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What do we do?

Deaf Outreach Project provides HIV/AIDS education, support and services to the Deaf community in Ontario through community development and health promotion.

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DEAF
OUTREACH
PROJECT



ONTARIO
ASSOCIATION
OF THE DEAF

**?! DEAF PEOPLE
DO GET
HIV/AIDS !?**



Revised by the
Ontario Association of the Deaf / Deaf Outreach Project
Funded by AIDS Committee of Toronto & Ministry of Health, AIDS Bureau
July 2003



Ontario Association of the Deaf's

Mission: *Working together to ensure a better future for Deaf Ontarians.*

Mandate: *Provide leadership, resources and activities that promote and protect rights, equality and access of Deaf Ontarians.*



Deaf Outreach Project's:

Mission: *By providing HIV/AIDS education, support and services to the Deaf community in Ontario, we strive to reduce the risk of HIV/AIDS in the Deaf community and increase awareness and acceptance of HIV/AIDS and people living with HIV/AIDS in the Deaf community.*

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Deaf Outreach Project

- Deaf Outreach Project (DOP) was established in 1987 by the AIDS Committee of Toronto (ACT) and the Deaf community - Ontario Association of the Deaf (OAD), Canadian Hearing Society (CHS), Toronto Association of the Deaf (TAD), Toronto Rainbow Alliance of the Deaf (TRAD) and Deaf People Living with HIV/AIDS (PHA).
- Ontario Association of the Deaf took DOP on as its project in 1998.
- DOP is funded by the Ministry of Health Canada and the Ontario Association of the Deaf.



Our Purpose:

- Services provided in American Sign Language (ASL) & qualified HIV/AIDS interpreter contacts
- Educate: safety, prevention and treatment
- Referrals: counselling, legal issues, HIV clinics, home care
- Workshops: Treatments, Wellness, Safety, etc
- Resources: Handbooks, videos, resources from other organizations
- Buddy System & Support

What IS HIV?

HIV STANDS FOR:

HUMAN

IMMUNO-DEFICENCY

VIRUS

Different from AIDS: You can get HIV that will cause ongoing sickness. The number of T-cells in the blood goes down. If no T-cells are left, we say this person has AIDS. When a person has AIDS, the body is open to any virus that wants to kill the person.

HIV is spread by sharing/exchanging body fluids. Blood (1) cum (2&3) and breastmilk (4) are body fluids which can carry HIV and infect people. HIV can develop into AIDS. AIDS can lead to death if left untreated.



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WHAT IS AIDS?

AIDS STANDS FOR:

ACQUIRED

IMMUNE

DEFICIENCY

SYNDROME



When you get AIDS, your body can't fight off illnesses and one of these illnesses could eventually kill you.

WHAT CAUSES AIDS?

AIDS is caused by a virus which infects some of the white blood cells. This virus is called HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus)

For a long time (often years) after being infected by HIV, people look and feel well, but can infect other people.

These people are said to be "Antibody Positive" or "HIV +". Their blood contain antibodies to the virus.

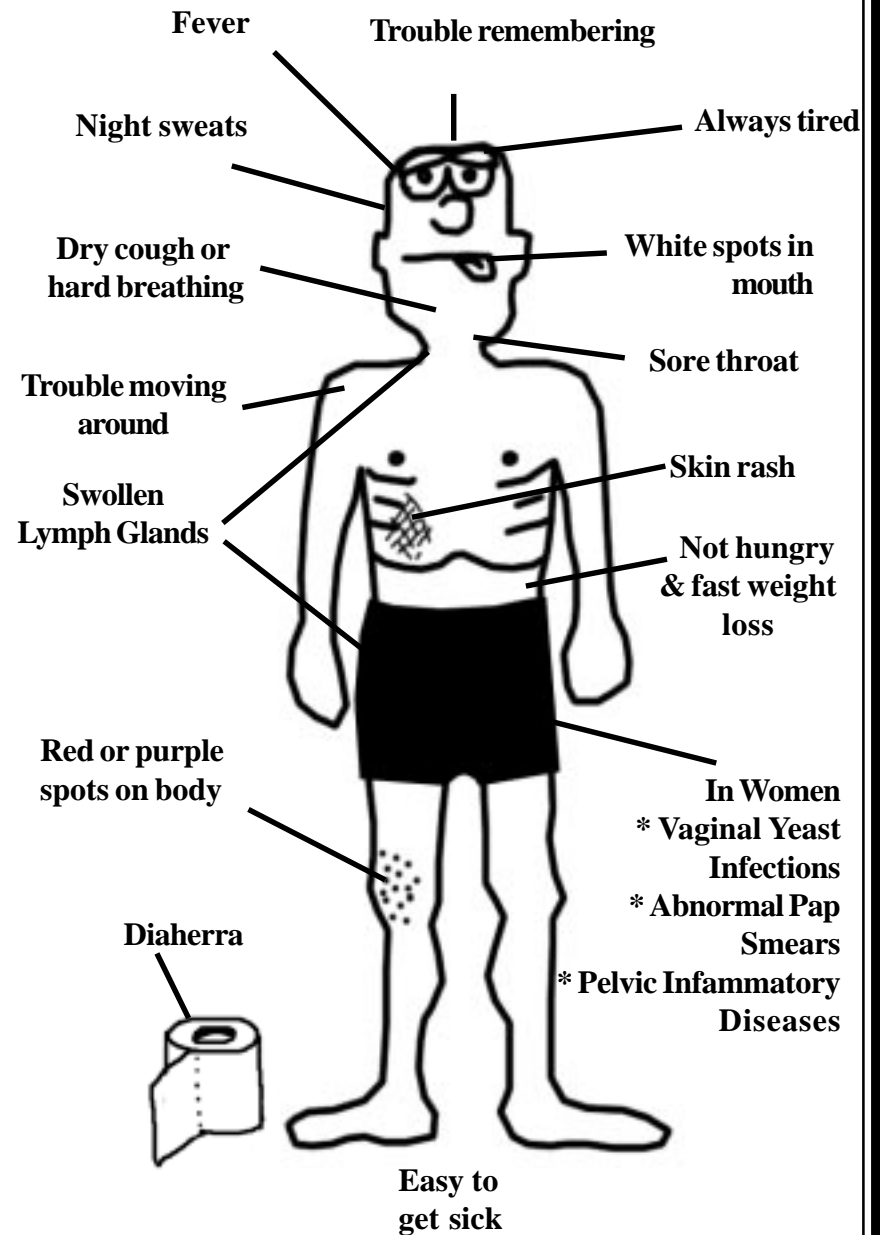
A person who is not infected with HIV cannot develop AIDS. By preventing HIV infection, we can prevent future cases of AIDS.

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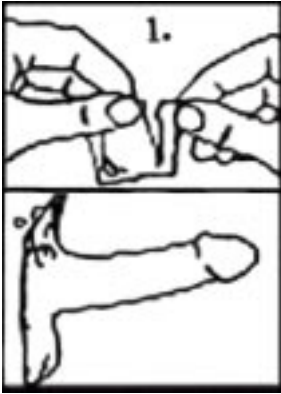


How does a person know if they are infected with HIV?

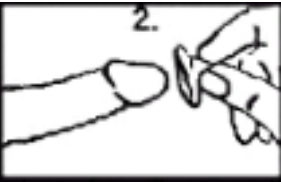
HIV infected people notice different signs and symptoms as their infection progresses. At first, most HIV-infected people have no symptoms and do not notice anything for awhile. They may not even know they are infected. The diagram on right shows a person experiencing serious symptoms that may affect the person quickly or take long time, over weeks, months and years.



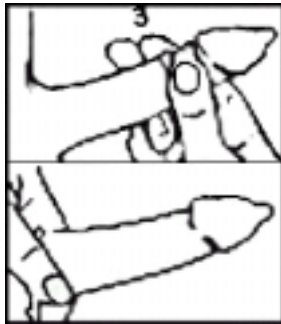
Steps to Safer Sex:



1. Before you have intercourse, open the condom package, be careful to not rip the condom, penis should be erect.



2. Put water-based lubricant (lube) inside condom tip before putting on penis and again put lube on top of condom over the head of the penis.



3. Carefully roll down condom over the penis all the way to the end. Rub water-based lube over the condom.

Note: Check that you have completed **1** to **3**. If you feel that it is okay, you are ready for sexual interaction with your partner.

BUT.... Some condoms can break, which means that you may have exposed yourself or partner to diseases and other STD risks.



To take the condom off

4. Carefully remove the condom from the penis.

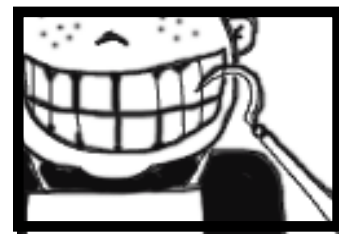


5. Put it in the garbage. Use a new condom everytime you have sex.

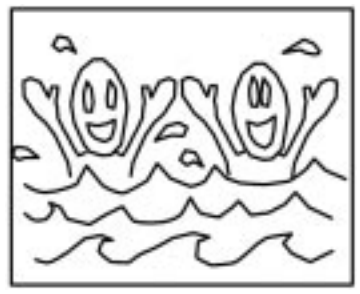
- *You can't get AIDS from everyday contact
- *You can't get AIDS from being a friend
- *You can't get AIDS from a mosquito bite



- *You can't get AIDS from a classroom
- *You can't get AIDS because someone is different from you
- *You can't get AIDS from a dog bite
- *You can't get AIDS from visiting the city

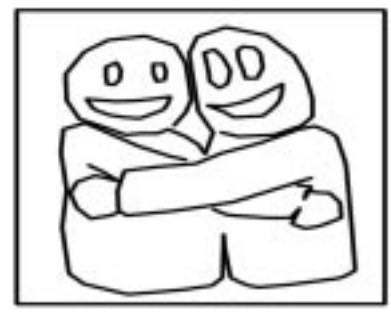


- *You can't get AIDS from a cat
- *You can't get AIDS from a schoolyard



- *You can't get AIDS from a public pool
- *You can't get AIDS from a tty
- *You can't get AIDS from a crowded room
- *You can't get AIDS from an elevator
- *You can't get AIDS by going to the dentist
- *You can't get AIDS from a bus

- *You can't get AIDS from a kiss
- *You can't get AIDS by signing



- *You can't get AIDS from tears
- *You can't get AIDS from a hug
- *You can't get AIDS from a towel

- *You can't get AIDS from a pimple
- *You can't get AIDS from a toilet seat



- *You can't get AIDS from a greasy spoon
- *You can't get AIDS by laughing
- *You can't get AIDS by watching a movie



- *You can't get AIDS from a haircut
- *You can't get AIDS from donating blood
- *You can't get AIDS from an airplane



- *You can't get AIDS by dancing.

GLOSSARY

Homophobia: Prejudice against GLBTT (Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender & Transsexual) people

Intersexed: Born with both genders

PHA/PWA: People living with HIV/AIDS

Lesbian: a woman who is sexually attracted to another woman

Gay: a man who is sexually attracted to another man

Bisexual: an individual who is sexually attracted to either men and women

Heterosexual: an individual who is sexually attracted to the person of the opposite sex

Homosexual: an individual who is sexually attracted to the person of the same sex

Transgendered: a person who has identified themselves as the opposite sex.

Transsexual: a person who has surgically and/or chemically altered their sexual characteristics

Condom: a rubber sheath (close-fitting cover) worn over the erect penis during intercourse to prevent pregnancy and STD (Sexually Transmitted Diseases)

Cum: Both men and women's bodily fluids when having sex. Men: semen (sperm) Women: vaginal fluids

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