

Inside Edition...

Modern Day Casanova
 The Key to Disclosure
 Resource of the Month
 HIV Madness

The Cost of Transmission: Man Sentenced to 45 yrs in Prison by Cherelle Fowler

Imagine you are in a relationship, in love and think nothing could go wrong. Except you visit your doctor and find out you are now HIV positive. Unfortunately that's what happened to 6 unsuspecting women. Philippe Padieu, once considered the "modern day Casanova" was diagnosed in 2005 with HIV, yet he continued to have unprotected intercourse and oral sex.

Six women have come out being infected, but who knows if there are more who are unaware of their status. His trial was a jury of peers who saw him as a danger to society. Padieu was sentenced to 45 years in prison, being found guilty of assault with a deadly weapon; the deadly weapon being his HIV infected bodily fluids.¹ Mr. Padieu was convicted because he knowingly infected six women with HIV without disclosing his status.

That leads me to question should disclosure be mandatory? On one hand disclosing your status is an extremely sensitive subject, and you wouldn't be expected to disclose that to everyone you meet, but if you are in an intimate relationship, wouldn't you see fit to inform your partner since that could change their life? But on the flip side, shouldn't someone have insisted on using some form of protection? Who should be punished, the person that doesn't disclose or the person that doesn't protect themselves?

As the number of HIV cases increase, it has been a continuing debate surrounding the criminalization of HIV transmission. Some feel that transmitting HIV to a sexual partner without disclosing should be prosecuted like any other crime. However, some are concerned about convicting those who infect others even if the HIV positive individual deliberately withheld his or her status. Those in opposition to criminalization feel that rarely is HIV transmission done to intentionally harm, but my question is how can you determine one's intent?

Supporters of criminalization contest that intentionally not disclosing HIV status to sexual partners puts that partner in harm's way, and potentially several other partners if it's not a monogamous relationship. Let's say you noticed something off with the alignment in your car, so you take it to a mechanic to do a diagnostic. The mechanic confirms that there is a problem with the alignment of the back tires, but neglects to tell you that you're dangerously close to not having any brake fluid. He proceeds to fix the alignment which is what you went in for but doesn't disclose the information about your brake fluid and sends you on your way. A few days pass, and on your way to work you try to brake, but can't. You end up getting into a major accident.

If you'd known you were low on brake fluid you would've had the option to fix the problem, and protect yourself as well as other drivers, but you weren't given that option. Should the mechanic be held responsible because he knew you had virtually no brake fluid and still sent you on your way or should he not be held liable?

Those opposing criminalization think it's just a bad idea. In their opinion criminalization won't do anything to reduce the rates of HIV transmission, it will just add to the stigma and fear that follows an HIV positive individual. In the United States it isn't mandatory to disclose your status, although it is highly suggested. The United States also put The American Disabilities Act of 1990 in play to protect individuals from being discriminated against.

Given valid points on both sides it still leaves me unsure of what's just. In this situation how do you prove someone's intent to harm, and if proven, what legal steps are taken to insure punishment? Ask yourself, what would I do if someone knowingly infected me?

1. www.aids.about.com
 2. www.dallasnews.com
 3. www.thebody.com

Did you know...

The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 is a national law that protects individuals from discrimination based on their disability. The nondiscrimination requirements of the law apply to employers and organizations that receive financial assistance from any federal department. These organizations and employers include many hospitals, nursing homes, mental health centers and human service programs.
www.hhs.gov

Calendar

July 23, 2009
**WE SAVE Higher Education
 Coalition Meeting**
 Student Health Services
 12:30-230pm

August 9-12, 2009
Jennifer's Camp
 Children with HIV/AIDS
 Alamo Area Resource Center

August 22, 2009
Annual Disco Ball
 Beat AIDS
 6:00-11:00pm

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Webster's dictionary defines disclosure as the act of disclosing, or exposing information. HIV positive individuals, along with individuals who have sexually transmitted diseases are strongly encouraged to disclose their status although it's not mandatory.

There is no one way to tell someone, just as there is no sure way to gauge their reaction to your news. But it will help to ask yourself a few questions before disclosing:

- Who do I want to tell and why do I want them to know?
- How much am I ready to share or are they ready to hear?
- How will disclosing my HIV status affect me and how will it affect the people around me?

Disclosing your HIV status can be stressful. While you may receive love and support from some of the people you tell, others may not be as accepting. Try to find someone that can support you through this difficult time of telling. If you have not told any family yet, turn to your doctor, social worker, counselor, or community AIDS organization.

You do not have to tell everyone that you are HIV+. You should tell people that you may have been exposed to HIV so that they can be tested and seek medical attention if required. These people could be sexual contacts or people with whom you have shared needles. If you do not want to tell them yourself, your local Department of Health can inform your contacts without even using your name. In some states, the law requires that you disclose your HIV status before knowingly exposing or transmitting HIV to someone else and penalties vary from state to state.

You are not required by law to inform your employer you are HIV+. If you do tell, remember that, as long as you are performing your job, your employer cannot legally discriminate against you. People with disabilities, including HIV, are protected from job discrimination under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Just like you, people you tell will need support too! Try to leave them brochures or books about HIV that they can look at later. Give them telephone numbers of support groups in the area. Also, let them know who else is aware of your status, so that they can go to each other for support.

For more information please contact your local health department.


www.thewellproject.org

Resource of the Month

Alamo Area Resource Center

The Alamo Area Resource Center maximizes the quality of the life for individuals facing disabling or life threatening diseases, including, but not limited to HIV/AIDS, by providing comprehensive, compassionate, and effective rehabilitative and social services.

527 N. Leona Bldg. A, 3rd Floor
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San Antonio, Tx. 78207
Phone (210)358-9995



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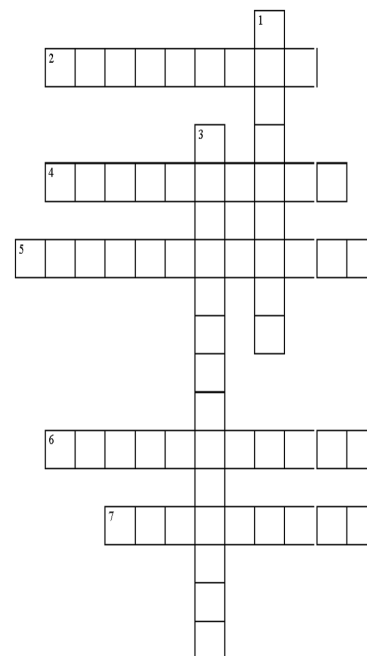
Summer 2009 Schedule

<p>DT Campus BV 1.308 July 8 July 22 August 12</p>	<p>1604 Campus RWC 1.500 July 9 July 23 August 13</p>
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By appointment only
Call 458-4142
Private and confidential 30 minute Rapid Testing

For students only

HIV Madness



ACROSS

- 2 Inflammation of the liver
- 4 Not having sex
- 5 Act of passing an infection or trait
- 6 Cells that fight infection
- 7 Repeated action that does harm

DOWN

- 1 Conclusion of medical care
- 3 Drug treatment that inhibits or kills HIV