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# AIDS-Defining Conditions

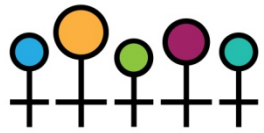
*Last updated: September 13, 2023*

*Together, we can change the course of the HIV epidemic...one woman at a time.*

#onewomanatatime

[www.thewellproject.org](http://www.thewellproject.org)

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# What Is AIDS?

AIDS stands for

**A**cquired

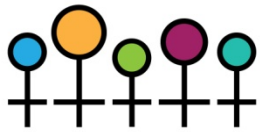
**I**mmune

**D**eficiency

**S**yndrome.

AIDS is the most  
advanced stage of HIV.

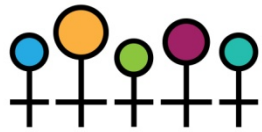




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# What Is an AIDS Diagnosis?

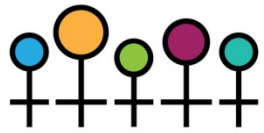
- CDC defines a person as having AIDS if they are **living with HIV and have a CD4 cell count of 200 or less**
  - CDC has list of opportunistic infections (OIs), cancers, conditions considered **AIDS-defining conditions**
    - List of conditions is on slides 6 and 7
  - If you are living with HIV and have 1 or more of these conditions, you have a diagnosis of AIDS, no matter your CD4 count or how it changes
    - Does not necessarily mean you are sick or will get sick in the future
    - Public health system's way to count people who have had advanced HIV



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## Stage 3/4 HIV

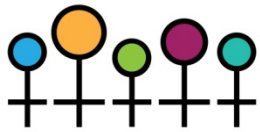
- AIDS is also sometimes referred to as **stage 3 HIV**
- CDC defines and uses “stages” of HIV
  - To keep track of advanced HIV disease in US
  - To plan for prevention and care on a population level
- WHO uses similar staging system, set of definitions
  - WHO refers to AIDS as “severe HIV” or “stage 4”
- **Health care providers don’t use these definitions to make decisions for individual patients**
- HIV drugs can rebuild immune system even after AIDS diagnosis



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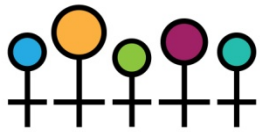
- AIDS-defining conditions on slides 6 and 7 come from a government report and contain medical terms
- If you have any questions:
  - Ask your health care provider
  - Contact an educator at a local ASO  
Find ASOs at [POZ's Health Services Directory](#)
  - Read [The Well Project's fact sheet on AIDS-Defining Conditions](#) for links to articles with more details



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# List of AIDS-Defining Conditions I

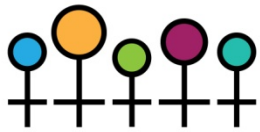
- Bacterial infections (multiple, recurrent)
  - Only for children <13 years old
- Candidiasis of bronchi, trachea, or lungs
- Candidiasis, esophageal
- Cervical cancer, invasive
  - Only among people  $\geq 13$  years old
- Coccidioidomycosis, disseminated or extrapulmonary
- Cryptococcosis, extrapulmonary
- Cryptosporidiosis, chronic intestinal (>1 month)
- CMV disease (other than liver, spleen, or nodes)
  - Beginning when >1 month old
- CMV retinitis (with loss of eyesight)
- Encephalopathy, HIV-related
- Herpes simplex: chronic ulcers (>1 month); bronchitis, pneumonitis, esophagitis
  - Beginning when >1 month old
- Histoplasmosis, disseminated or extrapulmonary
- Isosporiasis, chronic intestinal (>1 month)



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# List of AIDS-Defining Conditions II

- Kaposi sarcoma
- Lymphoma, Burkitt
- Lymphoma, immunoblastic
- Lymphoma, primary, of brain
- *Mycobacterium avium* complex or *M. kansasii*, disseminated or extrapulmonary
- *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, of any site, pulmonary ( $\geq 13$  years old), disseminated, extrapulmonary
- *Mycobacterium*, other species or unidentified species, disseminated or extrapulmonary
- *Pneumocystis jirovecii* pneumonia (PJP, formerly PCP)
- Pneumonia, recurrent ( $\geq 13$  years old)
- Progressive multifocal leukoencephalopathy
- *Salmonella septicemia*, recurrent
- Toxoplasmosis of brain, beginning when  $>1$  month old
- Wasting syndrome due to HIV



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## Learn More!

- To learn more about this topic, and for links to articles featuring more details, please read the full fact sheet on this topic:
  - Fact sheet: [AIDS-Defining Conditions](#)
- For more fact sheets and to connect to our community of women living with HIV, visit:
  - [www.thewellproject.org](http://www.thewellproject.org)
  - [www.facebook.com/thewellproject](https://www.facebook.com/thewellproject)
  - [www.twitter.com/thewellproject](https://www.twitter.com/thewellproject)
  - [www.instagram.com/thewellprojecthiv](https://www.instagram.com/thewellprojecthiv)