

"AIDS is a serious illness caused by the HIV virus which weakens the body's natural defenses against infection. If you use drugs you can get AIDS when you share needles, syringes or works. When you have sex with an infected person you can get AIDS if you don't use a condom. There is no way to know from looking at someone if he or she has AIDS. So you must always use a condom. ♀ Si mi hombre no quiere usar un condome, se puede olvidar del sexo. ♀ If you have vaginal, oral, or anal sex use a latex condom (rubber). Don't use oil based lubricants with a condom, as they weaken the latex. If you shoot drugs make sure you clean your works, needle, and syringe with bleach and water before each use. ♀ Antes de inyectarte, limpia los aparatos. ♀ If he doesn't want to use a condom, he can forget about me all together. I should love myself first, because all too often if a woman is sick, the man says goodbye. ♀ El amor no te da SIDA, el amor sin los condones te da SIDA. ♀ The Centers for Disease Control lists all opportunistic infections that are associated with AIDS. However, one should know that this list is incomplete; the diseases women often get with AIDS are not always on their list. The following are symptoms that affect women with AIDS: a severe yeast infection that won't go away even with medication; severe cramps that won't go away even when you're not having your period ♀ There are no homeless people or IV drug users in clinical trials for AIDS treatment because they say we are not responsible. Homeless people are in shelters not because they are incompetent, but because of unfortunate circumstances. Homeless people can vote, why can't they go into clinical trials? ♀ When I say we should be aware—People should try and come together—And end this nightmare—AIDS is the virus—That's lethal if you penetrate—It don't have best friend—And it don't discriminate—We should teach it in schools—So the young could be warned—And we should care about babies—Before they are born—So the way to prevent—Is let the facts be known—Use a condom, clean your needles—And teach it at home—There's only 4 ways to catch it—So you got to be safe—And I'm a say it again—AIDS don't discriminate—you can catch it from sex—And you don't have to be gay—You can be straight up and clean—And still catch AIDS—And those who shoot drugs—Through a middle syringe—Be sure to clean your works—Before you shoot with your friends. ♀ There is a 30% - 50% chance of a woman with AIDS giving birth to an infected baby. Some people think those are good odds, some people think they are bad. But a woman should not be forced to have an abortion. She should be allowed to have the baby or to terminate the pregnancy. It should be her choice. ♀ We should make information accessible to families of PWA's and HIV+ people. They didn't tell me my daughter had AIDS until a month before she died so I didn't know what was going on. I want to know all about AIDS because it might strike another member of my family, and I want to be prepared for it this time. I don't want to be in the dark again." ♀



## Self Taught/Self Represented Homeless Women and AIDS



New York City HIV/AIDS Hotline provides anonymous testing, counseling, and referrals: 718-485-8111. Statewide number: 1-800-872-7777. All services are free. ♀ The AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) gives free medication for the treatment of HIV infection and AIDS: 1-800-542-2437. ♀ Women & AIDS Resource Network (WARN) provides counseling, support, and referrals for HIV+ women: 718-596-6007. ♀ Sister-To-Sister Project provides special counseling and support services for black women: 718-596-6000.