

New HIV and STD data

The Oregon Health Authority (OHA) has published an updated Epidemiologic Profile of HIV/AIDS in Oregon, available at <http://1.usa.gov/HIVdataOR>. Each year, OHA updates this document with the most current data available. The “Epi Profile” contains a series of fact sheets describing the impact of HIV in Oregon’s communities.

New fact sheets on syphilis, gonorrhea and chlamydia are available at <http://bit.ly/STDdata>. These documents are intended to inform local and state efforts to reach and mobilize impacted communities. Do you have ideas for improving these documents? Please email your suggestions to prevention.info@state.or.us.

HTML is not an STD

Recently, a company (www.vouchercloud.net) surveyed 2,392 website visitors to assess their knowledge of technology-related terms. The results (<http://bit.ly/techSrs>) serve as an important reminder to use plain language and explain acronyms during conversations about sexual health (or technology).

The survey asked respondents to check the correct definition of HTML: (a) the main road structure throughout England, (b) a sexually-transmitted disease (STD), or (c) programming language used to make websites (ding ding ding!). One in 10 respondents (11 percent) checked (b) an STD.

Surprised? Take a minute to consider all the STDs that begin with “H.” We can think of at least five of them!

When discussing sexual health, how can we be sure others understand the information we are sharing? Encouraging questions is a great start.

Looking for more ideas? The Oregon HIV/Viral Hepatitis/Sexually Transmitted Infection Integrated Planning Group strives to hold acronym-free meetings. Members can ask presenters to define an acronym simply by holding up the sign featured below with Christy Hudson, grants coordinator for the HIV Community Services Program.



Upcoming events

Viral Hepatitis Awareness Month

May

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

Little Art Big Cause (Portland)

May 1–31 at Scandals

Art by local artists to support Cascade AIDS Project

Learn more at <http://bit.ly/CAPscndl>.

International Day Against Homophobia

May 17

Learn more at www.homophobiaday.org.

HIV Vaccine Awareness Day

May 18

Learn more at <http://1.usa.gov/HVAD12>.

National Asian and Pacific Islander HIV/AIDS Awareness Day

May 19

Learn more at <http://1.usa.gov/NAPIHAAD12>.

33 years of AIDS

June 5 (First case reported in 1981)

National Caribbean American HIV/AIDS Awareness Day

June 8

Learn more at www.caribbeanhealthaidsday.com.

Disney at Darcelle's (Portland)

June 8, 5–8 p.m. at Darcelle XV Showcase

A Disney themed drag show benefiting Cascade AIDS Project

Learn more at <http://bit.ly/DisneyDXV>.

Portland Barefoot and World Soccer Festival (Portland)

June 8, 9–4 p.m. at Concordia University Turf

A fundraiser supporting HIV education in Africa

For more information, contact Kim Hutchinson at

khutchinson@ourhouseofportland.org.

Taking Pride on Stark (Portland)

June 13–15 at Scandals

Three-day street party benefiting Peacock and Cascade AIDS Project

Learn more at <http://bit.ly/PrideStark>.

LGBTQ Pride (Portland)

June 14–15

Volunteer at the Multnomah County Health Department booth. Contact Molly Franks at

molly.c.franks@multco.us.

National HIV Testing Day

June 27

Find or register an event at

<http://bit.ly/NHTDcdc>.



Healing From Shame Workshop

(Portland)

May 2 – July 18

Fridays, 10:00–11:30 a.m. at Quest Center

Learn more at <http://bit.ly/HFSQCpdx>.

Transgender Support Group (Portland)

June 4 – July 23 at Quest Center

Thursdays, 12:00–1:00 p.m.

Learn more at <http://bit.ly/TSGpdxQ>.

HIV transmission among HIV discordant couples

For HIV discordant couples (in which one partner is HIV positive and the other partner is HIV negative), the number of options available to reduce the risk of transmission has increased. Antiretroviral therapy, condoms and male circumcision each offer protection, but are they equally effective?

New research findings can help couples decide which options to use. Researchers estimated the

effectiveness of various prevention methods over a 10-year period. For couples using any single prevention strategy, the long-term risk of HIV transmission remained substantial. Antiretroviral therapy use by the HIV-infected partner was the most effective single strategy in reducing risk, but adding consistent condom use was necessary for male-male couples to keep the 10-year risk of transmission below 10 percent. Learn more at <http://bit.ly/DiscPartners>.