



Community Education Group

Building Stronger Communities — One Project at a Time

Is there a vaccine for HIV? *No, but there could be with your help...*

HIV & Your Community

- HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus) is the virus that, without medical treatment, causes AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome)
- Washington DC's Black population is 52% of the total population
- Black DC residents make up over 75% of all DC residents living with HIV/AIDS
- 4.7% of Washington DC's Black population is living with HIV/AIDS
- Black women in DC are 17 times more likely to be living with HIV/AIDS than white women in DC and 7.1% of Black men are living with HIV/AIDS
- HIV is spread most often by having unprotected sex with someone who has HIV and by sharing a needle or syringe to inject drugs with someone who has HIV
- You might have HIV and still feel perfectly healthy. It's important for everyone to know their HIV status by getting an HIV test

Cite: District of Columbia HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis, STD, and TB Administration (HAHSTA) Annual Report 2009 Update

Quick Facts about HIV Vaccine Research

- There is currently no vaccine to prevent HIV and there is no cure for AIDS
- In order to find a preventive HIV vaccine that works for everyone, people of all races, ethnicities, and genders must be represented in clinical trials
- The HIV vaccines being studied do not contain the HIV virus. Participants cannot become infected with HIV by participating in an HIV vaccine trial
- It is important for African Americans to learn about the HIV vaccine clinical trials to make sure that the vaccine will also work for us, for our community, and for our people

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About HIV Vaccine Research and Clinical Trials

- One of the best long-term hopes for controlling the HIV/AIDS epidemic is to develop a safe and effective HIV vaccine
 - The safety of research volunteers is the top priority of the studies and no one can get HIV from participating in an HIV vaccine trial
 - A vaccine to prevent HIV could save millions of lives in the US and around the world
 - People who participate in HIV vaccine trials must be HIV-negative
 - An HIV vaccine will teach the body's immune system to recognize and fight HIV
 - Clinical trials involving human subjects require informed consent from each volunteer about the safety and other important information related to the clinical trial
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- These trials are overseen by institutional review boards to ensure ethical, scientific and other regulatory requirements for research studies are met

Cite: National Institutes of Health, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases Division of AIDS, December 2009

How You Can Help

- Learn more about HIV Vaccine Research and talk with your friends and family about the need to find a safe and effective HIV vaccine
- Support HIV vaccine research volunteers and consider becoming a volunteer yourself
- Consider joining a community advisory board
- To participate in an HIV vaccine trial, you must be healthy, HIV-negative and between 18 and 50 years old
- **Remember: participating in a vaccine trial helps not just you, it helps all of us as we fight this disease in our community**

Resources in Washington DC

For more information about HIV Vaccine Research

- Community Education Group
3233 Pennsylvania Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20020
www.communityeducationgroup.org
202.543.2376
- Be The Generation
www.bethegeneration.nih.gov **[bethegeneration.nih.gov](http://www.bethegeneration.nih.gov)**
- National Institutes of Health; National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), Division of AIDS
<http://www.niaid.nih.gov/about/organization/daids/Pages/daidsvaccine.aspx>
- Interested in Volunteering?
NIAID Research Studies:
1.866.833.LIFE (5433)

