

The TRUTH about adopting children who are HIV positive



www.projecthopeful.org

HIV stands for human immunodeficiency virus, and it can lead to acquired immunodeficiency syndrome, or AIDS. Unlike some other viruses, the human body cannot get rid of HIV. HIV is a virus spread through bodily fluids that affects specific cells of the immune system, called CD4 cells, or T cells. Over time, HIV can destroy so many of these cells that the body can't fight off infections and disease. When this happens, HIV infection leads to AIDS. Thanks to better treatments, people with HIV are now living longer - with a better quality of life - than ever before. Today, someone diagnosed with HIV and treated before the disease is far advanced can live as long as people who do not have HIV.

You CANNOT contract HIV from casual contact. HIV is not in tears, sweat, mucus, feces or urine.

You don't have to fear catching HIV through day-to-day activities with people who have HIV. You can share plates, cups, utensils, food, toilets, towels, linens and other household items without risk of transmission.

There has never been a case of accidental transmission in a normal household setting.

HIV cannot be spread by shaking hands, hugging, or kissing individuals who have HIV.

“You can't get the virus by touching, shaking hands, hugging, swimming in a public pool, giving blood, or using hot tubs, public toilets, telephones, doorknobs or water fountains.”

- American Academy of Family Physicians

“Don't spend time worrying about weird and obscure ways of transmitting the virus. The simple fact is that if no one shared needles and everyone wore condoms, the HIV epidemic would disappear.”

- Joel Gallant, M.D., M.P.H., Johns Hopkins University

For more information about adopting or caring for a child who has HIV, contact Project HOPEFUL.

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