



# Dickinson-Iron District Health Department

## Dickinson County

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## ***Health Department Recognizes 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of HIV/AIDS Offers Free HIV Testing During the Month of June***

Kingsford and Iron River, Michigan, June 13, 2011 – Thirty years ago, on June 5, 1981, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) published the first mention of what later became known as HIV. We view this anniversary with sadness, for the nearly 30 million people worldwide who have lost their lives to the epidemic.

The National Association of People with AIDS (NAPWA) started National HIV Testing Day in 1995. Each year, local organizations across the nation engage in their communities to promote early diagnosis and HIV-testing. The CDC estimates that 250,000 of the one million people living with HIV/AIDS in the United States are unaware of their status. NAPWA realizes that lack of access to treatment and care along with social stigma can make living with HIV difficult. With early diagnosis, individuals will know their HIV-status, in turn, allowing them to seek appropriate treatment and care.

“According to CDC data released two years ago, about 56,000 Americans become newly infected with HIV each year – significantly more than was previously known – and more than 18,000 people with AIDS die each year in the United States,” said Margie Surface, Public Health Coordinator for the Health Department.

Locally, the Dickinson-Iron District Health Department offers HIV testing and counseling services. In observance of National HIV Testing Day, **the Health Department will offer free HIV testing in each of its offices on Monday, June 20<sup>th</sup>.**

Testing is anonymous and confidential. Orasure testing is available which is non-invasive and involves no blood drawing. Those wishing to be tested may call the health department to make an appointment.

The Dickinson-Iron District Health Department is committed to promoting wellness, preventing disease, providing health care, and protecting the environment. For additional information visit our website at [www.didhd.org](http://www.didhd.org) or call the offices at (906) 774-1868 or (906) 265-9913.

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