



ASSESSMENT SERVICES

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A.I.D.S Information and Resources

Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome is a deadly, incurable disease caused by the HIV virus which weakens the natural human defense systems. There are stages to the disease process:

1. Carrier State – A person has been infected with the virus and can pass it on to others, but has no physical symptoms of the disease.
2. AIDS – this last state is when severe infections, primarily pneumocystis carinii pneumonia and Kaposi's sarcoma overcome the patient's weakened defense mechanisms. The AIDS virus itself is not fatal – it is these infections that cause AIDS deaths.

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1. AIDS is passed from one person to another by:
 - a. Sex (including oral sex)
 - b. Through blood (including shared needles)
 - c. From an infected mother to an unborn child
 2. AIDS is not passed in any of the following ways:
 - a. Hugging, shaking hands, or kissing
 - b. Use of toilets, sinks, bathtubs, or swimming pools
 - c. Sneezing, coughing, or spitting
 - d. Sharing bed linen
 - e. Using dishes, utensils, or food handled by a person with AIDS
 - f. Pests, insects, or donating blood
 3. Persons who participate in the following activities are at high-risk of contracting AIDS:
 - a. IV drug use and sharing needles
 - b. Unprotected sex with unknown partners
 - c. Please note that dental dams are available for female oral sex
 4. To help control the spread of AIDS everyone should practice the following:
 - a. Do not have sex with a known AIDS patient, someone who is positive with HIV, or someone who practices high-risk behavior. Remember that your partner may not tell you about their past.
 - b. If you do have sex – use a latex condom and nonoxynol-9 (spermicide)
 - c. If you do use shared needles – rinse the needle twice with bleach – the twice with water

- d. Don not have sex when you are high or drunk – your judgment may be impaired
 - e. Always make sure you know your sexual partner well
 - f. Have an HIV screening before sex with new partners, becoming pregnant, etc.
 - g. If you are in a high-risk group do not donate blood, sperm or organs
5. A simple blood test or oral sample will tell you if you carry the HIV virus. If the test is positive there is a second test used to confirm if you are infected.
- a. These tests are carried out under the strictest confidential guidelines
 - b. These tests are performed by trained professionals
 - c. Most agencies give you an anonymous number, and do not use your name
6. If you would like more information contact the following:
- a. 1-800-232-0040 Kansas AIDS Information Line
 - b. 1-800-343-AIDS Red Cross Hotline
 - c. 1-800-227-8922 American Social Health Organization
 - d. 1-800-243-TEEN Teen TAP Hotline
- * You may call Assessment Services for the local numbers of an agency near you that provides testing.
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My signature below certifies I have been given a copy of this information on AIDS, and I am aware of resources to seek more information.

Client

Date

Witness