

**February 13, 2017 Durham Herald-Sun Column**  
**Partnership for a Healthy Durham**

Valentine's Day is a well-known holiday to celebrate romantic relationships. February 14 also has another recognition, National Condom Day. This observance was started in the late 1980s to promote condom use and to educate the public on safe sex practices. National Condom Day provides an opportunity for couples to discuss healthy sexual relationships and prevent the spread of sexually transmitted infections (STIs). February 14 kicks off the start of National Condom Week (February 14-21).

In Durham County, HIV rates are fifth highest in the state at 22.1 per 100,000 population. This is significantly higher than the state rate at 13.4 per 100,000. Syphilis rates in Durham County (44.5 per 100,000) are much higher than the state rate of 12.3 per 100,000. Rates are highest among individuals aged 20 to 29 and black and African-American males. Durham County has multiple ongoing efforts to lower the rates of STIs in Durham County, including events for National Condom Week.

The Durham County Department of Public Health is partnering with North Carolina Central University, Duke University and Art Institute of Raleigh-Durham to sponsor several HIV/STI testing events throughout the week, distribute condoms and provide free incentives such as haircuts and manicures for those who get tested.

Also working towards reducing HIV rates in Durham, the Partnership for a Healthy Durham's HIV/STI committee sponsors Durham Knows. This is a public health campaign promoting the idea that everyone in Durham should know their HIV status by getting tested. Durham Knows is a joint project of the Partnership for a Healthy Durham, Durham County Department of Public Health, Duke University, North Carolina Central University, Lincoln Community Health Center and many other community partners. One aim of the campaign is reduce stigma around HIV testing and to make it a routine part of medical care. The campaign is working towards the ultimate goal of universal HIV testing in Durham County.

Let your partner know this Valentine's Day that safe sex is sexy; use condoms every time so both of you can stay healthy.

The Partnership for a Healthy Durham is a community coalition that works closely with the Durham County Department of Public Health to identify the greatest health needs in the county and then forms action teams to address those needs. For more information on condom distribution sites, Durham Knows or to get involved with the Partnership, visit [www.healthydurham.org](http://www.healthydurham.org) or call 560-7833.

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**Clip N Save**

National Condom Week Events

**February 13**

Art Institute of Raleigh-Durham, 410 Blackwell St. #200, 11am-1pm, free HIV/STI testing, condom distribution

North Carolina Central University campus, 1801 Fayetteville St., 5-8 pm, free HIV/STI testing, education, games and prizes, condom distribution

**February 14**

Durham County Human Services Lobby 9, 414 East Main. St., 9:30 am-noon, 2-4 pm, free HIV and Hepatitis C testing, condom distribution

**February 15**

Campus Crossing Apartments clubhouse, 1400 E. Cornwallis Rd., 4:30-7 pm, free HIV/STI testing, games, condom distribution

**Free Durham Condon Distribution Sites**

Lillian's Beauty World  
810 Fayetteville St.  
(919) 956-8289  
*Mon to Sat 9 am to 8 pm*

Friendly City Barber Shop  
2512 Fayetteville St.  
(919) 688-3658  
*Tue to Fri 9 am to 6 pm*  
*Sat 6 to 11:30 am*

Signature Kutz Barber Shop  
310 S. Driver St.  
(919) 596-5978  
*Mon 1 to 6 pm; Tue to Fri 8 am 6 pm*  
*Sat 6 am to 3 pm*

Cox Barber Shop  
1601 Holloway St.  
(919) 956-7588  
*Tue to Fri 8 am to 6 pm*  
*Sat 6 am to 2 pm*

Sincerely Yours Salon  
2718 Hillsborough Rd.

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(919) 286-7777

*Tue to Fri 10 am to 6 pm*

*Sat 10 am to 2 pm*

Inkwell Tattoo Shop

3112 N. Roxboro Rd.

(919) 682-8279

*Mon to Sat 10 am to 10 pm*

Durham County Department of Public Health

414 E. Main St.

(919) 560-7600

*Mon to Fri, 8 am to 5 pm*