

## **Man Up Talking Point**

### ***Why the report is called “Man Up” and what does the term mean?***

The term Man Up means that men should fulfill their responsibilities as a man.

### ***Why was the report prepared and released?***

This report seeks to mobilize men to eliminate their risk for acquiring and transmitting HIV/AIDS. The report also seeks to encourage men to “Man Up” and take responsibility for the consequences of their sexual actions and other HIV risk behaviors, for the benefit of themselves and their partners. The goal is to stimulate the development and implementation of community action plans to prevent the further spread of HIV/AIDS among Florida’s men and their partners.

### ***Why the focus on men?***

- In Florida, 1 in 209 white men, compared to 1 in 44 black men and 1 in 117 Hispanic men, is living with HIV/AIDS.
- The statewide rate among black men is 4.8 times that of white men and 2.7 times that of Hispanic men. Hispanic men are impacted with HIV/AIDS 1.8 times more than white men.
- The highest rate in any racial/ethnic group is seen in Miami-Dade County, where 1 in 29 black men are living with HIV/AIDS in 2008. Following close behind is Palm Beach County (1 in 31) and St. Lucie County (1 in 32).
- The highest rate of white men living with HIV/AIDS is in Monroe County (1 in 55).
- **Mention your local county data**

### ***Why is it important to focus on people living with HIV/AIDS in the report?***

Knowledge of the group of people who are living with HIV or AIDS is essential for conducting “prevention for positives”, that is, preventing further transmission from those who are HIV-infected to those who are HIV-negative. It is also important for understanding the characteristics of those who are in need of HIV care and treatment.

### ***What can these findings be used for?***

Describing persons living with HIV/AIDS, as we have done in the report, will lead to better targeting of resources at the county level according to race/ethnicity, sex and HIV risk-behaviors. Compelling data, presented credibly and clearly, has been proven to help mobilize target communities to combat HIV/AIDS in partnership with local health departments.

### ***What can be done?***

In the absence of a vaccine, the only current way to guarantee prevention of HIV infection is total abstinence from certain behaviors: having vaginal, anal or oral sex or sharing needles and other equipment for injecting drugs. Lacking that, there is a set of realistic recommendations for the individual, the community and the provider to reduce the risk of HIV.

**Refer to the back of the report for recommendations**