angelfire.com/az/azizpage/nmai.html)

National effort to target American Muslims, including immigrants, on the HIV/AIDS issues.

### **Pride in the Pulpit**

[www.prideagenda.org](http://www.prideagenda.org)

A network of congregations and leaders of faith throughout New York State who advocate for equality and justice for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) New Yorkers and their families.

### **Presbyterian AIDS Network**

[www.pcusa.org/phewa/pan.htm](http://www.pcusa.org/phewa/pan.htm)

Promotes healing and restoration of faith to communities of people living with HIV/AIDS.

## Web-based resources for developing HIV prevention services in faith communities

### **Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism**

[www.rac.org](http://www.rac.org)

Educates and mobilizes the American Jewish community on legislative and social concerns as an advocate in the U.S. Congress.

### **Seventh-Day Adventist News Network**

[www.adventist.org](http://www.adventist.org)

ANN World News Bulletin is a review of news and information issued by the Seventh-Day Adventist Church World Headquarters and released as part of the service of Adventist News Network.

### **South Bronx Ecumenical AIDS Ministry**

[www.mapc.com/sections/mission/aidmin.htm](http://www.mapc.com/sections/mission/aidmin.htm)

A collaborative effort of three South Bronx congregations in AIDS prevention.

### **Southeastern Conference of Catholic AIDS Ministers (SECCAM)**

[www.atlantaaidsministry.org](http://www.atlantaaidsministry.org)

Formed in 2007 to respond to the growing need for a Catholic-based response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic in the southeast United States. SECCAM seeks to address the root causes of HIV infections in the region, develop support ministries, reduce healthcare disparities, reduce stigma and discrimination, and respond to the crisis with compassion and mercy.

### **Union of Black Episcopalians**

[www.ube.org](http://www.ube.org)

A group that seeks to eliminate racism from within the Episcopal Church and from society.

### **United Church of Christ**

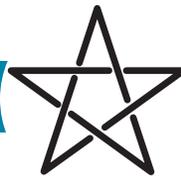
[www.ucc.org](http://www.ucc.org)

A union of several different Christian traditions that believes that Christians do not always have to agree to live together in communion.

### **United Methodist Church, General Board of Global Ministries, Health and Welfare**

[www.gb-gm-umc.org/health](http://www.gb-gm-umc.org/health)

Helps United Methodists to become involved globally in health and welfare ministries.



## Annotated Bibliography

### Print Materials

These materials offer detailed information on specific HIV/AIDS-related topics, from a variety of religious and spiritual perspectives, and may be particularly relevant to your faith community.

***A Christian Response to AIDS.*** This booklet encourages a nonjudgemental, Christian response to people with AIDS, while helping dispel the myths, prejudice, and stigma associated with the AIDS Crisis. Demonstrates how this is an opportunity to offer spiritual hope to people with AIDS, their families, and caregivers. 16 pages. Channing Bete Co. One Community Place, South Deerfield, MA 01373. 1-800-477-4776. [www.faithguides.com](http://www.faithguides.com)

***A Faith-Based Response to HIV in Southern Africa: The Choose to Care Initiative, UNAIDS Best Practice Collection.*** December 2006.

This material describes the work of the Choose to Care Initiative of the Catholic Church in Southern Africa. It shows that scaling up programs in response to HIV and working toward making universal access to healthcare a reality does not necessarily require the expansion of a single, central service. UNAIDS, 20 Avenue Appia, CH-1211 Geneva 27, Switzerland. [www.unaids.org](http://www.unaids.org).

***A Guide to HIV/AIDS Pastoral Counseling.*** 87 pp.

The World Council of Churches held one international and three regional consultations designed to produce an ecumenical response to the HIV/AIDS crisis. Based on those meetings, in 1990 a group of counselors from five continents, assisted by World Health Organization (WHO) material and staff, produced this guidebook. The guide is available in English and French versions. Available from Churches' Action for Health, World Council of Churches 150, route de Ferney 1211, Geneva 2, Switzerland.

***Activities for Individuals and Churches Developing HIV/AIDS Ministries.*** 4 pp., 1994.

This fact sheet provides suggestions for organizations that are developing AIDS ministries. It encourages persons to lead their church in joining with other concerned congregations and individuals.

Available from the General Board of Global Ministries, United Methodist Church, Health and Welfare Ministries, 3rd Floor, New York, NY 10115. (212) 870-3600.

***Affirming Persons — Saving Lives: HIV/AIDS Prevention Curriculum.*** 1993.

A free, comprehensive HIV/AIDS curriculum developed by the United Church of Christ. It contains age-appropriate HIV/AIDS prevention materials, from pre-school age to adult. Available from the United Church of Christ Board for Homeland Ministries, 700 Prospect Ave., Cleveland, OH 44115-1100. (800-537-3394).

***AIDS & Ethics.*** 131 pp., 1991. F.G. Reamer, ed. ISBN:0-231-07359-3. This collection of essays addresses the ethical issues created by the AIDS epidemic.

Available from Columbia University Press, 61 W. 62nd St., New York, NY 10023. (800) 944-8648. Pietermaritzburg, South Africa: Cluster Publications.

## Print Materials

***AIDS: A Covenant to Care.*** 9 pp., 1990. This paper invites congregations of the Methodist Church to develop Covenant to Care statements, making a commitment to welcoming persons with HIV/AIDS from their communities. This paper also outlines components of pastoral counseling and patient support that churches might adopt.

Available from the General Board of Global Ministries, United Methodist Church, Health and Welfare Ministries Program Department, 475 Riverside Drive, New York, NY 10115. (212) 870-3600. Focus Paper number 6.

***AIDS: A Manual for Pastoral Care.*** 1987. Ronald Sutherland. Philadelphia, PA: Westminster Press. Reviews the medical aspects of AIDS, describes how pastors and chaplains can minister to persons with AIDS and their families, and discusses ethical issues.

***AIDS and the African-American Church: An AIDS Education and Training Guide for African-American Church Religious Leaders and Ministers.*** 86 pp., 1991.

This teaching guide provides religious leaders and ministers with tips and strategies on how to conduct AIDS education in the community. Six modules cover different areas of the AIDS epidemic, beginning with the role of the church.

Available from Jackson State University, National Alumni AIDS Prevention Project, PO Box 18890, Jackson, MS 39217-0154. (601) 979-2281.

***AIDS and the Church.*** 1987. Earl E. Shelp and Ronald Sutherland. Philadelphia, PA: Westminster Press. Stressing Jesus Christ's unconditional compassion for the sick, suffering, and poor, this guidebook offers a succinct overview of the medical/psychosocial dimensions of AIDS and urges church communities to reach out to persons with AIDS and their loved ones through caring ministries.

***AIDS and the Church: The Second Decade.*** 238 pp., 1992. This monograph provides a Biblical and theological analysis of the HIV/AIDS epidemic, proposing that the epidemic is a call to respond compassionately to everyone touched by the illness.

Available from: Westminster/John Knox Press, 100 Witherspoon, Louisville, KY 40202; (800) 227-2872; ISBN: 0664252-028

***AIDS, Ethics, & Religion: Embracing a World of Suffering.*** 1994. Kenneth R. Overberg, ed. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books. Carefully selected articles and essays by people on the front lines treating HIV/AIDS — doctors, pastoral ministers, scientists, and specialists — who clearly state the challenges and emphasize the requirements for medical, social, and religious ministry.

***AIDS and the Muslim Communities: A Personal View of AIDS and the Muslim Communities — Challenging the Myths.*** Two leaflets are available in English, Gujrati, Urdu, Arabic, Farsi, Bengali, and Turkish.

Available from The Naz Project, Palingswick House, 241 King Street, London W6 9LP, United Kingdom; +11-020-8741-1879.

***AIDS and the Sleeping Church.*** 1995. Patricia L. Hoffman. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans. Confronted by her own feelings of helplessness in the face of aging and ill health, Patricia Hoffman, a longtime activist and writer on justice issues, felt drawn to spend time with AIDS patients. This book is the personal journal she kept when she visited patients at Daniel Freeman Marina Hospital in Los Angeles.

## Print Materials

***AIDS Issues: Confronting the Challenges.*** 1989. David G. Hallman, ed. New York: Pilgrim Press. The material was drawn from the proceedings of an international consultation of 150 theologians, social ethicists, persons with AIDS, healthcare professionals, and others. It discusses the social consequences of AIDS, illness and health, and sexuality, and seeks to develop a caring theological response to the AIDS crisis and to promote education and guidance for ministering to PWAs.

***AIDS Pastoral Care: An Introductory Guide.*** 96 pp., 1990. This book familiarizes caregivers with pastoral care techniques for a prospective AIDS ministry. Suggested readings are included. Available from ARC Research Company, 11595 State Road 70, Grantsburg, WI 54840. ISBN: 0-9633183-1-8.

***AIDS, the Spiritual Dilemma.*** 1987. John E. Fortunato. San Francisco, CA: Harper & Row. This book explores the religious implications of AIDS, especially among gay men, within an Episcopal context — including the opportunities it offers for spiritual growth for patients and their families and friends.

***AIDS: We Care.*** The B'nai B'rith Commission on Community Volunteer Services, 1640 Rhode Island Ave. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036. This publication explains how the Jewish tradition contains rich resources — education, caring and compassion, and respect for human life — that can be applied to the challenges presented by the HIV/AIDS crisis.

***All God's Children.*** 20pp., 2009. Melany Burrill. 20 pp. A new guide to teaching young children about sexual orientation and gender diversity. All God's Children will help parents, teachers, clergy, and other caring adults find the right words, model openness and respect, and convey affirming messages. Order All God's Children and our other books online at: [www.gleo.org](http://www.gleo.org).

***And God Loves Each One: A Resource for Dialogue About Sexual Orientation.*** 2004 (2nd ed.) Ann Thompson Cook. 20 pp. Also available in Spanish. This is the second edition of a booklet published by Dumbarton United Methodist Church in 1988 on their process of inquiry and dialogue about whether to publicly welcome lesbian and gay people into the full life of their church. The booklet shares the richness of their experience, bringing together for other people of faith the information and perspective that were important to their dialogue on sexual orientation — heterosexual, gay, lesbian, and bisexual. Dumbarton United Methodist Church, 3133 Dumbarton Street, NW, Washington, DC 20007. [www.godloveseachone.org](http://www.godloveseachone.org)

***Assisting Hispanic Community-Based Organizations to Understand and Work Effectively with the Religious Community.*** 8 pp., 1993. Collaboration between Hispanic community-based organizations (CBOs) and the religious community to expose a larger audience to HIV education and prevention efforts. Available from National Council of La Raza, 1111 19th St. NW, Suite 1000, Washington, DC 20036; (202) 785-1670.

## Print Materials

***Being a Blessing: 54 Things You Can Do to Help People Living with AIDS*** by Rabbi Goldstein, from Alef Design Group. 1-800-845-0662. This simple book summarizes the understanding and the actions needed to live up to the best of our intentions in confronting AIDS. Rabbi Goldstein addresses the educational, religious, and political aspects of AIDS and provides basic information on how to be a moral person in the face of the epidemic.

***Called to Compassion and Responsibility: A Response to the HIV/AIDS Crisis.*** 1990. Washington, D.C.: United States Catholic Conference. This is the official response of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops to the HIV/AIDS crisis. It reiterates the obligation of Catholics to care for people with HIV/AIDS without discrimination. It states that abstinence is the sole mode of protection against HIV and criticizes safe sex as contrary to the ideals of true human sexuality. ISBN: 1-55586-327-2. [www.uscb.org](http://www.uscb.org)

***Choose Life So That You May Live: A Jewish Family HIV/AIDS Educational Experience.*** 90 pp., 1993. This is the leader's manual for a three-session AIDS education workshop for the Jewish community. The three sessions of the workshop are: learning about AIDS, learning about risk reduction, and communicating with children and adolescents. Available from the Michigan Jewish AIDS Coalition, 30161 Southfield Road, Southfield, MI 48076-2399; (248) 594-6522.

***Choose Life: Taking Action to Be Fully Alive With HIV/AIDS.*** 10 pp., 1994. This brochure discusses the importance of living positively with HIV/AIDS and suggests activities to nurture religious faith and maintain self-esteem. Available from the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches, 8704 Santa Monica Blvd., West Hollywood, CA 90029; (310) 360-8640.

***Church, AIDS, and Stigma.*** 2003. Gilliam Patterson. Geneva, Switzerland: Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance. CORE Initiative, 888 17th St. NW, Suite 310, Washington, DC 20006; E-mail: [info@coreinitiative.org](mailto:info@coreinitiative.org).

***Church Leadership & HIV/AIDS: The New Commitment.*** 2003. This discussion paper from the Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance addresses the HIV/AIDS pandemic and the challenge it represents for church leaders. The paper discusses topics such as "A new commitment," "Saving lives, saving souls," "Silence and stigma: the biggest enemies," "Chastity or common sense?" "Church leadership and national strategy," and "Training and theological formation." Gilliam Patterson. Geneva, Switzerland: Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance. CORE Initiative, 888 17th St. NW, Suite 310, Washington, DC 20006; E-mail: [info@coreinitiative.org](mailto:info@coreinitiative.org).

***Congregation-Based Care Teams: A Guide and Resource Manual for Practical Support and Pastoral Care of Persons with HIV/AIDS.*** 149 pp., 1992. This manual enhances and supplements the Care Team training program of the Regional AIDS Interfaith Network (RAIN), which provides pastoral counseling and patient support related to AIDS. Available from HIV/AIDS Ministry - Catholic Charities, 1000 Howard Ave., Suite 1200, New Orleans, LA 70113; (504) 523-3755.

***Creating Compassion: Activities for Understanding HIV/AIDS.*** 175 pp., 1994. This guide presents activities designed to enable people of all ages, especially children, to learn about HIV/AIDS. These activities are geared for use by teachers in Christian education programs and in public, private, and parochial settings. Available from [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com).

## Print Materials

***Episcopal Guide to TAP.*** 184 pp., 1994. This manual provides guidelines for implementing a Teen for AIDS Prevention (TAP) peer education program customized for Episcopal use. Available from Episcopal Church Center, Education for Mission and Ministry Youth Ministries Office, 815 Second Ave., New York, NY 10017; (800) 903-5544.

***For Those We Love: A Spiritual Perspective on AIDS.*** 121 pp., 1991. This monograph provides advice on religious and spiritual means of coping with HIV/AIDS. This composite of reflections from people who are living with HIV is intended to share the fear, hope, grief, and other psychological factors associated with AIDS. Available from [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com).

***Gender Identity & Our Faith Communities: A congregational guide for transgender advocacy.*** Rev. Chris Glaser, ed. Human Rights Campaign Foundation. Religion and Faith Program. A curriculum to empower participants with knowledge, purpose, and skills to transform their congregations and communities into welcoming environments which not only support but advocate for the rights of transgender people. Religion & Faith Program. Human Rights Campaign. 1640 Rhode Island Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20036. [www.hrc.org/documents/gender-identify](http://www.hrc.org/documents/gender-identify). (800) 777-4723.

***God in AIDS?: A Theological Inquiry.*** 1996. Ronald Nicolson. London: SCM Press. Ronald Nicolson considers the implications of AIDS for theology, writing from Africa where the disease is rampant.

***Healing Begins Here: A Pastor's Guidebook for HIV/AIDS Ministry through the Church.*** 2004. Los Angeles: California Department of Health Services, Office of AIDS. [www.arkofrefuge.org/](http://www.arkofrefuge.org/) A step-by-step resource designed specifically for pastors and bishops, with accurate information about HIV/AIDS, its pervasiveness in African-American communities, and its prevention. The pastor guidebook was created so that church leaders can address HIV/AIDS prevention in a Christian context and heighten the awareness of HIV/AIDS within their congregations.

***HIV Prevention: A Global Theological Conversation,*** Gillian Paterson, ed. Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance. 2009. 168 pages. Available in English, French, and Spanish. Thirty-five leading Christian theologians and practitioners, including people living with HIV, from five continents and a wide range of different traditions come together to promote understanding, support areas of theological "common ground," and propose a range of practical measures available to churches, their leaders, and their members. Part One in the book focuses on the "common ground." Part Two recognizes the need to maintain deeply held convictions and consists of essays by distinguished individuals. Part Three contains recommendations for action, plus a comprehensive list of resources. The book can be downloaded or single print copies can be ordered for free at: [www.ealliance.ch/en/s/hiv aids/publications/theological-conversation](http://www.ealliance.ch/en/s/hiv aids/publications/theological-conversation).

## Print Materials

***Josie's Story.*** 21 pp., 1993. This coloring book tells the story of Josie, whose mother is infected with HIV. Intended to be used by children whose parents have HIV/AIDS, this coloring book should be used with the guidance of a parent, social worker, or other caring adult.

Available from the Metropolitan Community Church of New York, 446 W. 36th St., New York, NY 10018; (212) 629-7440.

***Learning About AIDS: A Manual for Pastors and Teachers.*** 32 pp. This manual is available from Churches' Action for Health, World Council of Churches, 150, route de Ferney, Geneva, Switzerland. The booklet provides teachers, pastors, and youth leaders with relevant information about HIV/AIDS. The manual provides basic facts about the disease and ideas on how to pass on that information to others. It also gives some guidelines on counseling and supporting people living with HIV/AIDS and their families.

***Living with AIDS: One Christian's Struggle.*** 69 pp., 1990. In this collection of pieces originally written for a United Methodist Church newsletter, Terry Boyd tells of his inward struggles with his Christian faith and his fear of death following his diagnosis of AIDS.

Available from CSS Publishing Company, Inc., 517 S. Main St., Lima, OH 45804; (419) 222-4455.

***Loving Men: Gay Partners, Spirituality, and AIDS.*** 1998. Richard P. Hardy. New York: Continuum. This book contains interviews with 30 men who cared for partners with AIDS. All of them recognize — from both a humanist and religious perspective — that there is a deep spiritual component in the act of caring. The interviewees generally agree that their lives have been deepened through two components of all faiths: the act of service and unconditional love.

***Made in God's Image: A Resource for Dialogue About the Church and Gender Difference.*** 2003. Ann Thompson Cook. 24 pages. A booklet created by Dumbarton United Methodist Church to share their perspective and journey to explicitly welcome gay, lesbian, and bisexual people and their families. Dumbarton United Methodist Church. 3133 Dumbarton Street, NW, Washington, DC 20007

***Many Threads, One Weave, 2000 & 2003.*** This manual reflects the input and combined expertise of the leading HIV/AIDS care providers in the Catholic Church. This complete manual, a collaborative project of the National Catholic AIDS Network and Catholic Charities USA, contains the latest medical, social, psychological and spiritual information on the HIV/AIDS pandemic, gathered from leading Catholic experts in the field of HIV/AIDS care. It includes medical information, such as how HIV disease is (and is not) transmitted; strategies and information for educating parishoners and allaying needless fears; and step-by-step instructions for organizing an HIV/AIDS ministry in your local parish. The manual is packaged in a practical 3-ring binder that lets you easily create and distribute hand-outs and insert updated materials as they are produced. National Catholic AIDS Network. 10 E Pearson St, 4th Floor, Chicago, IL 60611-2052, info@ncan.org. (312) 915-7790.

## Print Materials

***Meditations for HIV and AIDS Ministries.*** 63 pp., 1993. This monograph presents meditations written by persons affected by HIV, selected for personal and community use. Available from the general Board of Global Ministries, United Methodist Church, UMCORE, 475 Riverside Dr., 15th Floor, New York, NY 10115; (212) 870-3871.

A photocopy of this material is available from the CDC Prevention Network Document Delivery Service, PO. Box 6003, Rockville, MD 20849-6003; (800) 458-5231.

***Ministry to Persons with AIDS: A Family Systems Approach.*** 1991. Robert J. Perelli. Minneapolis, MN: Augsburg. The book focuses on the AIDS crisis in the male homosexual community, but the counseling strategies can be used for all individuals. Perelli urges the Christian churches to have compassion for gay men even though the Bible and Christianity decry homosexuality. Discussion topics include the emotional stresses of AIDS, system of psychosocial stressors, family systems theory, and the applications of this theory,

***Prayer Journey for Persons with AIDS.*** 49 pp., 1989. This monograph presents prayers associated with the Stations of the Cross traversed by Jesus and compares these stations to the pain and suffering associated with HIV/AIDS. Available from St. Anthony Messenger Press, 1615 Republic St., Cincinnati, OH 45210; (513) 241-5615.

***Presbyterian AIDS Awareness Sunday Worship Resource.*** 16 pp., 1993. This brochure contains a liturgy for an AIDS Awareness religious service, with prayers emphasizing hope, healing, and communion. Available from the Presbyterian Distribution Management Service, 3904 Produce Rd., Suite 2201, Louisville, KY 40218; (888) 524-2612. Order No. DMS 257-93-001.

***RACE (Reducing AIDS Through Community Education).*** 1995. This brochure describes the project of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, RACE (Reducing AIDS Through Community Education), and emphasizes the impact HIV/AIDS has had on the African-American community. Available from the Southern Christian Leadership Conference/Women Church AIDS Program, 320 Auburn Ave. Atlanta, GA 30303; (404) 522-1420.

***Reducing the Stigma of HIV/AIDS: Through Understanding, Compassion, and Action.*** 2006. Guide offers information about stigma associated with HIV/AIDS and its psychosocial effects. It also suggests ten actions to prevent stigma associated with HIV and AIDS and strategies to prevent the spread of HIV. A publication of the Latino Religious Leadership Project of the Latino Commission on AIDS. [www.latinoaids.org](http://www.latinoaids.org).

***Religion, Ethnicity and Sex Education: Exploring the Issues.*** This briefing packet presents seven religious perspectives on sexuality, sex education, and gender. Available from Book Sales, National Children's Bureau, 8 Wakley St., London, EC IV 7QE. United Kingdom; +44 (0)20 7843 6000; [www.ncb.org.uk](http://www.ncb.org.uk).

## Print Materials

***Somebody's Knocking at Your Door: AIDS and the African-American Church.*** 1999. Carole Boston and Ronald Jeffrey. This book provides pastors, social workers, and health professionals with intervention strategies for congregation members or community members who are confronting HIV/AIDS. Binghamton, NY: Haworth Pastoral Press.

***Spiritual Strength for Survival Support Group Manual.*** 48 pp., 1993. This manual provides guidance for anyone interested in organizing a spiritually based support group for persons with AIDS.

Available from the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches, AIDS Ministry, 5300 Santa Monica Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90069; (310) 360-8640.

***Support Groups: Places of Healing.*** 1994. Support groups for persons with AIDS, their loved ones, and caregivers are examined in this paper. It focuses on using trained volunteers as leaders, such as those seen in AIDS organizations or churches. Available from the General Board of Global Ministries, United Methodist Church, UMCORE, 475 Riverside Dr., 15th Floor, New York, NY 10115; (212) 870-3871.

A photocopy of this material is available from the CDC Prevention Network Document Delivery Service, PO. Box 6003, Rockville, MD 20849-6003; (800) 458-5231.

***The African-American Clergy's Declaration of War on HIV/AIDS.*** 1994. This statement about AIDS in the African-American community contains promises to battle fear and ignorance of AIDS through prevention programs, counseling, and sermons.

Available from Balm in Gilead Inc., 701 East Franklin Street, Suite 1000, Richmond, VA 23219. (888) 225-6243 or (804) 644-2256.

***The Church with AIDS: Renewal in the Midst of Crisis.*** 223 pp., 1990. This monograph was developed by a study group from the National Council of Churches, which met in 1986. It supplements essays written for the monograph with the text of sermons, letters, and personal stories of persons with AIDS. Available from Westminster/John Knox Press, 100 Witherspoon St., Louisville, KY 40202-1396. (800) 523-1631.

***The Color of Light: Daily Meditation for All of Us Living With AIDS.*** 193 pp., 1988. This monograph provides daily meditations for persons with HIV/AIDS, their families and friends. Hazelden Foundation Educational Materials, PO Box 176, Center City, MN 55012-0111; (800) 257-7810.

***The Congregation: A Community of Care and Healing*** (Healing (Health and Wholeness Awareness Resource) Basic guide to understanding HIV and AIDS and developing a congregational ministry. Part of the series, "The Congregation: A Community of Care and Healing." This resource focuses on HIV/AIDS and how your church might be better able to raise awareness about and confront the reality of HIV/AIDS as it affects your church members' lives. Item #25791006. National Health Ministries, Presbyterian Church (USA), 100 Witherspoon Street, Louisville, Kentucky 40202-1396. (800) 524-2612.

***The Samaritan's Imperative: Compassionate Ministry to People Living with AIDS.*** 1991. Michael J. Christensen. Nashville: Abingdon Press. The author addresses these difficult concepts: providing care for people with HIV/AIDS without exercising judgment about how they became infected; the social structures of poverty and prejudice in which HIV/AIDS thrives; and how to remain true to dearly held theological positions that may be pastorally and epidemiologically unsound.

## Print Materials

***What People of Faith Should Know About HIV*** This booklet provides a nondenominational approach to helping people of faith better understand HIV and its prevention. Identifies behaviors that put people at risk, tell how to help stop the spread of HIV, and suggests way to use one's faith to offer hope and help to those who have or are at risk of getting, HIV. Also dispels common myths about HIV, and lists sources of additional information. 16 pages, Channing Bete Co. One Community Place, South Deerfield, MA 01373. 1-800-477-4776. [www.faithguides.com](http://www.faithguides.com)

***What Religious Leaders Can Do About HIV/AIDS: Action for Children and Young People.*** 2003. Workbook intended for use by a diverse global audience. It can be used by religious and spiritual leaders of many kinds to explore ways of responding to HIV and AIDS. UNICEF, 3 UN Plaza, NY, NY. [www.unicef.org/aids](http://www.unicef.org/aids).

***When AIDS Comes to Church.*** 1988. William E. Amos. Philadelphia: Westminster Press. This text offers advice on counseling victims of AIDS and their families, recounts a minister's experiences with this type of counseling, and stresses the importance of not shunning persons with HIV/AIDS.

***Why Me?*** 22 pp., 1993. This booklet contains scriptures from the Old Testament and the New Testament, selected to give comfort and spiritual guidance to persons with HIV/AIDS. Available from American Scriptural Gift Mission, P.O. Box 410280, Melbourne, FL 32941; (877) 873-2746; [www.gospelcom.net](http://www.gospelcom.net).

***Wonderfully, Fearfully Made: Letters on Living with Hope, Teaching Understanding, and Ministering With Love, From a Gay Catholic Priest with AIDS.*** 217 pp., 1993 (paperback only). R.L. Arpin. This is a collection of letters written by a gay priest who is living with AIDS. Through the priest's letters to family and friends, the reader learns of his emotional and physical struggle. Available from Harper Collins Publishers, 10 East 53rd St., New York, NY 10022; (212) 207-7000. Available online (in paperback only) at [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com).

***Worship Resource for HIV & AIDS Ministries.*** 42 pp., 1991. This monograph outlines a suggested order of worship for a United Methodist healing service for persons with HIV/AIDS, their families, friends, caregivers, and the community. Available from the General Board of Global Ministries, United Methodist Church, UMCORE, 475 Riverside Dr., 15th Floor, New York, NY 10115; (212) 870-3871. A photocopy of this material is available from the CDC Prevention Network Document Delivery Service, PO. Box 6003, Rockville, MD 20849-6003; (800) 458-5231.

## Audiovisual materials

### ***A Closer Walk: A film about AIDS in the world. A story about the way the world is.***

(85 min.) 2002-2003. *A Closer Walk* is the first film to provide a definitive portrayal of society's confrontation with the global AIDS epidemic. Directed, written, and produced by Robert Bilheimer, and narrated by Glenn Close and Will Smith, the film explores the intricate relationship between health, dignity, and human rights, and shows how the harsh realities of AIDS in the world are an expression of the way the world really is. Inclusive interviews with individuals from all walks of life, including the Dalai Lama, Kofi Annan, and Bono, combined with stories, portraits and vignettes of children, women and men living with AIDS in four continents. All these elements are woven together in a beautifully crafted film that is not only about a deadly infectious disease, but about the human condition. *A Closer Walk* tells us that if we act with compassion and conviction — if we walk the walk — we can put an end to the worst plague in human history and reaffirm our membership in the human family. Direct Cinema Limited, P.O. Box 1003, Santa Monica, CA 90410. [www.acloserwalk.org](http://www.acloserwalk.org).

### ***AIDS in the Jewish Community: A Synagogue Response*** (Study Guide/Video Set)

The Department of Jewish Family Concerns, Union for Reform Judaism, 633 Third Avenue, New York, NY 10017; (212) 650-4294 fax: (212) 650-4239. [jfc@urj.org](mailto:jfc@urj.org).

### ***Fire in Our House***

One videocassette (10 min.), 1995. This video shows the impact that needle exchange programs have had on drug users, their families, and communities. As a strategic tool that personalizes the terms of the debate, *Fire in Our House* increases public awareness about needle exchange, influences policies, and inspires grassroots mobilization. May Day Media, 1077 30th Street NW, Suite 102, Washington, DC 20007; phone: (202) 338-1094; fax: (202) 342-2660.

### ***God Cares, We Care: Congregations Concerned About HIV/AIDS***

One videocassette (14 min.) on how congregations and individuals can be engaged in HIV/AIDS ministries. Item #7266098015. The item may be purchased online with a credit card by calling (800) 524-2612. Presbyterian Distribution Services, 100 Witherspoon Street, Louisville, KY 40202. [www.pcusa.org/nationalhealth/resources/aids.htm](http://www.pcusa.org/nationalhealth/resources/aids.htm).

### ***HIV/AIDS: Stories of Mutual Ministry***

One videocassette (26 min.) plus study guide, 1993. This video uses short interviews with persons with AIDS to present a call for compassion and an end to discrimination. Available from the Presbyterian Distribution Management Service, 100 Witherspoon St., Louisville, KY 40202-1396; (800) 728-7228, ext. 5723; DMS #257-91-021.

### ***House on Fire***

One videocassette (60 min.) 1999. Documentary examines the impact of AIDS in the African American community. In AIDS, the African American community faces the greatest challenge to its survival since slavery. African Americans represent nearly 60% of those infected with AIDS in the U.S. Men, women, and children who are infected with HIV and their dependents — as well as notable personalities such as poet Maya Angelou, NAACP President Kweisi Mfume, Congresswoman Maxine Waters, civil rights activist Julian Bond, and former U.S. Surgeon General David Satcher — share their concern over the increasing menace of AIDS. Available from: Project WAVE New York, New York State Department of Health, (212) 417-4510; [www.projectwaveny.org](http://www.projectwaveny.org).

## Audiovisual materials

### ***It Can Happen To You: HIV/AIDS & The Older Adult (video and study guide)***

This resource includes a 13-page study guide and 30-minute video. The study guide was created to accompany the video *It Can Happen To Me*, initially produced by AARP and given to the National Health Ministries of the Presbyterian Church (USA) as an educational tool. The material contained within the study guide has been drawn from a variety of sources and intended to be used by health ministers, parish nurses, and other congregational groups—especially those working with persons over age 50 as an educational tool for HIV/AIDS awareness for older adults. It is also an excellent source for classes (especially gender-specific classes), conferences, retreats, mission fairs, workshops, discussion groups, and lectures. Item # 7266002047. The item may be purchased online with a credit card or by calling (800) 524-2612. Presbyterian Distribution Services, 100 W. Witherspoon Street, Louisville, KY 40202.  
[www.pcusa.org/nationalhealth/resources/aids.htm](http://www.pcusa.org/nationalhealth/resources/aids.htm)

### ***Life Every Voice (DVD)***

Nine African American pastors from diverse denominations communicate their involvement in “Heightening a Response to HIV.” The DVD is based on the transtheoretical framework: from inaction to action as a result of capacity building assistance. Pastors motivate one another to mobilize other clergy to collaborate with HIV providers and increase access to HIV prevention services. The DVD illustrates the progress of clergy from delayed response (precontemplation), pivot moment (contemplation), action (decision), testing (implementation) and impact (sustainability). Metropolitan Interdenominational Church Technical Assistance Network, 1219 9th Avenue North, Nashville, TN 37208, 615-321-9791. [mictan.org/](http://mictan.org/).

### ***Lights of Hope, Luces de Esperanza.***

One videocassette (27 mins., 55 secs.), 1991. This video looks at how the church and the community can lend hope to Hispanic communities affected by the AIDS epidemic. Although it focuses on the response of the Catholic church to the epidemic, it also includes speakers from Lutheran, Episcopalian, Presbyterian, and other denominations. Available from the CDC National AIDS Clearinghouse, P.O. Box 6003, Rockville, MD 20849-6003. (800) 458-5231.  
CC NAC Inventory no.V035; CDC NAC Inventory no.V036 (Spanish).

### ***Spread the Word: The Role for Black Churches in the AIDS Crisis***

One videocassette (30 mins.), 2000. This is an ecumenical video designed to educate and motivate African-American churches to do ministry with persons dealing with HIV/AIDS. Item #7266001023. It may be purchased online with a credit card or by calling (800) 524-2612.  
[www.pcusa.org/nationalhealth/resources/aids.htm](http://www.pcusa.org/nationalhealth/resources/aids.htm).

## Audiovisual materials

### ***Trembling Before G-d***

*Trembling Before G-d*, by Sandi Simcha Dubowski (90 min.), 2001. Order from: [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com). This is an unprecedented feature documentary that shatters assumptions about faith, sexuality, and religious fundamentalism. Built around intimately-told personal stories of Hasidic and Orthodox Jews who are gay or lesbian, the film portrays a group of people who face a profound dilemma — how to reconcile their passionate love of Judaism and the Divine with the drastic Biblical prohibitions that forbid homosexuality. *Trembling Before G-d* is an international project with global implications that strikes at the meaning of religious identity and tradition in a modern world. For the first time, this issue has become a live, public debate in Orthodox circles, and the film is both witness and catalyst to this historic moment. What emerges is a loving and fearless testament to faith and survival and the universal struggle to belong.

### ***Voices of Faith: Faith Communities' Response to HIV/AIDS***

(76 min.) NYSDOH/HRI, AIDS Institute), 2008. Order from: [www.nyhealth.gov/diseases/aids/publications](http://www.nyhealth.gov/diseases/aids/publications). Video features faith leaders from various spiritual and religious traditions in New York State, sharing information on how they are addressing HIV prevention, support and care efforts with their congregations and communities. The video includes eleven brief video segments.

*The Division of HIV Prevention AIDS Institute would like to give special thanks to the Clergy Advisory Committee and to members of the Regional Committees of the Faith Communities Project for their contribution to the development of this Faith Guide. We would also like to thank all staff from the Division and the Office of the Medical Director AIDS Institute as well as the staff from the Public Affairs Group of the NYS Department of Health for their expertise and guidance in updating the Faith Guide.*