

WHAT IS HIV?

“HIV” stands for “Human Immunodeficiency Virus.” It attacks the very cells which normally protect the body from illness. Eventually, HIV weakens the immune system to such an extent that the body can no longer fight off other diseases and infections.¹

WHAT IS AIDS?

“AIDS” stands for “Acquired Immuno-Deficiency Syndrome.” AIDS is the most serious stage of HIV infection. It occurs when HIV has progressed to the point that your immune system is no longer able to defend your body from diseases.

HOW DOES IT SPREAD?

Unprotected sex, multiple partners, and sharing needles are the most common ways for HIV to be transmitted from one person to another. Infection can also be passed from mother to child during pregnancy, birth, or while breastfeeding.²



**IN 2010, ONLY ONE IN TEN ADULTS IN FLORIDA REPORTED
HAVING AN HIV TEST WITHIN THE PAST YEAR.**

IS HIV PREVENTABLE?

Yes! Use of condoms, knowing the HIV status of sexual partners, and never sharing needles are all ways to prevent infection.¹

IS HIV CURABLE?

No. There is no vaccine to cure or prevent HIV, but there are medications available. These treatments lower the risk of transmission and have helped many with HIV to live long and healthy lives.¹

FAST FACTS

6,780

Total number of HIV cases in Pinellas County as of September 2013.³

87.1

The 2012 rate of HIV-positive African-Americans in Pinellas County per 100,000 residents, compared with a rate of 13.7 for whites.⁴

75

Percentage of HIV-positive people in Pinellas who are male, as of September 2013.³

4

Percentage of men who reported having an HIV test in the past year, as of 2010 – compared with 14.5% of women during the same time.⁴

65

Percentage of women in Pinellas who contracted HIV through heterosexual contact, compared with 8% of men, as of September 2013.³

COMMON MISCONCEPTIONS

“I can get HIV through casual contact with a partner.”

✗ **FALSE:** HIV is **NOT** spread by air, water, insects, saliva, tears, sweat, casual contact, toilet seats, or closed-mouth kissing.

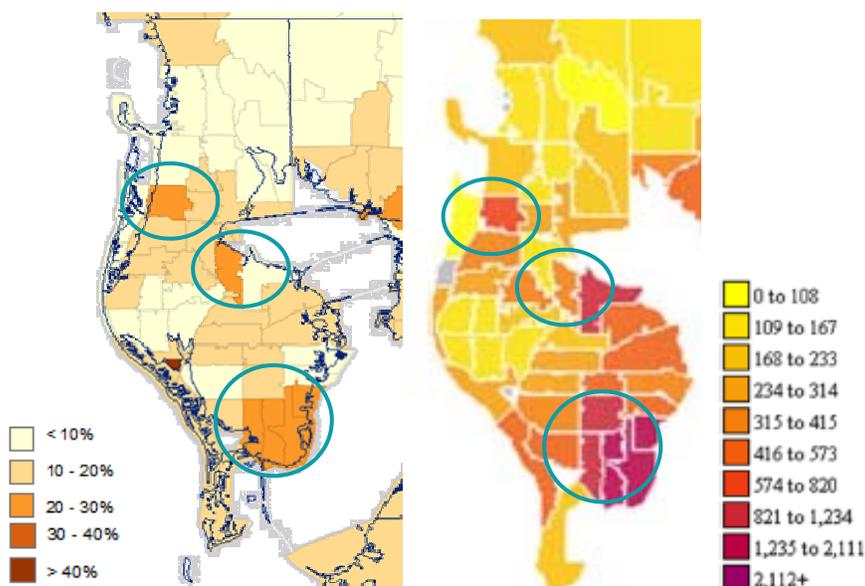
“I can get HIV from a contaminated piercing tool.”

✓ **TRUE:** You **CAN** get HIV from tattoo or piercing tools that are not sterilized properly between clients. You can call your local health department to ask how tattoo shops should sterilize their tools.

“A woman can’t give HIV to a male partner.”

✗ **FALSE:** Although it’s less likely for a woman to transmit HIV to a male partner, it does happen.

POVERTY AND HIV/AIDS^{5, 6}



HIV rates are often higher in low-income communities. The graphic on the left shows 2011 poverty rates in Pinellas County. The graphic on the right shows the 2010 rate of residents living with an HIV or AIDS diagnosis in Pinellas per 100,000 population.

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¹ AIDS Service Association of Pinellas. <http://www.asapsservices.org/page.aspx?pid=862>. Accessed April 21, 2014

² CDC HIV Transmission. <http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/basics/transmission.html#panel0>. Accessed April 21, 2014.

³ Florida Department of Health in Pinellas. http://www.pinellashealth.com/HIVAIDS/SurNews/2013_3rdQtr.pdf. Accessed April 23, 2014.

⁴ Florida CHARTS. <http://www.floridacharts.com>. Accessed April 21, 2014.

⁵ AIDSvu. <http://aidsvu.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/AIDSVu-Tampa.pdf>. Accessed April 23, 2014.

⁶ UDS Mapper. Accessed April 23, 2014.