



JACKSON COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

NEWS

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Celebrate World AIDS Day on December 1st

Ending the HIV Epidemic: Equitable Access, Everyone's Voice

Approximately 1.2 million people in the United States are living with HIV, and approximately 13 percent of them are not aware they are infected. World AIDS Day is an opportunity to show support by increasing HIV awareness, encouraging prevention and linkage to care, and speaking out against stigma.

People who are HIV+ can live a longer and healthier life by obtaining viral suppression. Viral suppression is achieved by medication adherence to reduce the amount of virus in one's body. Viral suppression leads to an overall healthier life and reduces the chance of HIV transmission to others. Nationally, about 60% of people living with HIV are virally suppressed. In Jackson County, 94% of clients who are enrolled in Southern Illinois HIV Care Connect are virally suppressed. With the support of case managers, clients are better equipped to navigate their healthcare needs. Jackson County Health Department also provides comprehensive STD testing for a low cost of \$20.

What can you do to observe World AIDS Day?

- The symbol for World AIDS Day is the red ribbon. Wear a red ribbon and/or offer red ribbons to others on December 1, to raise awareness. Many people also wear the color red to show their support.
- Use your social media accounts to encourage people to get an HIV test.
- Share information on how to access HIV Care and Treatment by visiting www.HIVcareconnect.com.
- Share information about Southern Illinois HIV Care Connect, located at Jackson County Health Department, which provides HIV primary medical care, medication, and support services. Visit us at www.jchdonline.org.
- Visit a virtual or in-person display of the [AIDS Memorial Quilt](#).

Jackson County Health Department is dedicated to improving health outcomes and achieving health equity. For more information visit our website at www.jchdonline.org.

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