

## HIV and Hepatitis C Screening

HIV and Hepatitis Screening Services have seen an increase in provided testing due to increased participation from the clinic Healthcare Providers. Majority of the provided HIV and Hepatitis C screening is provided using rapid testing technologies. This year the program implemented the usage of INSTi HIV-1 Antibody Test kits which provide results in approximately 60 seconds, compared to the previous methods of traditional laboratory testing (3-7 business days) or OraQuick Rapid technology (20 minutes). While all screening tools for HIV are available for the outreach tester to utilize, the most popular among clients have been the INSTi HIV-1 Antibody Test kit. With Hepatitis C, the program is still limited to the usage of Orasure's Rapid HCV Antibody screening kit which has a wait time of 20 minutes.

In 2019, the HIV/Hepatitis Program screened 493 clients for HIV antibodies using rapid technologies provided by the Indiana State Department of Health with only one reactive HIV antibody test which was confirmed through the Indiana State Department of Health Laboratory. The Wayne County Community Health Center providers screened an additional 226 clients utilizing private laboratory services with no reactive tests. In regard to Hepatitis C, 241 clients were screened through Indiana State Department of Health provided screening kits with 31 reactive to Hepatitis C antibodies. An additional 268 Hepatitis C antibody tests were conducted by the Wayne County Community Health Center providers utilizing private laboratory services with 30 reactive Hepatitis C antibody test.

Individuals with reactive antibody tests were referred for additional screening for viral RNA as determined by protocol and client physical location. The Indiana State Department of Health funding required the coverage of Screening Services in a region of 16 counties. Clients were referred to providers with their geographical area and client preference.

The chart below shows the number of HIV testing completed through the HIV/Hepatitis Program throughout the last seven years. Total test completed have decreased over time due to lack of client participation; as well as, a more direct risk factor screening process in the program. The objective of the program is to identify all individuals at risk for HIV infection and educate those clients as to the need for initial, quarterly, or annual screening varying upon each client's individually self-described risk assessment.

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
HIV Test	708	820	911	805	491	545	493
HIV Reactive	0	1	2	6	4	1	1
Positivity Rate	0.0000%	0.1220%	0.2195%	0.7453%	0.8147%	0.1835%	0.2028%

Hepatitis C screening program has been as progressive in the development of a more specific screening process. While general initial population screening is recommended at some point in a client's life, the program focuses resources to identify individuals with self-identified risk factors during the individual

risk assessment. The program staff reviews the risk assessment with the client to clarify any questions or identify additional areas of concern.

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
HCV Test	427	438	543	428	193	262	241
HCV Reactive	123	68	53	63	23	25	31
Positivity Rate	28.8056%	15.5251%	9.7606%	14.7196%	11.9171%	9.5420%	12.8631%

### HIV Basics: HIV/AIDS

- HIV stands for human immunodeficiency virus, which is the virus that causes HIV infection. The abbreviation “HIV” can refer to the virus or to HIV infection.
- AIDS stands for acquired immunodeficiency syndrome. AIDS is the most advanced stage of HIV infection.
- HIV attacks and destroys the infection-fighting CD4 cells of the immune system. The loss of CD4 cells makes it difficult for the body to fight off infections and certain cancers. Without treatment, HIV can gradually destroy the immune system and advance to AIDS.
- The spread of HIV from person to person is called HIV transmission. HIV is spread only in certain body fluids from a person who has HIV. These body fluids include:
  - **Blood**
  - **Semen**
  - **Pre-seminal fluid**
  - **Vaginal fluids**
  - **Rectal fluids**
  - **Breast milk**
- HIV transmission is only possible through contact with HIV-infected body fluids. In the United States, HIV is spread mainly by:
  - **Having anal or vaginal sex with someone who has HIV without using a condom or taking medicines to prevent or treat HIV**
  - **Sharing injection drug equipment (works), such as needles, with someone who has HIV**
- Within 2 to 4 weeks after infection with HIV, some people may have:
  - Fever
  - Chills
  - Rash

- Night Sweats
- Muscle Aches
- Sore Throat
- Fatigue
- Swollen Lymph nodes
- Mouth Ulcers
- The symptoms may last for a few days to several weeks. During this earliest stage of HIV infection, the virus multiplies rapidly.
- After the initial stage of infection, HIV continues to multiply but at very low levels. More severe symptoms of HIV infection, such as signs of opportunistic infections, generally don't appear for many years. (Opportunistic infections are infections and infection-related cancers that occur more frequently or are more severe in people with weakened immune systems than in people with healthy immune systems.)
- Without treatment with HIV medicines, HIV infection usually advances to AIDS in 10 years or longer, though it may advance faster in some people.
- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends that everyone 13 to 64 years old get tested for HIV at least once as part of routine health care. As a general rule, people at higher risk for HIV should get tested each year. Sexually active gay and bisexual men may benefit from getting tested more often, such as every 3 to 6 months.
- Factors that increase the risk of HIV include:
  - Having vaginal or anal sex with someone who is HIV positive or whose HIV status you don't know
  - Injecting drugs and sharing needles, syringes, or other drug equipment with others
  - Exchanging sex for money or drugs
  - Having a sexually transmitted disease (STD), such as syphilis
  - Having hepatitis or tuberculosis (TB)
  - Having sex with anyone who has any of the HIV risk factors listed above
- Talk to your health care provider about your risk for HIV and how often you should get tested for HIV.
- CDC recommends that all pregnant women get tested for HIV so that they can begin taking HIV medicines if they are HIV positive. Women with HIV take HIV medicines during pregnancy and childbirth to reduce the risk of mother-to-child transmission of HIV and to protect their own health.