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### **MDHHS recognizes Dec. 1 as World AIDS Day**

LANSING, MICH – The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS), Division of HIV and STD Programs, recognizes today as World AIDS Day through a series of events and observations. The theme for this year's observance is, "Right to Health." The observance marks the 36th year of the first cases of HIV which garnered the world's attention.

As of January, 2017, a total of 15,629 people were estimated to be living with HIV in Michigan. Of the reported 15,629 cases, just over half have a diagnosis of AIDS.

Here's a look at the breakdown of data for those infected:

- 57 percent are African-American.
- 34 percent are White.
- 5 percent are Hispanic.
- 3 percent are other or of an unknown race.
- 1 percent are Asian/Pacific Islander.
- Less than <1 percent are multi or other race.
- 77 percent are male.
- 22 percent are female.

Men who have sex with men (MSM) remain the demographic at highest risk for HIV. MDHHS HIV and STD programs continue to provide HIV/STD prevention, risk reduction education and care services statewide, as well as training, to support Michigan HIV/AIDS, and STD providers.

HIV education and risk reduction continues to be an integral part of prevention efforts. Resources exist around Michigan to provide [free or reduced cost HIV testing and treatment](#). HIV is a chronic disease with good treatment options allowing a person living with HIV to have a life expectancy that is close to that of the general population.

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With early detection, treatment, and adherence to antiretroviral therapy, there is practically no possibility of a person transmitting the virus to sexual partners ([Source: CDC](#)).

In observance of World AIDS Day, [many agencies and health departments across the state are hosting events](#) in collaboration with MDHHS staff. Learn more about these events by [contacting the local health department](#) or [AIDS Service Organization](#) in your area.

To find local testing sites, go to <https://gettested.cdc.gov>.

For additional information, visit [www.michigan.gov/hivstd](http://www.michigan.gov/hivstd).

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