



# Anyone from Anywhere

“Anyone who has unprotected sex (especially penetrative sex) or shares needles with someone who is HIV positive or whose HIV status is not known could become infected with HIV. If you think that HIV/AIDS only affects gay men or injection drug users, you are wrong. You are not protected from HIV because you are straight, or young, or a woman, or living in a rural area. You don’t get HIV because of who you are, or where you live. It is what you do that puts you at risk for getting infected.”-Canadian HIV/AIDS Clearinghouse

“The reality is that the best defence against HIV requires three things, community support, information and good healthcare and treatment.”-BLACKCAP

## **Introduction**

Anyone from anywhere can contract HIV/AIDS. In York Region, Ontario, and Canada, there is a diverse group of people living with HIV/AIDS from many different communities, races, cultures, family backgrounds, sexual orientations, geographic areas, and ages. Sometimes there are communities that are more vulnerable to HIV contraction because of pre existing social vulnerabilities and historical inequities. Due to these systemic barriers there are differences in the lived experiences of people living with HIV/AIDS in different communities. It is important, however that we never count ourselves immune to HIV transmission and infection. We are all at risk and need to protect ourselves by knowing the facts and applying them to our lives.

## **Statistics**

Statistics from the Public Health Agency of Canada unless otherwise specified

[www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/index-eng.php](http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/index-eng.php)

- It is estimated that there are approximately 58,000 (48,000-68,000) people in Canada living with HIV/AIDS.
- 2,558 Canadians were actually diagnosed with HIV in 2006, 14% more than were diagnosed in 2001.
- According to a recent report by Dr. Robert Remis, York Region has the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest number of HIV diagnoses and rate in the Greater Toronto Area, next to Toronto and Peel regions.
- For more statistics on specific communities visit the websites below.

## **Resources**

**Ontario AIDS Network**

[www.ontarioaidsnetwork.on.ca](http://www.ontarioaidsnetwork.on.ca)

**AIDS Committee of Toronto (ACT)**

[www.actoronto.org](http://www.actoronto.org)

**People Living with HIV/AIDS (PWA)**

[www.pwatoronto.org](http://www.pwatoronto.org)

**Alliance for South Asian AIDS Prevention (ASAAP)**

[www.asaap.ca](http://www.asaap.ca)

**Asian Community AIDS Services**

[www.acas.org](http://www.acas.org)

**Black Coalition for AIDS prevention**

<http://www.black-cap.com/>

**2Spirited People of the First Nations**

<http://www.2spirits.com/>

**Latinos Positivos**

[www.latinospositivos.blogspot.com](http://www.latinospositivos.blogspot.com)

**Centre for Spanish Speaking Peoples**

<http://www.spanishservices.org/>

**Native Child and Family Services**

[www.nativechild.org](http://www.nativechild.org)