



## Harm Reduction News

October 28, 2024

### WORLD AIDS DAY

World AIDS Day is December 1, 2024. "World AIDS Day brings together people from around the world to raise awareness about HIV/AIDS and demonstrate international solidarity in the face of the pandemic.

The day is an opportunity for public and private partners to spread awareness about the status of the pandemic and encourage progress in HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment and care around the world. It has become one of the most widely recognized international health days and a key opportunity to raise awareness, commemorate those who have died, and celebrate victories such as increased access to treatment and prevention services."

<https://www.who.int/campaigns/world-aids-day>

**IAA will observe this international event with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual World AIDS Day Candlelight Concert on Friday, December 6<sup>th</sup> from 5:30-7:30pm at the Unitarian Universalist Church at 4448 Pikes Landing Road in Fairbanks.**

Local band, **Valley Below**, will provide excellent music. Food and Mocktails are provided. \$5.00 is requested at the door to support the band, but no one will be turned away. If you purchase your tickets online by November 21<sup>st</sup>, you will receive an early bird gift at the door. [World AIDS Day Commemorative Candlelight Concert : Event Calendar : News & Events](#)



### 2023 Annual Infectious Disease Report Published by Alaska Public Health 10/28/24

Of 27 people who tested positive for HIV in 2023, four of them are from the Interior and 15 are from Anchorage. 55 people tested positive in another state and are receiving care here in Alaska. In 2022 there were 37 new cases (10 Interior, 21 Anchorage) and 25 diagnosed outside.

[https://epi.alaska.gov/bulletins/docs/b2024\\_14.pdf?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=govdelivery](https://epi.alaska.gov/bulletins/docs/b2024_14.pdf?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery)

60% reduction in new HIV cases in the Interior is good news, assuming everyone gets tested. The most effective means of preventing HIV is for everyone to know their status and act accordingly to stop further transmission. For people who test positive, this means treatment to ensure an undetectable viral load.

**Undetectable = Untransmittable**

**Interior AIDS Association**  
**710 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave., Fairbanks, AK 99701**

U=U is a community-led global health campaign that simplifies the science of treatment as prevention (TasP): an undetectable viral load means zero risk of HIV transmission (CDC).

**If your test is negative**, then there is more you can do to stay negative than just using condoms: Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis.

As recently as the 1990s, it was unthinkable that medication could someday prevent the spread of HIV. But in 2012, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved the first medication known as pre-exposure prophylaxis, or PrEP.

Now, PrEP has become an important tool in combating the spread of HIV.

**PrEP** is a category of medication that you take before you get exposed to HIV to block the virus from taking hold in your body. Learn who should take PrEP, how it works, what side effects it may have and how to get it from your doctor.

If you are not comfortable discussing this option with your own doctor, several Fairbanks clinics offer PrEP. Ask about PrEP at Interior Community Health Center (907)455-4567 – or – Chena Health



There are doctors at Tanana Valley First Care who prescribe PrEP. Call before you go. (907)458-2682.

[https://www.foundationhealth.org/services/clinics/centers/primary\\_care/1st\\_care\\_center](https://www.foundationhealth.org/services/clinics/centers/primary_care/1st_care_center)

### **Online and telemedicine options:**

[MISTR - PrEP, prescribed online and delivered to your door.](https://www.identityalaska.org) (<https://heymistr.com/>).

[www.identityalaska.org](https://www.identityalaska.org)

### **Identity Health Clinic**

(907) 865-3247

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As always, staff at IAA can help you explore your options. We do not have or prescribe PrEP here, but we can help you find someone who will. **You can also get a rapid HIV test, hepatitis C test or syphilis screening test.** Come in between 10:00 am and 3:00 pm to 710 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave. or call (907)452-4222 ext. 100 to make an appointment.

**People living with HIV** may be eligible for financial assistance with medical care, medication and many other support services, including nutrition and housing. (907)452-4222 ext. 110. Everyone is welcome to speak with IAA Case Managers Ryan Pennington and Chelsea Long about how to get help navigating HIV care in Fairbanks.

**IMAT offers treatment for opioid use disorders.** **Northern Exchange** offers safer injection and drug use kits, including fentanyl test strips and xylazine test strips, Narcan kits and more. 710 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave. 10:00 – 3:00 and by appointment. (907)452-4222 ext. 100.

<https://www.interioraids.org>

**Donate**