



## QUESTION AND ANSWER SHEET

| Question  | Answer  | Possible Prevention Strategies <sup>1</sup>   |
|---|---|---|
| Will injecting drugs give you HIV?  | Only if the needle or syringe contains HIV. People who inject drugs should always use a sterile needle and syringe and should try to reduce the number of people with whom they share equipment.  | Harm reduction, education, treatment/prevention of drug/alcohol abuse, (needle exchange programs), vaccine, microbicide, PrEP |
| If you are fit and healthy, can you contract HIV?   | It does not matter how healthy or unhealthy you are. Anyone can get HIV through sex or injection drug use if the appropriate prevention strategies are not used.  | Harm reduction, education, condoms and other barrier methods, treatment as prevention, vaccine, microbicide, PrEP             |
| Can married people contract HIV?  | This depends on the partners involved. One or both partner may already have HIV. One or both partners may have sex outside the marriage or use injection drugs. Marriage by itself offers no guarantees for HIV prevention. In fact, marriage is associated with HIV vulnerability for women globally.  | All   |
| Does contraception prevent HIV?   | Condoms are the only form of contraception that can prevent HIV, and even condoms are not 100% effective since they must be used correctly and consistently every time a person has sex. Other forms of contraception do not currently prevent HIV.   | Harm reduction, education, condoms and other barrier methods, treatment as prevention, vaccine, microbicide, PrEP             |
| If you have sex with people who look healthy, can you contract HIV?   | Appearance is a useless way of assessing your likelihood for contracting HIV.   | All   |
| Is anal sex between two cisgender men (MSM) more likely to result in HIV transmission than anal sex between a cisgender man and a cisgender woman (when condoms, PrEP, and TasP are not used in either scenario)? | Biologically, anal sex is equally likely to result in HIV transmission regardless of who is doing it. This is because the tissue that lines the rectum is only one cell thick, making it very fragile and prone to tearing. However, in the US for example, HIV prevalence among MSM is much higher than it is among cisgender heterosexual people. So statistically, MSM are much more vulnerable to HIV than cisgender heterosexual people. | Harm reduction, education, internal/external condoms and other barrier methods.   |

<sup>1</sup> Note, the prevention strategies above include those currently implemented and those that are still undergoing research and not yet available to the public.



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| <p>Are condoms effective at preventing HIV?</p>                         | <p>Condoms are extremely effective against HIV, but they must be used correctly and consistently every time a person has sex to prevent HIV transmission. Use a lubricant that is water based; oil-based lubricants can weaken the condom. When buying condoms, check the expiration and “sell by” date.</p> | <p>All</p> |
| <p>If you only have sex with people you know, can you contract HIV?</p> | <p>Knowing someone well offers no reliable guide to whether or not they have HIV and how they manage their health.</p>   | <p>All</p> |

