



**WHITMAN-WALKER CLINIC®**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**Sept. 23, 2010**

**Contact: Chip Lewis**  
**(202) 797-3514, (202) 213-8939 (c)**

## **WHITMAN-WALKER CLINIC RESPONDS TO CDC STUDY ON HIV AMONG GAY AND BISEXUAL MEN**

### *Clinic Offers Services for Testing, Treatment and Prevention of HIV*

WASHINGTON –Whitman-Walker Clinic today responded to the [Centers for Disease Control's announcement of new statistics for HIV among men who have sex with men](#). The study found that one in every five MSM in 21 cities is HIV-positive. Nearly half were unaware of their status. Rates were higher for MSM of color.

“This study showed many of these same trends among MSM in DC,” said Ray Martins, chief medical officer of Whitman-Walker Clinic. “In DC, the study found that one in every seven MSM is infected with HIV and 42 percent of participants were unaware they had HIV, even though 70 percent of participants had seen a doctor in the previous 12 months. One in every three African-American MSM in DC over the age of 30 tested positive for HIV. Rates were also much higher for younger African-American MSM and other MSM of color.”

“This study also found that the majority of new infections are caused by individuals who are unaware of their HIV status,” said Martins. “It’s clear that we need to get gay and bisexual men into more regular testing for HIV at least once a year or, ideally, two to four times a year if they are having riskier sex. DC’s Department of Health recommends that MSM get tested twice a year. Studies show that individuals who know their status are far more likely to take precautions to not infect others.”

“Whitman-Walker’s HIV testing services are free of charge and don’t require any appointment,” said Martins. “Testing is available at both of our sites – 14<sup>th</sup> Street, NW, and Martin Luther King Jr. Ave., SE – five days a week. In addition, our Gay Men’s Health and Wellness/STD Clinic is open every Tuesday and Thursday night and offers free HIV testing along with screening for other STDs.”

“In addition, HIV testing is offered as a part of primary medical care at Whitman-Walker Clinic, which anyone can access, whether HIV-positive or negative,” said Martins.

Regardless of the test result, Whitman-Walker has services for both treatment and prevention.

“For those who are HIV-negative, we can provide education and resources to help them stay negative,” said Martins. “For those who are HIV-positive, we can immediately connect them to medical care and any other services they may need. Early and consistent treatment not only protects the health of the person living with HIV, it makes them much less likely to infect other people.”

“With rates like we see in DC and around the nation, we must take action as a community to fight the HIV epidemic,” said Martins. “The first step in that fight is getting MSM in for regular HIV testing.”

Established in 1978, Whitman-Walker Clinic is a non-profit, community-based provider of health care in the Washington, DC, metropolitan area. Through two sites in the District of Columbia, the Clinic offers primary medical and dental care; mental health and addictions counseling and treatment; HIV education, prevention, and testing; legal services; and medical adherence case management. Whitman-Walker Clinic is committed to meeting the health needs of the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community and people living with HIV/AIDS.

###

Shocking stats on HIV/AIDS rates in DC (TBD, 9/28/10)

<http://www.tbd.com/blogs/news-talk/2010/09/shocking-stats-on-hiv-aids-rates-in-dc-plus-drop-in-revenues-means-tough-decisions-for-city-leaders-2366.html>

Young, gay, and black in D.C.: Reaching the HIV/AIDS epidemic's most at-risk group (TBD, 9/27/10)

<http://www.tbd.com/blogs/amanda-hess/2010/09/young-gay-and-black-in-d-c-reaching-the-hiv-aids-epidemic-s-most-at-risk-group-2303.html>

Local non-profits react to study for Gay Men's HIV/AIDS Awareness Day (Examiner.com, 9/26/10) <http://www.examiner.com/hiv-and-aids-in-washington-dc/local-non-profits-react-to-study-for-gay-men-s-hiv-aids-awareness-day>

1 in 7 men who have sex with men have HIV in DC (ABC 7, 9/24/10) <http://www.tbd.com/search/v/34407143/1-in-7-men-who-have-sex-with-men-have-hiv-in-d-c.htm?q=hiv>

HIV among black gay men: One-third are infected and half don't know it yet (TBD, 9/24/10) <http://www.tbd.com/blogs/amanda-hess/2010/09/hiv-among-black-gay-men-one-third-are-infected-and-half-don-t-know-it-yet-2203.html>