

## HIV screening recommendations for clinicians

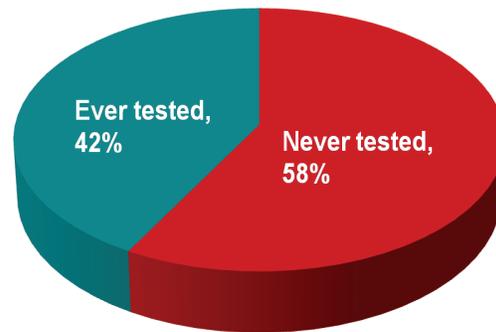
April marked a major victory for HIV prevention: The U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) issued a final recommendation for clinicians to screen for HIV infection in people ages 15 to 65. Screening also was recommended for people outside this age range who are at increased risk and for pregnant women. These recommendations received an A grade, indicating strong evidence that screening among these populations will result in positive health outcomes.

Why are the USPSTF recommendations important? The USPSTF recommendations have formed the basis of the clinical standards for many health organizations and medical quality review groups. Moreover, the Affordable Care Act requires or incentivizes new private health plans, Medicare and Medicaid to cover the cost of services with an A or B grade from the USPSTF.

Routine screening is much needed in Oregon. Less than half (42%) of adult Oregonians have ever tested for HIV (excludes blood donation). Moreover, 39% of Oregonians with HIV are diagnosed so late that they also are diagnosed with AIDS within 12 months of their HIV diagnosis, indicating they may have been unaware of their infection for seven to 10 years. We hope the

USPSTF recommendations will help change these statistics.

HIV Testing Among Oregonians, 2009



Some health care agencies and providers in Oregon already have adopted the new recommendations. However, our work to promote the recommendations is far from over.

The Oregon Health Authority (OHA) currently is developing a plan to educate health care providers and systems about both the USPSTF recommendations and the recent policy changes related to HIV testing in Oregon (learn more about these policy changes at <http://1.usa.gov/14YtHEy>).

To learn more about the USPSTF recommendations, visit <http://bit.ly/14umOIs>.

## Upcoming events

### World Hepatitis Day

July 28

Learn more at <http://1.usa.gov/OkN9p9>.

### Oregon HIV/Viral Hepatitis/Sexually Transmitted Infection Integrated Planning Group (IPG) Meeting

Aug. 21 in Keizer

Learn more at <http://1.usa.gov/OR-IPG>.

### Camp Starlight

Aug. 25-30

For kids ages 5-14 who are affected by HIV.

Learn more at [www.camp-starlight.org](http://www.camp-starlight.org).

### Camp KC (by Cascade AIDS Project)

Aug. 25-30

For kids ages 5-14 who are affected by HIV.

Learn more at <http://bit.ly/117xQR0>.

## Staffing changes

We are sad to announce that July 24 will be Cessa Karson-Whitethorn's last day with the OHA HIV Prevention Program. Cessa is pursuing a master's degree in counseling psychology and will be starting her practicum in August.

Larry Hill ([larry.d.hill@state.or.us](mailto:larry.d.hill@state.or.us)) will now serve as the contact for Deschutes County and will join Lorelee Trocio as a co-contact for Multnomah, Clackamas and Washington counties. Persons needing technical assistance with sHIVer (Oregon's HIV testing database) can email [shiver.support@state.or.us](mailto:shiver.support@state.or.us) or contact Matt Navarre at 503-880-6288 if experiencing issues that are preventing data entry. Technical assistance relating to HIV testing will be directed to test kit company representatives and/or information on the OHA or CDC website. Other questions relating to testing may be directed to

Ruth Helsley at [ruth.helsley@state.or.us](mailto:ruth.helsley@state.or.us).

Cessa has served as the HIV counseling, testing and referral program analyst since 2008. She has played an instrumental role in training staff conducting HIV counseling and testing throughout the state on client-centered counseling techniques; creating and implementing Oregon's HIV testing database; updating the HIV test request form with input from stakeholders; providing technical assistance to local health departments and community-based organizations; grant reporting; supporting the integration of program efforts to address HIV, STIs, viral hepatitis and sexual assault; and promoting health equity, cultural competency and inclusiveness.

We will miss Cessa and we wish her well in all her future endeavors!

## Reaching Oregon's Hispanic/Latino communities

In Oregon, Hispanics/Latinos represent 12% of the population, but 18% of the HIV cases diagnosed from 2006-2010. Of the HIV cases among Hispanics/Latinos, two-thirds (66%) were among foreign-born persons. To help address the sexual health needs of Oregon's Hispanic/Latino communities, a number of new resources have been made available.

OHA recently partnered with Farmworker Justice to develop two public service announcements (PSAs) promoting HIV testing among Oregon's Spanish-speaking communities. The PSAs were provided to nine Spanish radio stations in various regions of the state.

The Oregon Program Review Panel for HIV educational materials approved an English telenovela Web series addressing HIV among Hispanic/Latino communities. The series is titled Sin Vergüenza and was developed by AltaMed in California. If you would like to receive a DVD with episode one (<http://bit.ly/11J3toL>), please contact Dano Beck at [daniel.w.beck@state.or.us](mailto:daniel.w.beck@state.or.us). If you have a client waiting area with a television, consider playing the DVD there!

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has launched the "Reasons" campaign, which encourages HIV testing among gay and bisexual Latino men. Find campaign resources to use locally at <http://hivtest.cdc.gov/reasons/>.

**my REASON**  
for getting an HIV test

**is ME**

*Knowing my HIV status keeps me healthy.  
What's your reason?*

**GET A FAST, FREE AND CONFIDENTIAL HIV TEST.**

Visit [hivtest.cdc.gov/reasons](http://hivtest.cdc.gov/reasons) or text your zip code to "KNOW IT" (566948)