



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Community Partners to Promote HIV Testing in Recognition of World AIDS Day**

*December 1<sup>st</sup> is World AIDS Day*

**Eau Claire, WI, December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016-** While new testing technologies and many other accomplishments have increased the percentage of persons living with HIV who know their status and have access to HIV prevention, treatment, and care services; HIV remains a health concern in our community. More than 7,900 people are estimated to be living with HIV in Wisconsin, including an estimated 1,000 people who are unaware of their HIV infection. For this reason, the Eau Claire City County Health Department, in partnership with the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin (ARCW) is hosting an HIV testing event on World AIDS day.

**When: Thursday, December 1<sup>st</sup>, Starting at 8:30pm**

**Where: Scooters, 411 Galloway St, Eau Claire, WI 54703**

*Testing at no cost to you will be offered to people that have never been tested, people with a history of injection drug use, men who have sex with men, and anyone who has had unprotected sex with multiple partners.*

While anyone can become infected with HIV, the impact of HIV does not affect everyone equally. In Wisconsin, gay and bisexual men of all races account for 80% of Wisconsin cases in 2015. The population experiencing the largest increase in new diagnoses in the past decade is young Black men who have sex with men. Compared with other racial or ethnic groups, Black men and women and Hispanic men have high rates of HIV.

“World AIDS Day helps to remind people that HIV is an ever present problem and there are many things that can still be done to help,” says Abby Hinz, Public Health Nurse.

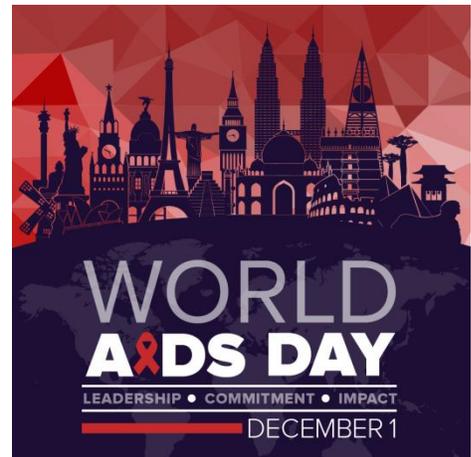
**The Health Department encourages you to get involved in your community around AIDS prevention.**

**What you can do to make an impact:**

- Get tested for HIV. Talk with your health care provider about your risks for HIV.
- Talk with family, friends, and colleagues, about HIV prevention, about why this day matters to you and about HIV’s impact on your community.
- Provide support to people living with HIV/AIDS. Volunteer at a local service organization.
- Ask community leaders to increase their response to addressing the epidemic.

For more information about HIV prevention, testing, treatment, research, visit <https://www.aids.gov/>.

**For questions about the local World AIDS Day testing event on Dec. 1st, call the ARCW at (715) 836-7710 #3208.**



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