

# PINELLAS COUNTY HIV/AIDS DATA PROFILE

2019

## 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.<sup>2</sup>



## 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.<sup>2</sup>



**IN 2016, 12.3% OF ADULTS IN FLORIDA REPORTED  
HAVING AN HIV TEST WITHIN THE PAST YEAR.<sup>3</sup>**

In 2016, **46.9%** of Florida residents and **43.1%** of Pinellas county residents had ever been tested for HIV.<sup>3</sup>



In 2016, 2,351 people were diagnosed with AIDS in Florida<sup>4</sup>

## IS HIV PREVENTABLE?

Yes! Use of condoms, knowing the HIV status of sexual partners, and never sharing needles are all ways to prevent infection.<sup>2</sup>

## 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.<sup>2</sup>

## FAST FACTS

16

Percentage of people who thought they could get AIDS virus from mosquitos in 2010<sup>3</sup>

74,106

Total number of people in Florida who received medical care for HIV in 2015<sup>1</sup>

77

Percentage of HIV-positive people in Pinellas are male, as of June 2016.<sup>3</sup>

1,739

Total number of people in Florida who died from AIDS in 2015<sup>1</sup>

66

Percentage of women in Pinellas who contracted HIV through heterosexual contact, compared with 7% of men, as of June 2016.<sup>3</sup>

## COMMON MISCONCEPTIONS

*"I can get HIV through casual contact with a partner."*

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

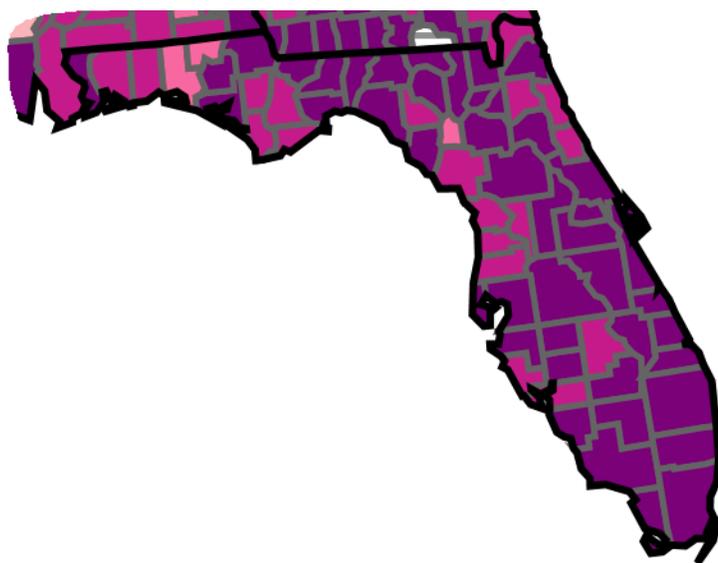
*"I can get HIV from a contaminated piercing tool."*

✓ **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 is less likely for a woman to transmit HIV to a male partner, it does happen.

## PINELLAS IN COMPARISON<sup>1</sup>



This map shows the prevalence of HIV in Florida in 2015. The average prevalence in Florida was 607.1 per 100,000 residents. The average prevalence in Pinellas was 491.9 per 100,000 residents.

Created April 2014, Revised March 2019

<sup>1</sup> AtlasPlus - Maps. (n.d.). Retrieved from <https://gis.cdc.gov/grasp/nchhstpatlas/maps.html>

<sup>2</sup> Cdc. (2018, February 21). What Are HIV and AIDS? Retrieved from <https://www.aids.gov/hiv-aids-basics/hiv-aids-101/what-is-hiv-aids/>

<sup>3</sup> FLHealthCHARTS. (n.d.). Retrieved from <http://flhealthcharts.com/>

<sup>4</sup> HIV/AIDS Indicators. (n.d.). Retrieved from <https://www.kff.org/state-category/hivaids/>