

2014 National HIV Testing Day: Florida Profile

June 27, 2014, marked the 19th annual National HIV Testing Day (NHTD). 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 across the state holding special events between June 24 and June 30. In 2014, 10,586 HIV tests were conducted during that week, with 2,703 HIV tests conducted on NHTD. For comparison, in 2013 there were 10,280 tests for the entire week and 2,538 tests 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 ten years. For the week of NHTD 2014, the number of HIV tests was higher as was the number of positives. This resulted in an increase in positivity rate from 0.8 percent to 1.0 percent.

During the week of NHTD, persons who had never been tested for HIV accounted for 19.5 percent (2,059) of the tests conducted. Of the 105 persons who received a positive HIV test result, 59.0 percent (62) had never tested positive before. There were 12 persons who took their first HIV test during the week of NHTD and were found to be positive. These 12 persons account for 19.4 percent of the new positives and 11.4 percent of all positives during that week. [data not shown]

Table 1. HIV testing the week before and the week of NHTD, 2005-2014										
Year	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
June 17-23										
# of Tests	5,846	5,732	6,372	6,881	7,689	8,142	8,510	8,230	8,580	8,004
# of Positives	112	86	95	95	93	75	115	74	111	55
% Positive	1.9%	1.5%	1.5%	1.4%	1.2%	0.9%	1.4%	0.9%	1.3%	0.7%
June 24-30										
# of Tests	8,390	7,845	9,273	9,099	9,728	9,786	10,695	9,988	10,280	10,586
# of Positives	114	124	126	144	115	88	95	93	80	105
% Positive	1.4%	1.6%	1.4%	1.6%	1.2%	0.9%	0.9%	0.9%	0.8%	1.0%
Comparison between the week of NHTD and the previous week										
# of Tests	+2,544	+2,113	+2,901	+2,218	+2,039	+1,644	+2,185	+1,758	+1,700	+2,582
# of HIV+ Tests	+2	+38	+31	+49	+22	+13	-20	+19	-31	+50

Of the 10,586 HIV tests administered during the week of NHTD, 48.6 percent (5,150) were among blacks, 20.9 percent (2,212) were among Hispanics and whites accounted for 25.8 percent (2,727). The remaining 497 tests (4.7 percent) 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 41.9 percent (44), followed by Hispanics with 30.5 percent (32), whites with 22.8 percent (24) and five positives among the remaining race/ethnicity groups. [data not shown]

Females accounted for 53.1 percent (5,623) of the tests and 26.7 percent (28) of the positives. Conversely, males accounted for 46.0 percent (4,866) of the tests and 73.3 percent (77) of the positives. Transgendered persons accounted for 13 tests and no positives. There were 84 tests and no positives for individuals with missing gender data. [data not shown]

Persons with heterosexual sex as their highest HIV risk factor accounted for the majority of tests (55.6 percent or 5,886), but had the lowest positivity rate at 0.3 percent (19 positive tests). Persons who had sex with an HIV-infected partner had a high positivity rate of 14.0 percent (13 positives out of 78 tests). Men who have sex with men (MSM) accounted for 1,360 tests and 54 positives, resulting in a positivity rate of 4.0 percent. MSM accounted for just over half (54 out of 105) of the positives identified during the week of NHTD. [data not shown]

Overall, Florida conducted a very successful National HIV Testing Day campaign in 2014. 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 HIV Prevention Program – 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.