



## **Marion County**

OREGON

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### **Twentieth Anniversary of World AIDS Day, December 1, 2008**

The twentieth annual World AIDS Day will be observed around the world on Monday, December 1, 2008. The purpose of World AIDS Day is to promote awareness and education about HIV/AIDS and to encourage HIV Testing.

According to UNAIDS, an estimated 33 million people worldwide have been infected and were living with the HIV virus in 2007. Another 2.7 million people become infected annually.

In observance of World AIDS Day, the Marion County Health Department will offer **FREE** anonymous or confidential HIV testing on Tuesday, December 2 and Friday, December 5, at the Marion County Health Department at 3180 Center St. NE. Call (503) 588-5342 to schedule an appointment. Enter through the main clinic entrance and tell the receptionist you are there for the free HIV test.

If you are a person at risk for HIV or shared needles, you should consider getting tested for HIV. Testing will be done by a blood draw or a mouth swab.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimate that over 1 million people are living with HIV/AIDS in the US. An estimated 56,300 people were infected with HIV in the U.S. in 2006. In the U.S., African Americans and Latinos/Hispanics are disproportionately affected by HIV/AIDS. While African Americans comprise 13 percent of the U.S. population, they accounted for almost half of the new HIV infections. Latinos/Hispanics make up 15 percent of the US population and they accounted for 17 percent of the new infections.

The Oregon Department of Human Services, Public Health Division estimates that over 7,000 people are currently living with HIV in Oregon. In Marion County, 381 AIDS cases were reported between 1981 and October 1, 2008, with 158 deaths. Since October 1, 2001, 105 cases of HIV infection have been reported in Marion County.

For more information on Marion County's free HIV testing, contact Karen Helikson at the Marion County Health Department, (503) 361-2659.

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