



WHAT EVERY CHURCH

– CAN DO FOR –
PEOPLE LIVING WITH
HIV & AIDS

COMPASSION
COMMUNITY
REAL SOLUTIONS

www.hivaidsinitiative.com

HIV  AIDS
— INITIATIVE —
SADDLEBACK CHURCH

// THE CHURCH STRATEGY

The HIV&AIDS Initiative of Saddleback Church inspires and equips churches around the world to care for those infected and affected by HIV&AIDS, both locally and globally. Through the “CHURCH” strategy, local churches are encouraged to take a leading role in ending AIDS by engaging in prevention, treatment, care, and support.

C – Care for and Support the Sick

Churches are commanded by God to care about the sick. It is their calling! It doesn't require money or special training to love. Local congregations are the only caring organization found in almost every community around the world.

H – Handle HIV Testing and Counseling

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recommends everyone between 13 and 64 receive an HIV test at least once in their lifetime. Those at higher risk should be tested annually. There are two reasons to know your HIV status: if you're negative, stay negative; if you're positive, you can access care and treatment, and avoid transmitting the virus to others.

U – Unleash a Volunteer Labor Force

There will never be enough healthcare professionals in the world to teach prevention, administer treatment, and offer care to those who need it. Churches have the largest volunteer labor force on the planet—more than two billion members. What an impact we can make if this enormous untapped pool of talent, energy, and compassion can be mobilized to support those infected and affected by HIV&AIDS!

R – Remove the Stigma

Churches must embrace people who are HIV positive by replacing rejection and alienation with mercy and acceptance. It is not a sin to be sick. We should not ask, “How did you become infected?” but, “How can we help you?”

C – Champion Healthy Behavior

HIV&AIDS is complex and yet largely preventable. Churches have the moral authority to promote healthy sexual behavior and to offer the spiritual motivation for abstinence, fidelity, and drug-free living. Many churches offer Celebrate Recovery®, a Christian 12-Step program, to those struggling with codependency, alcohol, drug, and sexual addiction. Churches can offer a holistic approach that encompasses all aspects of HIV prevention and addiction recovery.

H – Help with HIV Medications

While it is unexpected to visualize a role for local churches in helping with HIV treatment, the Church can be an integral part of helping HIV-positive individuals live longer. HIV treatment offers hope for a normal lifespan but requires specialized pre-treatment preparation and ongoing treatment support that the faith community can provide.