



December 1, 2011

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World AIDS Day stresses the need to continue to improve efforts to prevent HIV

An estimated 1.2 million Americans currently are living with HIV, and one in five of those people—about 240,000—don't know it. World AIDS Day serves as a reminder that the HIV/AIDS epidemic has not gone away, and that testing, care and treatment can help save lives and improve the health of those living with the disease.

“The Kane County Health Department joins in the worldwide hopes this day to end the HIV/AIDS epidemic by encouraging all residents between the ages of 13 and 64 to be tested,” said Executive Director Paul Kuehnert. “Testing early can lead to timely care and treatment that can improve the health of a person with HIV and prevent giving the virus to others.”

Everyone can ask his or her doctor for an HIV test. In addition, testing sites in Kane County are:

- Open Door Clinic; call for appointments, Aurora: (630) 264-1819 or Elgin (847) 695-1093
- Renz Prevention Center, One American Way, Elgin (847) 697-1221.

This year in Kane County 22 people have been diagnosed with HIV, and 10 with AIDS. Since 2005, a total of 237 have been diagnosed with HIV and 161 with AIDS.

According to the CDC, Prevention counseling works, yet only 45% of people with HIV in care received prevention counseling in the previous 12 months on how to protect themselves and prevent passing the virus to others. More information about World AIDS Day is available at <http://aids.gov> and from the [Illinois Department of Public Health](#). More information about the HIV/AIDS epidemic is available at the [CDC](#) Web site.

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