#DoingItMyWay HIV Testing While Traveling

July 28, 2018 By Shawn Decker

I'll never forget this story. Someone was telling me about the low turnout they had for a testing event. When it was over they had no idea what went wrong- they'd promoted the event, which seemingly had the community's interest. Then when the day came, very few actually got tested.

A couple of days after the event, they found out why. They'd had a big sign saying something to the effect of: "FREE HIV TESTING- ENTER HERE!" People told them they were afraid to be seen entering the testing location. That's how bad HIV stigma can be, even getting tested for HIV carries a weight.

Gwenn and I are part of the CDC's social media campaign, #DoingItMyWay, which encourages HIV testing. If you go to their site, you can enter your zip code and find a testing location near you. You can also find at-home testing kits at participating drug stores...

But what do you do if you are concerned with seeing that ex-boyfriend, aunt or Sunday school teacher that moonlights at CVS or works at the Health Department?

One option is to get tested while you are traveling. Summer vacation? Find a testing location near your destination. Don't have the money to travel? Order a home testing kit online. In some cases, though, that can be more expensive than making a road trip to a testing center 40 miles away. Either way, it's worth your time and money to know your HIV status.

Hope everyone is having a great Summer. Stay cool out there!

Positively Yours,

Shawn

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