

A I D S / H I V

According to state statistics, over 675 Cumberland County residents are currently living with AIDS. Yet many people do not fully understand the effects and extent of this disease. Learn more about AIDS/HIV by reading the following information compiled from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Know the Facts about AIDS/HIV

AIDS stands for acquired immunodeficiency syndrome. AIDS is caused by infection with a virus called human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). This virus is passed from one person to another through blood-to-blood and sexual contact. In addition, infected pregnant women can pass HIV to their babies during pregnancy or delivery, as well as through breast feeding. Infection with HIV can weaken the immune system to the point that it has difficulty fighting off certain infections. The immune system of a person with AIDS is weakened to the point that medical intervention may be necessary to prevent or treat serious illness.

Treatment Options

Today there are medical treatments that can slow down the rate at which HIV weakens the immune system. There are other treatments that can prevent or cure some of the illnesses associated with AIDS. As with other diseases, early detection offers more options for treatment and preventative care.

AIDS/HIV and Sexually Transmitted Disease Screenings

In Cumberland County, screenings for HIV are scheduled by the SJ AIDS Alliance at 1-800-281-2437 and held in Bridgeton at no cost. Counseling and treatment for Gonorrhea, Syphilis and Chlamydia is also available at no cost by Vineland Community Nursing Service. No appointments are necessary. Clinics are scheduled every Tuesday; registration is from 4 – 5 p.m. at Newcomb Outpatient Building Women's Center 2nd Floor in Vineland. Any questions please call 856-794-4261.

Learn More

For more information on AIDS/HIV contact the Cumberland County HIV Services and Counseling Hotline at 1-877-850-8130.

HIV and AIDS: Are You At Risk? A great resource on basic AIDS/HIV

information from the Centers for Disease Control. Information is also available in Spanish.

<http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/pubs/brochure/atrisk.htm>

Living with HIV/AIDS - An informational booklet from the CDC, also available in Spanish

<http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/pubs/brochure/livingwithhiv.htm>.

National AIDS Hotline: 1-800-342-AIDS – This hotline operates toll free, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The Hotline offers anonymous, confidential HIV/AIDS information from trained specialists. TTY service is available for the deaf (1-800-243-7889). The Spanish service (1-800-344-7432) offers STD information in addition to information about HIV/AIDS. For more information, follow this link <http://www.ashastd.org/nah>.

New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services – AIDS Statistics by County

<http://www.state.nj.us/health/aids/repa/aidsdata.shtml>.

New Jersey Division of AIDS Prevention and Control –

<http://www.state.nj.us/health/aids/aidsprv.htm>

South Jersey AIDS Alliance – Provides advocacy, education, prevention services, support groups, case management, outreach, food bank, pharmaceutical assistance and a resource center.

<http://www.southjerseyaidsalliance.org/offices.shtml>

Information compiled from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.