

2010 National HIV Testing Day: Florida Profile

June 27th, 2010, marked the fifteenth annual National HIV Testing Day (NHTD), an initiative of the National Association of People with AIDS (NAPWA). This national campaign is designed to encourage more people to assess their risk for HIV infection and know their HIV status. The goal is for people to “**take the test**” to determine their status and to “**take control**” of their health and lives.

NHTD has evolved into a week-long activity with sites all across the state holding special events between June 24th and June 30th. In 2010, 9,786 HIV tests were conducted during that week, with 577 HIV tests conducted on NHTD. As with

previous years, the number of tests conducted during the week of NHTD increased from the week before NHTD. Table 1 shows the number of HIV tests and positive tests from the week before NHTD and the week of NHTD for the last decade.

During the week of NHTD, persons who had never been tested for HIV accounted for 22.7% (2,219) of the

tests conducted. Of the 88 persons who received a positive HIV test result, 39.8% (35) had never tested positive before. There were seven persons who took their first HIV test during the week of NHTD and were found to be positive. These seven persons account for 20% of the new positives and 8% of all positives during that week. [Data not shown]

Of the 9,786 HIV tests administered during the week of NHTD, 45.5% (4,448) were among blacks, 21.8% (2,133) were among Hispanics, and whites accounted for 29.0% (2,838). The remaining 367 tests (3.8%) were among American Indians, Asians, Pacific Islanders, persons of multiple races, and persons who chose not to disclose their race/ethnicity. Among the HIV-positive tests, the breakdown was similar with blacks having the largest proportion of positive tests with 51.1% (45), followed by whites with 26.1% (23), Hispanics with 18.2% (16), and the missing/other race/ethnicity group with the remaining 4.5% (4). [Data not shown]

While females comprised 56.8% (5,554) of the tests, they only accounted for 29.5% (26) of the positives. Conversely, males accounted for 42.4% (4,149) of the tests and 70.5% (62) of the positives. [Data not shown]

Persons with heterosexual sex as their highest risk factor accounted for the most tests (59.0% or 5,775) but had one of the lowest positivity rates of 0.2% (14 positive tests). Persons who had sex with an HIV-infected partner had the highest positivity rate at 12.3%, but they only accounted for 122 tests (1.2%). [Data not shown]

Overall, it seems that Florida conducted a successful National HIV Testing Day campaign in 2010. A significant number of people were tested as a result of local community and health department efforts, meeting one of the major goals of the campaign and the Bureau of HIV/AIDS, which is to increase the number of persons in Florida who know their HIV status. Participants in this year’s campaign should be commended for their contributions to this success.

Table 1. HIV testing the week before and the week of NHTD, 2001 - 2010

Year	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
June 27, Day of Week	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Fri	Sat	Sun
June 17-23										
# of Tests	5,312	5,657	5,690	6,285	5,846	5,732	6,372	6,881	7,689	8,142
# of Positives	135	129	126	113	112	86	95	95	93	75
% Positive	2.5%	2.3%	2.2%	1.8%	1.9%	1.5%	1.5%	1.4%	1.2%	0.9%
June 24-30										
# of Tests	7,421	6,353	7,300	7,131	8,390	7,845	9,273	9,099	9,728	9,786
# of Positives	168	139	142	121	114	124	126	144	115	88
% Positive	2.3%	2.2%	1.9%	1.7%	1.4%	1.6%	1.4%	1.6%	1.2%	0.9%
Comparison between the week of NHTD and the previous week										
# of Tests	2,109	696	1,610	846	2,544	2,113	2,901	2,218	2,039	1,644
# of HIV+ Tests	33	10	16	8	2	38	31	49	22	13