

National HIV Testing Day — June 27, 2018

National HIV Testing Day, June 27, highlights the importance of testing in detecting, treating, and preventing human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection. Awareness of HIV infection through HIV testing is the first step to prevention, health care, and social services that improve life quality and length of survival (1).

Health care providers and others providing HIV testing can reduce HIV-related adverse health outcomes and risk for HIV transmission by implementing routine and targeted testing to decrease diagnosis delays (2). In this issue, an analysis of national population-based survey data collected during 2006–2016 found that persons with higher risk for HIV in the past year did not achieve CDC's recommended frequency of at least annual screening and the median time between tests did not change (3). Health care providers and public health practitioners need to intensify efforts to routinely screen all patients for HIV infection, and to identify persons with ongoing risk and ensure that they are engaged in annual screening for HIV infection.

Additional information on National HIV Testing Day is available at <https://www.cdc.gov/features/HIVtesting>. Basic testing information for the public is available at <https://www.cdc.gov/hiv/basics/testing.html>. Additional information on HIV testing for health professionals is available at <https://www.cdc.gov/hiv/testing>. CDC's guidelines for HIV testing of serum and plasma specimens are available at <https://www.cdc.gov/hiv/guidelines/testing.html>.

References

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Interval Since Last HIV Test for Men and Women with Recent Risk for HIV Infection — United States, 2006–2016

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Since 2006, CDC has recommended routine screening of all persons aged 13–64 years for human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and at least annual rescreening of persons at higher risk (1). However, national surveillance data indicate that many persons at higher risk for HIV infection are not screened annually, and delays in diagnosis persist (2). CDC analyzed 2006–2016 data from the General Social Survey (GSS)* and estimated that only 39.6% of noninstitutionalized U.S. adults had ever tested for HIV. Among persons ever tested, the estimated median interval since last test was 1,080 days or almost 3 years. Only 62.2% of persons who reported HIV-related risk behaviors in the past 12 months were ever tested for HIV, and the median

*Conducted by the National Opinion Research Center at the University of Chicago. <http://www.gss.norc.org/>.

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Continuing Education examination available at https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/cme/conted_info.html#weekly.

