

## PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV

More than 1 million people in the U.S. are living with HIV, and almost 1 in 6 don't know it.<sup>1</sup>



## KNOW YOUR STATUS

HIV testing allows people who have HIV to know their status, get lifesaving treatment and care, and prevent HIV transmission to others.<sup>3,4</sup>



## HIV TESTING

Soon after a person is infected with HIV, a protein, also called an antigen, is produced. But it can take weeks for the body to make detectable antibodies (the body's response to fight the virus).<sup>2</sup> During this time, older antibody-only tests may give a negative result when the patient is HIV positive.

Today, tests are available that can detect both antigens and antibodies; these are called HIV combo tests, and they can detect HIV sooner than older, antibody-only tests.



## HIV FACTS

Many people don't realize they have HIV because they feel fine. HIV attacks the cells that normally defend the body against illness. If someone is infected with HIV and doesn't get medical treatment, eventually it can destroy cells to the point that the body can't fight infections and disease anymore. When that happens, HIV infection can lead to AIDS.

## GETTING THE FACTS

# Do You Know Your HIV Status?

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends that everyone between the ages of 13 and 64 should be tested for HIV at least once as part of routine healthcare. The CDC also recommends an HIV test once a year for people at increased risk for infection. HIV testing allows people who have HIV to know their status, get life-saving treatment and care, and prevent HIV transmission to others.<sup>3,4</sup> Visit **CDC.gov** and **Abbott.com** for more information.

### REFERENCES

1. HIV in the United States: At a glance. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. December 2013. Website: [www.cdc.gov/hiv/statistics/basics/atagance.html](http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/statistics/basics/atagance.html). Accessed Nov. 5, 2014.
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3. Cohen MS, Chen YQ, McCauley M, et al. Prevention of HIV-1 infection with early antiretroviral therapy. *N Engl J Med.* 2011; 365:493-505.
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