



City and County of San Francisco
Edwin M. Lee
Mayor

San Francisco Department of Public Health

Barbara A. Garcia, MPA
Director of Health

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Eileen Shields, Public Information Officer

415/554-2507 (o) 415/370-3377 (cell)
Eileen.Shields@sfdph.org

National HIV Testing Day: *Get Tested!*

New On-line Tool Shows Testing Sites Near You

San Francisco – June 27th is National HIV Testing Day. The CDC estimates that more than one million people are living with HIV in the United States. Nationally, one in five (21 percent) of those people living with HIV is unaware of his/her status. An estimated 56,300 Americans become infected with HIV each year.

In San Francisco, there are 15,523 people living with HIV or AIDS and each year an additional 400 San Franciscans are diagnosed with HIV. It is also estimated that 2700 people in San Francisco are unaware that they have HIV.

In conjunction with National HIV Testing Day, the HIV Prevention Section of the San Francisco Department of Public Health (SFDPH) urges all San Franciscans to get at least one HIV test in their lifetime, regardless of risk. The Department of Public Health further recommends that gay men, injection drug users, and transfemales get tested every six months.

According to Tracey Packer, Acting Director of HIV Prevention, “There are many ways to get tested, including asking your doctor for a test or accessing one of the many community testing sites.”

A new and useful tool to help people find testing sites was unveiled today by the Rollins School of Public Health at Emory University. AIDSvU (www.aidsvu.org) is a new interactive online map of HIV testing sites as well as HIV prevalence by ZIP code in the United States. AIDSvU also allows users to view HIV rates alongside key social determinants of health – such as poverty, lack of health insurance, and educational attainment. San Francisco is one of 13 cities included by AIDSvU.

The San Francisco Department of Public Health’s HIV Epidemiology Section provided local HIV epidemiological data to AIDSvU for this interactive mapping tool. According to Susan

The mission of the San Francisco Department of Public Health is to protect and promote the health of all San Franciscans.

We shall ~ Assess and research the health of the community ~ Develop and enforce health policy ~ Prevent disease and injury ~
~ Educate the public and train health care providers ~ Provide quality, comprehensive, culturally-proficient health services ~ Ensure equal access to all

barbara.garcia@sfdph.org ♦ (415) 554-2526 ♦ 101 Grove Street, Room 308, San Francisco, CA 94102

Scheer, Director of HIV Epidemiology, “In San Francisco, we are fortunate that HIV diagnoses have been declining. It is important to encourage testing to ensure this trend continues.”

The San Francisco Department of Public Health has partnered with affected communities since the beginning of the HIV epidemic to promote HIV testing, link people testing positive to medical care, and provide appropriate treatment and care. “National HIV Testing Day is a reminder of the importance of knowing your HIV status; we encourage all San Franciscans to consider HIV testing,” concluded Ms. Packer.

About AIDSvu

AIDSvu is a project of the Rollins School of Public Health at Emory University. It is an online tool that allows users to visually explore the HIV epidemic in map form at national, state and local levels alongside key information such as HIV testing and treatment center locations, NIH-funded HIV prevention and vaccine trials locations, and social determinants of health. San Francisco is among 13 cities highlighted by AIDSvu. The project is guided by an Advisory Committee and a Technical Advisory Group with representatives from federal agencies, state health departments and non-governmental organizations working in HIV prevention, care and research.

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