

# WHAT LATINOS IN GEORGIA NEED TO KNOW ABOUT AIDS

- HIV is the virus that causes AIDS.
- You can have HIV for many years without showing signs of AIDS or getting sick.
- You can spread HIV to another person without ever knowing you have it.
- HIV is spread by sex, or by sharing “works” (needles, cooker, rinse water, cotton) to shoot drugs. Pregnant women who are infected can also pass it to their babies.
- More than half of the Latino men with AIDS in Georgia got it by having unprotected sex with an infected partner. About a fifth of the men were infected by sharing works to shoot drugs.

## **Prevention steps you can take**

- You can choose not to have sex at all.
- Make sure you use a latex condom correctly every time you have sex. Never use a condom more than once. Help your partner understand that condoms can save both of your lives. Read the instructions. Make sure you understand how condoms are used. You can get free condoms from most county health departments or community groups working to prevent AIDS.
- If you use drugs, seek treatment to help you quit. If you continue to inject drugs, never share works. Using sterile needles and syringes only once remains the safest, most effective approach for limiting HIV transmission.

## **If you want to be sure you don't have HIV**

Get tested and go back for your test results. Call your county health department to find out the location, hours and cost. All testing is confidential. Anonymous testing is also available, which means you don't have to give your name. You will not be turned away if you cannot pay. You don't have to be a legal U.S. resident to get treatment.

## **Where to go for information about HIV/AIDS**

- Your doctor, your local health department or the Division of Public Health at (404) 657-2700.
- Call the **Georgia AIDS Information Line, 1-800-551-2728**. You won't have to give your name. They can answer your questions or refer you to community outreach programs.
- Call **Helpline Georgia at 1-800-338-6745** for more information about drug treatment programs.