



The Maryland State Medical Society

News: For Immediate Release

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DECEMBER IS WORLD AIDS DAY

BALTIMORE, November 29, 2013 — This year, an estimated 56,300 people will be infected with HIV in the United States. One in 5 of the more than one million people living with HIV is unaware of his or her infection. This year, in recognition of World AIDS Day on December 1, MedChi encourages all citizens of Maryland to get tested for HIV.

The only way to know for sure if you have HIV is to get tested. You could have HIV and still feel healthy. Many doctors recommend HIV testing for all teens and adults between the ages of 13 and 64.

It's especially important to get tested regularly if you are at high risk of infection. Get tested for HIV at least once a year if you:

- Have unprotected sex (sex without a condom) with someone who might have HIV
- Have sex with men who have sex with men
- Use drugs with needles
- Have a sex partner who is HIV-positive
- Have had a sexually transmitted disease (STD)

Dr. H. Russell Wright, President of MedChi, states “AIDS is the final stage of HIV infection. It can take years for a person infected with HIV to reach this stage. One in 5 of the more than one million people living with HIV in the United States is unaware of his or her infection which is why it is so important to get tested regularly.”

To find an HIV testing location near you, text your zip code to KNOWIT (566948) or visit <http://www.aids.gov/locator/>.

About MedChi

MedChi, The Maryland State Medical Society, is a non-profit membership association of Maryland physicians. It is the largest physician organization in Maryland. The mission of MedChi is to serve as Maryland's foremost advocate and resource for physicians, their patients and the public health of Maryland. For more information, please visit www.medchi.org.