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State of New York
Department of Health



Your Brother's Care: Getting Help for HIV

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Too many black men are being infected with HIV, the virus that causes AIDS. Young and old, native-born and immigrant, gay and straight – all run a high risk of getting infected through unprotected sex (not wearing a condom) and sharing drug works.

As a black man, you can fight HIV by:

- getting tested for HIV and getting medical treatment, if you are infected
- protecting yourself from getting infected if you don't have HIV
- not infecting others with HIV
- working on life problems that prevent you from getting HIV treatment

Getting into HIV treatment: Why should I care?

Many black men are being diagnosed with HIV when they are very sick and close to having AIDS. HIV cannot be cured, but it can be treated. If you are diagnosed with HIV at an early stage and get into treatment, you may be able to stay healthy for many years.

Getting into HIV treatment means finding a medical “home” – a doctor or clinic you can stick with who will:

- do most of the medical tests you need
- prescribe HIV medications, if you need them
- talk with you about the best ways for you to stay healthy
- find a case manager who can help you figure out health insurance and other programs
- help you get into drug rehab or alcohol rehab, if you are willing to do it



Getting back into HIV treatment: Where do I start?

HIV medical care can be difficult. You may have dropped out of care in the past for reasons that were important to you. But HIV medical care and HIV medications have improved. If you are ready to try again:

- Call a local health clinic or an agency that provides HIV services.
- Ask for an HIV case manager who can set up medical appointments and help you get started.
- A case manager can help you work on health problems, mental health problems, or addictions that can make your HIV treatment harder.

The key is to get in touch with a doctor or clinic. The website below has a map of New York City and New York State and a list of HIV/AIDS services near you:

www.health.ny.gov/diseases/aids/resources/resource_directory/patient_resources_directory.htm



HIV services: Where do I fit in?

Where can you go for HIV services and feel like you “fit in”? HIV groups serve different kinds of people without judging them. They will not treat you differently because of your race, ethnic background, or sexual orientation. Who you have sex with is your private business. Don't let your fear of being judged stop you from getting the help you need.



Immigrants: Will I have problems with the government?

If you are an immigrant and you need HIV care, don't be afraid to ask for help. Medical providers should not report you to the government if you are an illegal immigrant.

- Emergency care: All people have the right to emergency medical care and HIV medications at public hospitals or clinics until they are healthy enough to leave.
- In New York City, programs run by the city's Health and Hospitals Corp. (HHC) must treat all patients, even in non-emergencies.
- Medicaid pays for complete medical care if you are a legal immigrant between ages 18 and 64 and have a low income. You can also get HIV medications through ADAP (AIDS Drug Assistance Program).
- If you are a refugee, seeking asylum, or applying for a visa, you can get Medicaid and ADAP.
- Many medical providers will let you pay what you can afford ("sliding scale").

For more information, call the New York Immigration Coalition at 212-627-2227 or visit their website at: www.thenyc.org.

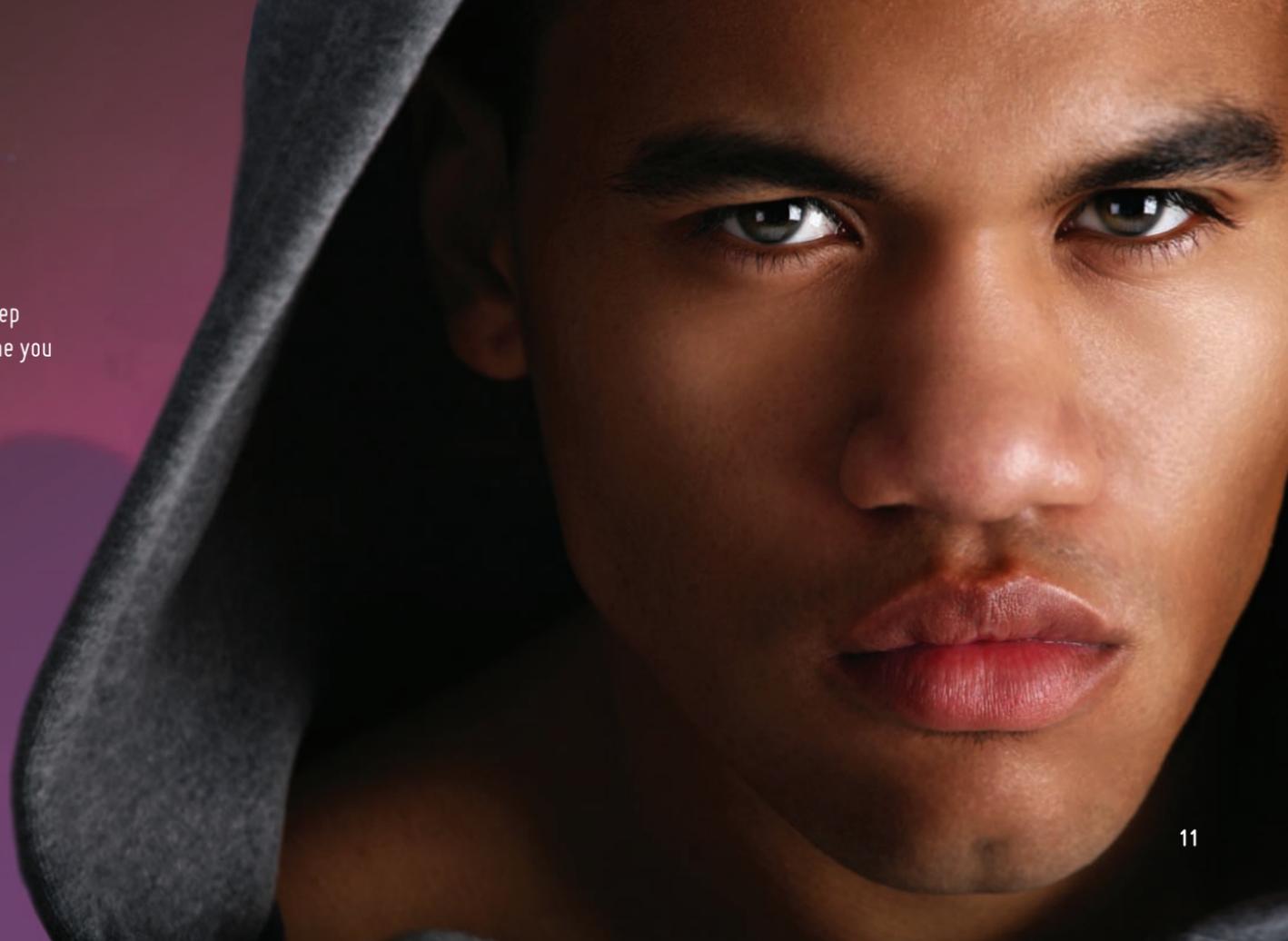
Man up to HIV: Protect yourself and your partner

“Take responsibility for your actions.” You hear that a lot. If you test negative for HIV, keep protecting yourself with a condom every time you have sex. Use a clean syringe each time you shoot up or clean the old syringe with bleach and water.

If you have HIV and don’t confront it, you could infect someone else by:

- sharing syringes and other works
- having unprotected sex with multiple sex partners or needle-sharing partners
- having unprotected sex with a person who isn’t your steady partner

Be up front—tell your partner you have HIV so he or she can get tested and get treatment, if needed.





You can have HIV and still live with hope and dignity

- You have the right to get the medical and support services you need—and to be treated respectfully.
- If you have been in medical care before but dropped out, give it another try.
- Community agencies can help you with drug, alcohol, or mental health problems.
- Immigrants have a right to HIV medical care. Don't be afraid you will get in trouble if you seek medical treatment.

To learn more about HIV/AIDS:

New York State Department of Health HIV/AIDS hotline:

1-800-541-AIDS (2437)-English; 1-800-233-SIDA (7432)-Spanish; TDD: 1-800-369-2437

Voice callers can use the New York Relay System:

Call 711 or 1-800-421-1221 and ask the operator to dial 1-800-541-2437. The New York State Department of Health has a map of New York City and New York State and a list of HIV/AIDS services near you:

www.health.ny.gov/diseases/aids/resources/resource_directory/patient_resources_directory.htm

New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene HIV/AIDS: 1-800-TALK-HIV

(1-800-825-5448); www.nyc.gov/html/doh/html/home/home.shtml