Who should get tested for HIV? - HIV testing, part 2

It is recommended that everyone 13 to 64 years old get tested for HIV at least once. It is also recommended that people at increased risk of HIV infection get tested.

These risks include:
• Having sex without using a condom 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 an STD, or sexually transmitted disease. There are more than 20 types of STDs, including syphilis, gonorrhea, and chlamydia.
• Having hepatitis or tuberculosis (TB)
• Having sex with anyone who has any of the HIV risk factors listed here

Every pregnant woman should have an HIV test as early as possible in pregnancy. She should get tested even if she has been tested before.

If someone has been sexually assaulted, they should get an HIV test as soon as possible after the assault.

Before having sex for the first time with a new partner, both partners should talk openly about their sexual and drug-use history. They should talk about their HIV status, and consider getting tested for HIV before having sex. Some people who test negative assume their partner must be HIV-negative too. But your HIV test reveals only your status, not your partner’s.

Talk to your health care provider about your own risk of HIV infection and HIV testing.

Be sure to get answers to any questions you have about HIV/AIDS. Your public health department, health care provider, and public library can help.