

## HIV testing and pregnancy - Pregnancy, part 3

Thanks to more HIV testing and new medicines, the number of babies infected with HIV during pregnancy, childbirth, and breastfeeding has decreased by 90% in the last 20 years.



Both the mother and father should get tested for HIV when they are planning a pregnancy, even if they have been tested before.

Also, all women should be tested for HIV at their first prenatal care visit, early in the pregnancy.

Not all health care clinics do a routine HIV test for pregnant women. Be sure to ask for a test if it isn't offered.

Some women should get a second HIV test later in their pregnancy if they have certain risks. This may include having behaviors that put them at high risk for getting HIV.



If a pregnant woman goes into labor without having had an HIV test, she should be given a rapid HIV test in the labor and delivery room. That way, if the test is positive, the doctors can work to help prevent the mother from passing HIV to her baby. If a mother is HIV-positive her baby should be tested for HIV right after birth.

It is good for an HIV-positive mother to choose a doctor or clinic with experience in caring for babies exposed to HIV. They will know exactly what follow-up tests a baby will need and when these tests should be done.

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.

