



DECEMBER 1ST

WORLD AIDS DAY

World AIDS Day is an annual day of solidarity for people around the world living with HIV/AIDS. Despite the great strides that have been made in research, care, and education, HIV/AIDS remains a public health challenge. Join OHR in remembering those we've lost, standing together in the fight against stigma and discrimination, and understanding your protections under the D.C. Human Rights Act of 1977.

What is HIV/AIDS?

HIV (Human immunodeficiency virus) is an infection that is transmitted sexually, by sharing needles, and from mother to child during birth. It weakens the immune system, and if left untreated can develop into **AIDS** (acquired immunodeficiency syndrome). Though there is no vaccine or cure for HIV, it can be controlled with proper medical care and effective treatment. People with HIV can and do lead healthy, normal lives.

HIV/AIDS in the District

According to the D.C. Department of Health's Annual Epidemiology and Surveillance Report (2022), there are nearly 12,000 people living with HIV in the District.* More than half at 50 years and older. Men who have sex with men, especially Black men, heterosexual Black women, transgender people, and youth aged 20-29 are at particular risk for contracting HIV.

Protections under the DCHRA

Disability is a protected trait under the DCHRA in all four enforcement areas (educational institutions, employment, housing, and public accommodations and government services). Disability is defined as a physical or mental impairment (including HIV/AIDS) that substantially limits one or more major life activities.

Care for LGBTQ Seniors and Seniors with HIV Amendment Act of 2020

The Act expands protections afforded under the DCHRA by outlining specific long-term care practices that are prohibited as a form of discrimination against LGBTQ+ and HIV+ seniors, mandating equitable services and support and requiring facilities to provide training for staff. (Scan the QR code to learn more.)

KNOW YOUR HIV STATUS Getting testing and knowing your status is an important step in ending the public health crisis. You can get free HIV and STD tests sent to your home by visiting: <https://www.getcheckeddc.org/> or learn more about the District's effort to End HIV on the DC Health website.

