

Men Who Have Sex With Men

**Answers about HIV
vaccine research**



bethegeneration.nih.gov

What is a vaccine?

A vaccine helps your body defend itself against infections like HIV.

Why do we need a vaccine against HIV?

- **THERE IS STILL NO CURE FOR AIDS.**
- **Drugs can help people infected with HIV avoid developing AIDS, but they do not cure HIV. The drugs are expensive and can cause serious side effects.**
- **Vaccines are our best hope of ending AIDS. Vaccines have saved millions of lives and have completely stopped the spread of deadly diseases like smallpox.**

What is happening in HIV vaccine research?

- **More HIV vaccines are being tested than ever before.**
- **WE STILL NEED THOUSANDS OF HIV-NEGATIVE VOLUNTEERS.**

Nearly one third of all new HIV infections in the United States are in MSM*

More than 1 in 2 Asian/Pacific Islanders living with AIDS are MSM

Asian/Pacific Islanders



Nearly 1 in 2 American Indian/Alaska Natives living with AIDS are MSM

American Indian/Alaska Natives



Nearly 1 in 3 African Americans living with AIDS are MSM

African Americans



Nearly 1 in 2 Hispanics/Latinos living with AIDS are MSM

Hispanics



Nearly 2 in 3 Whites living with AIDS are MSM

Whites

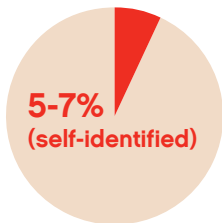


How is HIV/AIDS affecting men who have sex with men (MSM)?

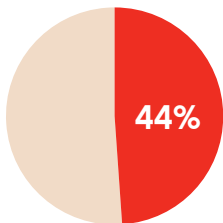
The AIDS crisis is NOT over, and MSM still face a high risk of HIV infection.

■ U.S. Population

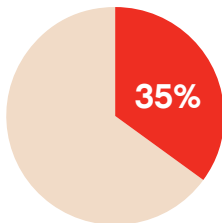
■ MSM



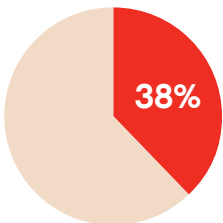
U.S. Population



New HIV Infections



Newly Reported AIDS Cases



Deaths of Persons with AIDS

How safe are the vaccines being tested in people?

- HIV vaccines can't cause HIV because they don't contain HIV.
- Protecting the safety and privacy of volunteers is extremely important. Volunteers are given complete information about the study and possible risks before they join. Volunteers can also leave the study whenever they wish.
- The vaccines may cause side effects. They include soreness at the site of injection, low-grade fever and body aches. These symptoms typically go away quickly.

How can I be sure the research is being done right?

- The vaccine studies meet the highest U.S. Food and Drug Administration standards for protecting volunteers.
- The studies are constantly reviewed for safety.

What you should know about preventive HIV vaccine research

- **There is no HIV vaccine available.**
- **The best long-term hope for controlling the HIV/AIDS pandemic is the development of a preventive HIV vaccine.**
- **HIV vaccine research is part of a comprehensive approach to control the AIDS pandemic that includes prevention, care and treatment strategies.**
- **You can't get HIV from the HIV vaccines being tested.**
- **There is something everyone can do to help in the search for a vaccine.**

- **Community Advisory Boards** made up of local citizens provide advice on the studies and keep local communities informed.

Who is doing the research?

Many public and private research organizations are working to find an HIV vaccine. These include universities, biotechnology companies, drug companies and public agencies like the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID).

Where can I learn more?

For more information on preventive HIV vaccine research, go to:
<http://betheneration.nih.gov>,
or e-mail betheneration@nih.gov.

bethe**generation.nih.gov**

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HIV VACCINE RESEARCH
Our best minds. Our best science. Our best hope.

