



THE POWER OF FAITH

Houses of worship are places to observe rituals and rites of passage, find community, receive individual solace and counsel, and demonstrate faith, both individually and collectively. Additionally, houses of worship often serve the more secular needs of the community, referring members to social and health service providers, or offering services on site. HIV/AIDS devastates communities across the world, especially in those areas where poverty and poor living conditions persist. Even in America, racial, sexual, and ethnic minorities face obstacles to treatment and prevention or have limited access to care and services. The faith community has and will continue to play a critical role in responding to the HIV/AIDS epidemic by addressing the impact of the epidemic and supporting HIV/AIDS prevention, education, research, and treatment efforts. These efforts include becoming informed about and engaged in the prevention of HIV, as well as understanding and promoting the importance and need for participation in clinical trials. HIV has no barriers. There are millions of people living with HIV who worship and practice their faith.



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HIV VACCINE
TRIALS NETWORK

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Turning Faith into Action:

Building Bridges in the Effort Against HIV





HOW CAN WE STOP THE SPREAD OF DISEASE?

- By translating our compassion for our fellow humans impacted by HIV/AIDS into action on their behalf.
- By joining organizations across the country and around the world to fight HIV/AIDS and reduce stigma.
- By providing compassion and care so people know their HIV status, take medication as prescribed, and are supported in their efforts to manage mental health or drug challenges.
- By becoming informed about HIV prevention studies and supporting those who volunteer for them all over the world.

Your willingness to act out your faith could contribute to finding a vaccine or other new methods for preventing HIV.

WE WANT TO PREVENT HIV

The HIV Vaccine Trials Network (HVTN) and HIV Prevention Trials Network (HPTN) currently conduct HIV prevention studies in over 100 locations on five continents. Clinical trials are research studies used to understand how to prevent, detect or treat disease. Volunteers are asked to participate in a study that is assessed and approved for the safety and well-being of those who agree to participate, and each component of the study has an approved set of procedures to guide the work. While each Clinical Research Site has the necessary scientists, nurses, community educators, and auxiliary staff, they cannot do their work without the help of volunteers. The volunteers must represent diverse communities because all communities are affected by the disease—all ethnicities, nationalities, sexual orientations, genders, faiths, and walks of life. We also need volunteers from faith communities.

THOUSANDS ARE HELPING

Volunteering for HIV prevention studies represents a way to unite in the global effort against HIV/AIDS by participating in the research. The decision to participate in a study is a very personal one—no one can tell you if you should be a volunteer. It has to be your decision. To many faiths, the well-being of a neighbor is as important as one's own. If you are generally healthy, between the ages of 18-50, and able to commit time and energy, we want to talk with you. The counselors at your local research site would be happy to talk with you about the studies they are doing and

answer any questions you have. Volunteers are essential as we test vaccines and antibodies against HIV for side effects, immune system responses and efficacy. Together, we can work to bring humanity closer to an end to the epidemic.

As a study volunteer, you join many others around the world doing their best for their neighbors' and their own health. They seek the wellness of generations to come, whom we hope will not suffer through this pandemic. Moreover, future generations will enjoy the support of a community that is more informed about HIV/AIDS. Many houses of worship have established programs for HIV/AIDS education and prevention, and carry these out as part of their regular activities. Learning about HIV prevention studies is part of a comprehensive education program on HIV/AIDS, which should include information about prevention, treatment, care, and research. Please consider joining one of our studies or help us find volunteers by sharing this information with someone you know. You could also support the effort by joining one of our Community Advisory Boards (CAB's) to help guide and inform our research.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

To learn more about how you can help, please visit www.helpendhiv.org.

To learn more about how the HVTN is intentionally partnering with faith communities, please visit

<https://www.hvtn.org/community/community-overview/hvtn-faith-initiative.html>.