

Resources

- For information about testing sites, please call CDC-INFO at 800-232-4636 or 888-232-6348 (TTY)
- Or send a text message with your zip code to KnowIt or 566948
- Speak with your local Health Care Provider

Save the Date

National HIV Testing Day - *June 27th*

National Native HIV/AIDS Awareness Day - *March 20th*

References:

1. Department of Health and Human Services. Women and HIV - Get Tested for HIV. <http://www.4woman.gov/hiv/testing/>
2. National HIV Testing Resource. <http://www.hivtest.org/>
3. AVERT. HIV Testing. <http://www.avert.org/testing.htm>

CA7AE: HIV/AIDS Prevention Project
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What you should know about HIV testing



Sources for HIV Testing

There are several sources for testing for HIV. To assure accuracy of positive tests, additional tests may be run to confirm results.

- **Blood:** is the most common method for screening HIV. Blood is drawn, and tested using EIA (enzyme immunoassay test) to look for antibodies to HIV [1].
- **Oral (mouth):** is an alternative method for screening HIV. A sample of fluid is taken from the mouth using a “special collections device” to look for antibodies to HIV [2].
- **Urine:** is an alternative method for screening HIV, and also looks for antibodies to HIV using EIA.

Accuracy for blood and oral tests is better than those of urine test, but all are conclusive of the HIV test result.

Types of Testing

Rapid Tests:

Testing done with Rapid Test equipment produces result in about 20 minutes. Testing includes either blood sample or oral fluid samples. Testing is usually done at your local

health care clinic and results are confidential

Home Testing Kits:

With a home testing kit, you can perform part of the HIV test within the privacy of your own home and mail a blood sample to a licensed laboratory for results. Results are sent to you using an identification number. Although there are many internet sites that sell home testing kits, there is only one FDA approved testing kit. Some advantages of using the home testing kit, are: privacy, anonymity, and convenience. The disadvantage is the “lack of face-to-face counseling” [3].

Confidentiality vs. Anonymous Testing

- **Confidential Testing** involves taking the test and providing information about yourself to your health care provider. Physicians and other health care professional will hold information pertaining to clients and will only disclose information after consent is given by the client.
- **Anonymous Testing** is taking the test and not having your name or personal information recorded. Instead, the person is given an identification number and test results are only directed to the individual with the number.