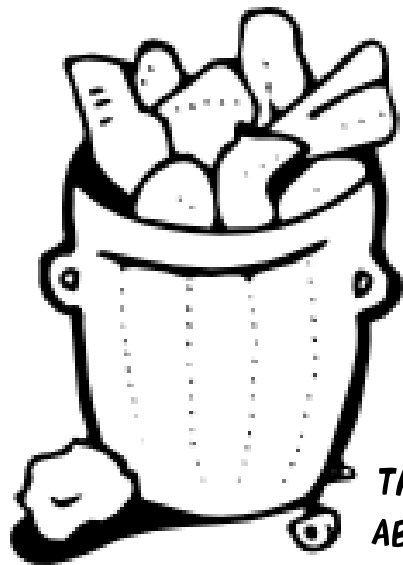


MAKE A POSTER! MYTHS & FACTS ABOUT HIV/AIDS

Draw a line from the facts to the poster &
draw a line from the myths (what is not true) to the bin

1. It is safe to kiss someone who has HIV+ on the lips.
2. HIV can be cured.
3. HIV is transmitted by mosquitoes
4. I CANNOT get HIV from hugging someone who is HIV positive or who has AIDS.
5. HIV is the same as AIDS.
6. I have HIV.... I can't have children.
7. Having sex with an albino will cure AIDS
8. ART cures AIDS
9. People living with HIV can have sexual intercourse.

Look for the correct answers on the next page



**THIS BIN IS FULL OF MYTHS
ABOUT HIV AND AIDS**

**THIS POSTER ONLY CONTAINS FACTS
ABOUT HIV/AIDS**

Facts

1. It is safe to kiss someone who has HIV+ on the lips.
4. I CANNOT get HIV from hugging someone who is HIV positive or who has AIDS.
9. People living with HIV can have sexual intercourse.

Explanations of the facts:

1. The risk of HIV infection from a dry kiss is almost zero. But the risk of a wet kiss is slight, if **both** people have sores in the mouth, cracking lips, or bleeding gums. But it is still a low risk. Saliva is not risky, blood is, but only when it can get into the other's blood stream.
4. You cannot get HIV/AIDS from:
 - Holding hands, hugging, caressing, kissing
 - Close contact with infected people at school, work, in the village
 - Sharing clothes, food, crockery, towels, bed etc.
 - Insect bites
 - Coughing, sneezing
 - Swimming together
 - Using public toilets or sharing a private toilet
9. People living with HIV can have sexual intercourse, as long as they use a condom correctly every time they have sex. They have the right to enjoy their sexuality as much as everyone else.

Myths (these beliefs are NOT true):

2. HIV can be cured. **NOT TRUE**
3. HIV is transmitted by mosquitoes. **NOT TRUE**
5. HIV is the same as AIDS. **NOT TRUE**
6. I have HIV.... I can't have children. **NOT TRUE**
7. Having sex with an albino will cure AIDS. **NOT TRUE**
8. ART cures AIDS. **NOT TRUE**

Explanations of the myths:

2. While many make claims of miraculous cures, the sad truth is **there is no cure for HIV**. So, don't believe it when people say that for example you can cure HIV by having sex with a virgin, it is NOT TRUE!
3. **HIV cannot be transmitted by a mosquito**. The HIV virus cannot survive outside the human body. Also, an HIV infection is only possible by direct transmission of the infectious bodily fluids via cuts, sores or open wounds on the skin or natural openings such as the anus and genitals.
5. **HIV and AIDS are not the same**. HIV is a virus, while AIDS is the advanced stage of illnesses caused by HIV. This advanced stage happens when the HIV virus has broken down a person's immune system, making the body more vulnerable to all kinds of infections and other diseases like pneumonia, tuberculosis (TB), cancer and malaria.
6. **Men and women living with HIV can and do have children**; it is their right. Certain medical steps and precautions have to be taken to protect the child from getting HIV from the mother. This medical assistance (PMTCT) is offered in a prenatal care clinic.
7. **Having sexual intercourse with any person - albino or virgin - will never cure AIDS**. Sadly there is no cure for HIV or AIDS. Always seek medical support or assistance in case you are infected or ill.
8. **ART does not cure AIDS**. ART can delay the moment of getting AIDS, but they won't cure the disease. ART works by controlling the replication of the HIV virus within a person's body and allows the person's immune system to strengthen and regain the capacity to fight off infections.