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WHAT'S UP - AIDS

What is Aids? It is a disease that impairs the body's immune system, and the body can't fight off infections. You get sick and don't get better.

Why should I know about Aids? You should know so you aren't afraid of people who have Aids, because they may be your friends or someone in your family.

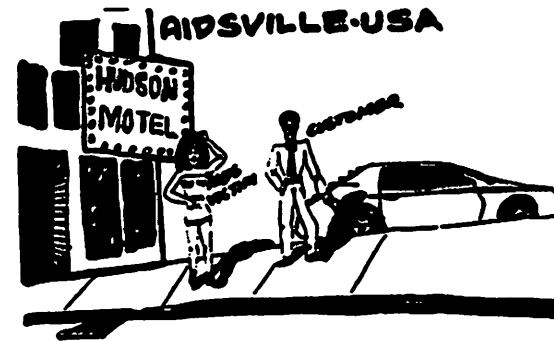
How do you get Aids? You can get it through sharing needles during intravenous drug abuse (shooting up), sharing needles when you get your ears pierced unprofessionally, and tattooing. You can get it by having sex with someone who is infected. A baby born to an infected mother might have it. If a mother gets infected she might pass it on to her baby while she's breast feeding the baby. If you have a transfusion with infected blood or receive sperm from an infected person or receive organs from an infected person you could get it.

What kind of people get Aids? All kinds of people get Aids. Homosexual's, bisexuals, IV drug users, hemophiliacs (bleeders), people who have received blood transfusions, a man and woman who have sex together (heterosexuals), babies born with it, and heterosexual intravenous drug abusers.

How long does it take for you to get sick? It can take from a few weeks to seven years or longer.

How do you look when you have Aids? Some of the signs of person who has aids are:

1. Swollen lymph glands in the neck, underarm, and groin area;
2. Night sweats, having a lot of fevers;
3. Losing weight for no reason, 10 lbs. or more in a month;
4. Constant fatigue - you're always tired;
5. Diarrhea "the runs", and you don't want to eat.
6. White spots or sores in the mouth;
7. Chills and fever;
8. Pink and purple flat or raised bumps that look like bruises;
9. Having a dry cough and shortness of breath.



10. You look like you have the flu; and

11. Confusion, forgetfulness.

How long should I know someone if I was thinking about having sex? Take the HIV test--wait and retest in 14 months or wait until there is a cure.

What should I say to someone who keeps asking about having sex? Wait for a cure and be sure!

How can you keep from getting Aids? Don't shoot up any drugs, don't do drugs, don't drink alcohol. use latex condoms, if you have sex only have sex with one partner--don't have any exchange of body fluids, use non-oxynol-9 spermicide with the condom, and don't mix drugs or alcohol with sex.

Is there any cure for Aids? There is no cure at this time--(and there won't be any time soon)--all we can do is educate ourselves and make changes in our behavior.

Some questions asked by people under 14 years of age

1. Question: Can you get Aids from kissing?
Answer: 50% chance from wet kissing, so keep it dry, like on the cheek.
2. Question: Can you get Aids from sharing a soda?
Answer: No, that is casual contact.
3. Question: Can you get Aids from "fingering."
Answer: Not unless there is a cut on the finger and an exchange of body fluids is made.



4. Question: Can you get Aids from the toilet seat?
Answer: No, that is casual contact. Always look and wipe the seat before you sit down. If you make a spill on the seat, wipe it up. An ounce of prevention is better than getting or spreading Aids.
5. Question: Can you get Aids from making love just one time?
Answer: If the person has the virus, yes, just like you can get pregnant from just one time.
6. Question: What kind of condoms is safer?
Answer: Use latex condoms--not animal skin, because the virus will go through the pores in the skin. Use non-oxynol 9 spermicide.
7. Question: If you get cum (sperm) on your hand will you get aids?
Answer: Not unless it gets into a cut on the skin and the person has the Aids virus.

8. Question: If you just touch each others sexual parts will you get Aids?
Answer: No. That's safe sex.
9. Question: If a guy has sex with another guy will he get Aids?
Answer: If one guy is infected he can pass it on to the other guy.
10. Question: If a girl has sex with another girl will she get Aids?
Answer: If the girl is infected she can pass it on to the other girl.
11. Question: If you have sex with just a few people can you get Aids?
Answer: It is possible because other people can pass it on to you and you to them.
12. Question: What if you can't talk to your parents about Aids--Who do you ask?
Answer: Ask your teacher, or person in the community who knows about Aids or call your Local Aids-Hotline number (but try...)
13. Question: Can you touch an Aids person?
Answer: Yes, touching and hugging is good. Remember, they are people who need love.
14. Question: Can a person have Aids in their mouth?
Answer: Yes, white spots may appear or sores in the mouth where you can't see them.

15. Question: Why should I know about Aids?
Answer: Because you may know someone who's infected or, when you date you may put yourself at risk if you don't know what not to do and what is safe.
16. Question: If I get Aids will people turn against me?
Answer: If everyone has the right education about Aids and get the facts instead of stories, there will be no need to turn against each other--people will learn to help each other.

