

## December 1<sup>st</sup> is World AIDS Day

Established by the World Health Organization in 1988, World AIDS Day is observed every year on December 1<sup>st</sup>. World AIDS Day provides governments, national AIDS programs, faith organizations, community organizations, and individuals with an opportunity to raise awareness and focus attention on the AIDS epidemic at home and abroad.

Living with HIV is much different now than it was in the late 1980's and early 90s. For many people, new treatments and therapies have substantially slowed the progression of HIV to AIDS. Living with HIV/AIDS is still a challenge, but with early detection, medical evaluation and appropriate use of medications, the prognosis for many is much improved.

Vermont has an extensive network of AIDS services organizations (ASOs) and HIV-specific clinics for medical care around the state. The Vermont Department of Health also provides several programs that may be extremely helpful. Visit our website at [http://healthvermont.gov/prevent/aids/aids\\_index.aspx](http://healthvermont.gov/prevent/aids/aids_index.aspx) for more information on HIV/AIDS and the resources available within our state.

Worldwide an estimated 33 million people are living with HIV. Over a million Americans are estimated to be living with HIV. (Source: <http://www.hhs.gov/aidsawarenessdays/days/world/index.html>)

See the table below for the most recent statistics on HIV/AIDS in Vermont.

*Persons Living with HIV and Persons Living with AIDS in Vermont: 2008*

		HIV <sup>1</sup>		AIDS	
		Number	%	Number	%
Total <sup>2,3</sup>		131	100%	227	100%
Sex	Male	106	81%	192	85%
	Female	25	19%	35	15%
Race/Ethnicity	Hispanic- All Races	5	4%	9	4%
	White	114	87%	194	85%
	Black or African American	10	8%	21	9%
	American Indian or Alaskan Native	≤3 <sup>4</sup>	--	≤3	--
	Asian	≤3	--	≤3	--
	Pacific Islander or Native Hawaiian	≤3	--	≤3	--
	Multi Race	≤3	--	≤3	--
	Unknown	≤3	---	≤3	--
Age Group	<13	≤3	--	≤3	--
	13-19	≤3	--	≤3	--
	20-29	14	11%	6	3%
	30-39	28	21%	21	9%
	40-49	50	38%	89	39%
	50+	37	28%	109	48%
Transmission Category (Adult/Adolescent)	Men who have sex with men (MSM)	82	63%	116	51%
	Intravenous drug use (IDU)	13	10%	30	13%
	MSM/IDU	5	4%	15	7%
	Hemophilia	≤3	--	7	3%
	Heterosexual	15	11%	29	13%
	Receipt of Blood	≤3	--	≤3	--
	Mother with HIV	≤3	--	≤3	--
	Not Reported or Identified	16	12%	26	11%

1. Includes only persons reported with HIV infection who have not developed AIDS. Does not include people who are currently infected but not yet diagnosed through testing.

2. These counts do not include deceased individuals.

3. Data includes only individuals who were residents of Vermont at the time of diagnosis.

4. The Vermont Department of Health does not typically release numbers with values less than or equal to 3.

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Chart: 2009 Selected Reportable Diseases To Date

