

BE  
IN  
THE **KNOW**





# **YOUNG PEOPLE WILL LEAD US TO AN AIDS-FREE GENERATION. AND IT STARTS WITH KNOWING YOUR STATUS.**

Around the world 5 million adolescents and young people between the ages of 10 and 24 are living with HIV. Globally, the proportion of young people getting tested for HIV is very low.

Today, with treatment, people living with HIV can lead healthy and fulfilling lives. By knowing your

status, you can make informed decisions about the future. This includes accessing essential HIV services and treatment if needed. HIV testing is voluntary, confidential and in many countries you can get the results the same day.

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# **KNOW YOUR STATUS**

# **ALL YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE THE RIGHT TO KNOW HOW TO STAY SAFE FROM HIV, THE RIGHT TO HIV SERVICES AND THE RIGHT TO LIVE WITH DIGNITY.**

Everyone has the right to know how to stay safe from HIV. Globally, only 24% of young women and 36% of young men responded correctly when asked about HIV prevention and HIV transmission. Education and quality sex education are key components to a successful AIDS response. Studies in Africa show that young women who finish high school are less likely to become infected with HIV.

Everyone has the right to timely, quality and affordable health care. Where young people are part of the solution the results are dramatic. In 27 countries, HIV prevalence among young people aged 15-24 decreased by more than 50% over the last 10 years. Everyone has the right to live with dignity—too often stigma and discrimination hold people back from accessing services.

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# **KNOW YOUR RIGHTS**



## MORE THAN EVER—PEOPLE HAVE OPTIONS FOR HIV PREVENTION AND TREATMENT.

Young people can find themselves in different risky situations and that is why they need to find the best HIV prevention and treatment options.

The decline of new HIV infections among young people in several high-prevalence countries is attributed to young people making informed choices and changing their behaviour, including delaying the first time they have sex, increased levels of condom use and reductions in multiple partners.

A lot has changed in the past five years and today HIV treatment is more widely available. Studies show it has a prevention effect too. Getting treatment early is more vital than ever. Many young people don't know they have the virus. In the early stages of infection there are very few symptoms. If

people wait to go to the doctor before they feel sick—it can be too late.

Many young people find it difficult to stay on treatment—sometimes that is about stigma, sometimes it is about the feeling that many adolescents go through; simply wanting to fit in, and not wanting to be different. We need to make it easy for young people to stay on treatment.

While more options are available, they are not always tailored for and accessible to young people. HIV services should also specifically address the needs of vulnerable and high risk groups of young people, including young people who inject drugs and young men who have sex with men.

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# KNOW YOUR OPTIONS



People living with HIV globally in 2013

35 000 000

Adolescents and young people living with HIV aged  
10-24 globally in 2013

5 000 000

AIDS-related deaths among young people  
aged 10-24 in 2013

160 000

Adolescents and young people aged 10-24 newly  
infected with HIV globally in 2013

670 000

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**KNOW** YOUR  
FACTS

