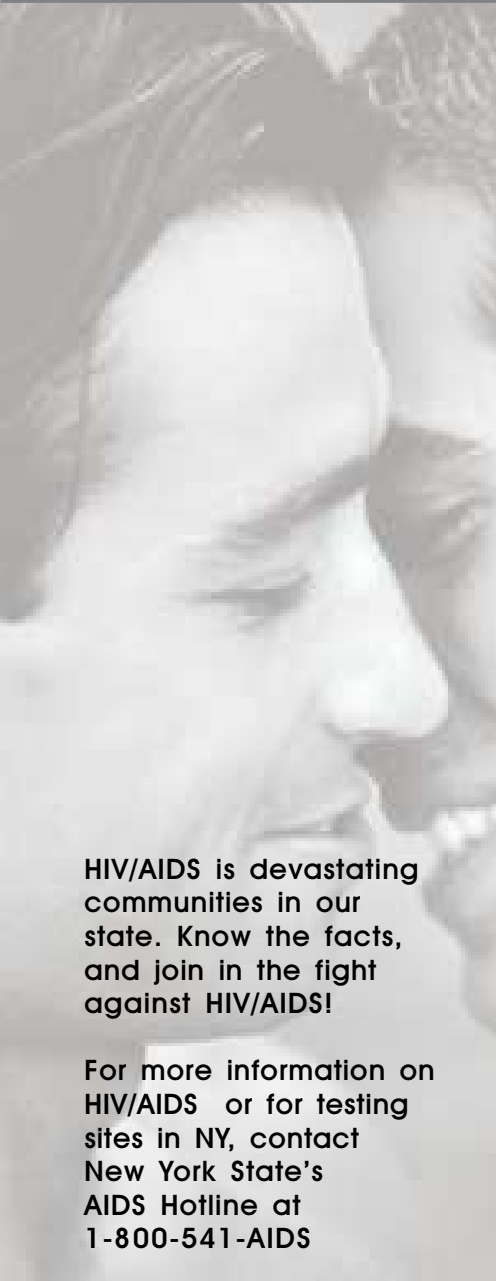


# HIV/AIDS

## AND

## MEN WHO HAVE SEX WITH MEN



HIV/AIDS is devastating communities in our state. Know the facts, and join in the fight against HIV/AIDS!

For more information on HIV/AIDS or for testing sites in NY, contact New York State's AIDS Hotline at 1-800-541-AIDS

### In Western New York

- Men who have sex with men (MSM) represent 40% of the 2007 reported living HIV/AIDS cases in Western New York.<sup>1</sup>
- MSM represent 40% of the newly diagnosed HIV/AIDS cases in Western New York in 2007.<sup>1</sup>

### In the United States

- MSM made up more than two-thirds (68%) of all men living with HIV in 2005, even though only about 5-7% of men in the United States reported having sex with other men.<sup>2</sup>
- More than half a million MSM have received an AIDS diagnosis in the United States, Over 300,000 MSM with AIDS have died since the beginning of the epidemic.<sup>2</sup>
- The number of HIV diagnosis for MSM decreased during the 1980s and 1990s, but recent surveillance data show an increase in HIV diagnosis for this group. From 2001 through 2005 the number of HIV/AIDS diagnosis among MSM increased by 11%.<sup>3</sup>
- Nearly one third of all of the new HIV infections in the United States are in MSM.<sup>4</sup>
- Racial disparities exist with regard to HIV diagnosis within the MSM population. HIV prevalence among black MSM (46%) was more than twice that among white MSM (21%).<sup>5</sup>
- Minority MSM become infected at earlier ages than do whites and are more likely to learn they are HIV positive later in the course of infection.<sup>6</sup>

### Critical Issues / Barriers to Service

- Many MSM, especially racial and ethnic minorities, face poor access to health care because of lack of health insurance, poverty and fear of losing anonymity.<sup>6</sup>
- Some MSM harbor misconceptions about effective HIV treatment. Many are aware of the advancements in medical technology and the effectiveness of treatment but overestimate its power. Others believe that HIV infection is inevitable and may do little to prevent it.<sup>7</sup>
- Some MSM mistakenly believe that they or their partners are not infectious when they take antiretroviral medications or when they have low or undetectable viral loads.<sup>8</sup>
- The stigma associated with homosexuality may inhibit some men from identifying as gay or bisexual even though they may have sex with men.<sup>9</sup>



Care Coordination Committee  
Minority Concerns Workgroup

March 2009

<sup>1</sup>NY State Department of Health-Epidemiologic Profile 2009

<sup>2</sup>CDC - HIV/AIDS & MSM Fact Sheet - June 2007

<sup>3</sup>CDC, Trends in HIV Diagnosis - MMWR 2005:54:114

<sup>4</sup>US Dept. of Health & Human Services-NIH, June 2006

<sup>5</sup>CDC, HIV Prev. Unrecognized Infections, MMWR 2005:54

<sup>6</sup>US Health & Human Services - HRSA MSM Fact Sheet 2005

<sup>7</sup>US HIV/AIDS Bureau - Improving Care for MSM, 2002

<sup>8</sup>Kelly, JA, Hoffman, RG - AIDS Severity 1998 - 12:F91-F95

<sup>9</sup>CDC-HIV/AIDS Among Minority MSM-MMWR 2000:49:4-11