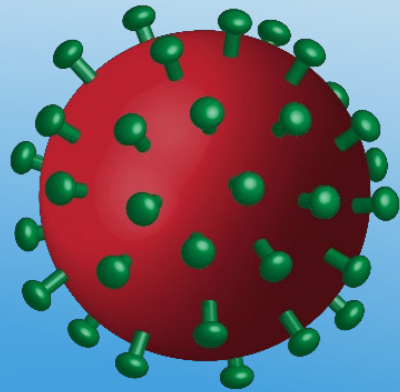


# HIV and AIDS: What's the Difference?

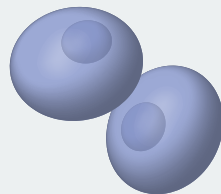
## HIV

- HIV is the virus that causes HIV infection.
- HIV damages the immune system by killing CD4 cells.

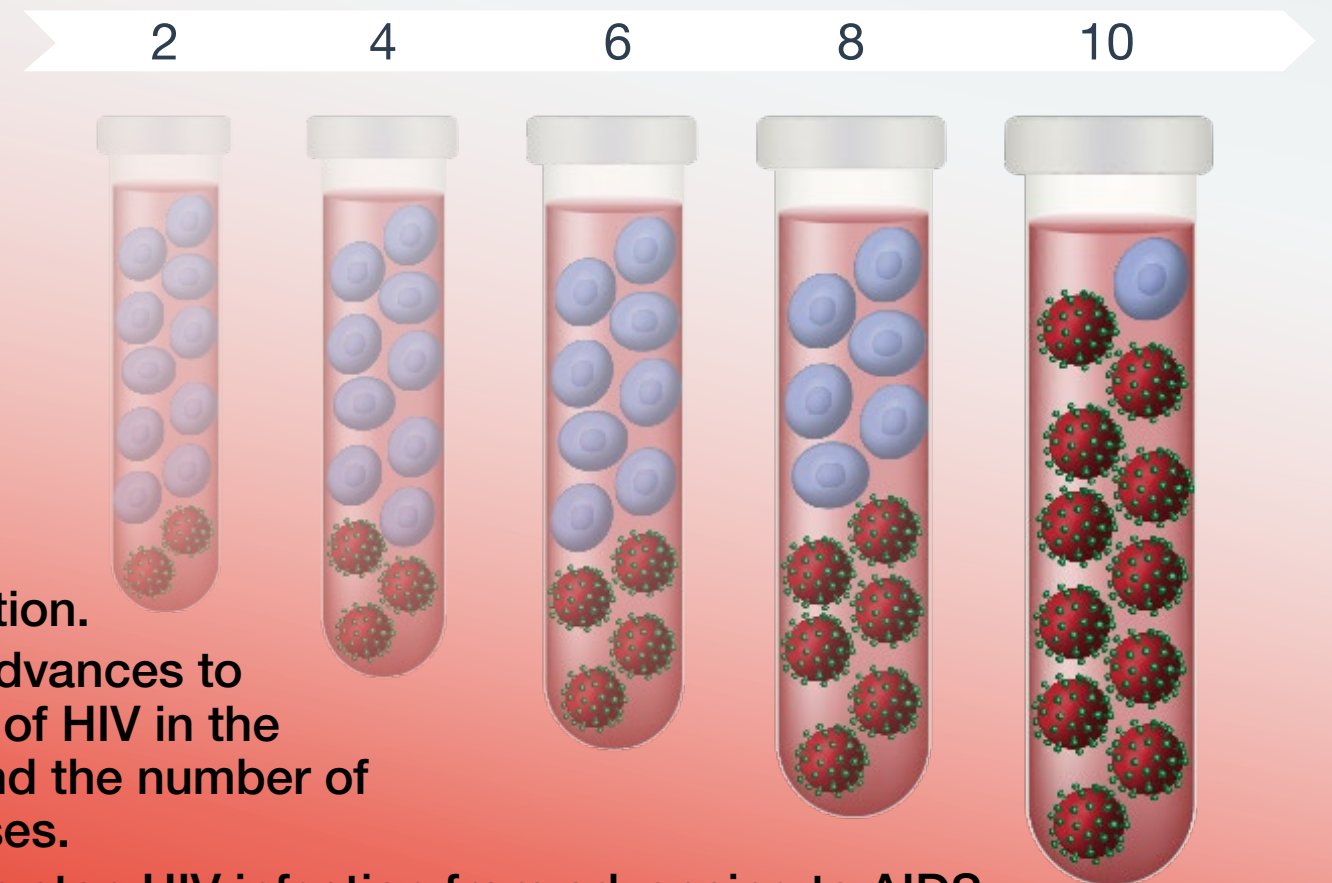


## CD4 Cells

- CD4 cells are part of the immune system.
- HIV attacks and kills CD4 cells.
- Loss of CD4 cells makes it hard for the body to fight off infections.



## Years without HIV medicines



## AIDS

- AIDS is the last stage of HIV infection.
- As HIV infection advances to AIDS, the amount of HIV in the body increases and the number of CD4 cells decreases.
- HIV medicines can stop HIV infection from advancing to AIDS.
- Without HIV medicines, HIV advances to AIDS in about 10 years.
- ART (Antiretroviral treatment) can prevent HIV from spreading, and prevent HIV from advancing to AIDS.

For more information, visit [HIVinfo.NIH.gov](https://www.hivinfo.nih.gov).