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Fact Sheet

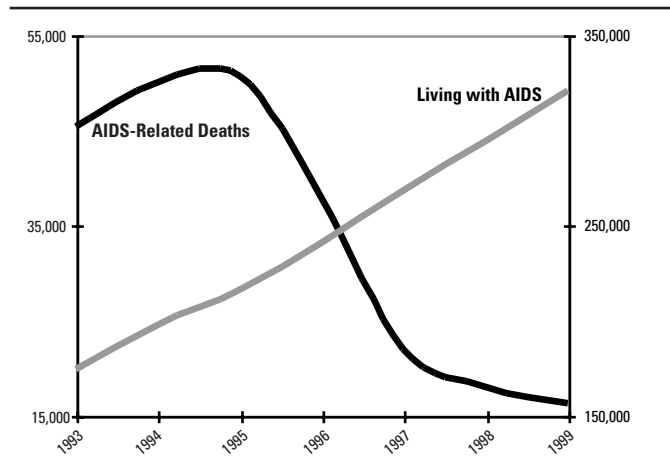
THE HIV/AIDS EPIDEMIC IN THE UNITED STATES

June 2001

The first cases of what would later become known as AIDS were reported in the United States in June of 1981.¹ Since that time, more than 750,000 cases of AIDS have been reported in the U.S. Advances in the treatment of HIV disease have substantially reduced AIDS-related mortality and extended the lives of many people living with HIV.

These trends, combined with a steady number of new HIV infections each year, have resulted in more Americans living with HIV/AIDS today than ever before (see Figure 1). New treatments, however, are not a cure, have numerous side effects, and do not benefit all people with HIV. In addition, it is estimated that one half to two thirds of people living with HIV/AIDS are not in regular care, and as many as one-third do not know they are HIV positive.^{2,3}

Figure 1: AIDS-Related Deaths and Number of People Living with AIDS⁴



Snapshot of AIDS at 20

- Over 753,000 cases of AIDS have been reported in the U.S. since 1981, including 43,517 cases reported between July 1999 and June 2000.⁴
- To date, 438,795 Americans have died from AIDS.⁴
- An estimated 800,000 to 900,000 Americans are living with HIV/AIDS, including more than 300,000 living with AIDS, the most advanced form of HIV disease.^{5,6}
- An estimated 40,000 new HIV infections occur in the U.S. each year.⁵

Key Trends and Current Cases

- AIDS cases have been reported in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the U.S. territories. Ten states/territories account for 72% of all reported cases (see Figure 2).⁴
- Cases have been concentrated largely in urban areas and 10 U.S. metropolitan areas (with 500,000 or more population) account for 43% of all cases (see Figure 2).⁴

- The South is the region of the country with the greatest number of people living with AIDS and greatest estimated number of new AIDS cases, followed by the Northeast, West, and Midwest.⁴

Figure 2: AIDS Cases Reported 1981 – 2000⁴

Includes AIDS cases reported through June 2000

Top 10 States/Territories	Number of Cases	Top 10 Metropolitan Areas	Number of Cases
New York	139,248	New York City	117,792
California	117,521	Los Angeles	41,394
Florida	78,043	San Francisco	27,567
Texas	52,667	Miami	23,521
New Jersey	41,245	Washington, DC	22,321
Illinois	24,425	Chicago	21,173
Puerto Rico	24,061	Houston	18,735
Pennsylvania	23,678	Philadelphia	18,348
Georgia	22,197	Newark, NJ	16,739
Maryland	20,833	Atlanta	15,524
Subtotal	543,918	Subtotal	323,114
Total U.S. = 753,907			

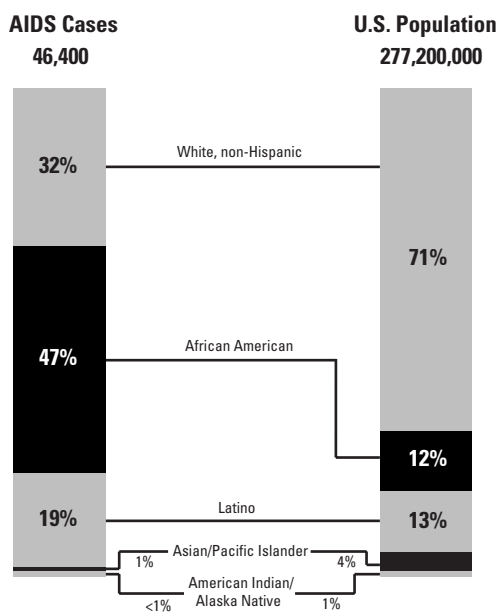
- Treatment advances have led to dramatic declines in AIDS-related deaths, including a decline of more than 40% between 1996 and 1997.⁷ However, the rate of decline is slowing. Between 1997 and 1998, there was an 18% decline in deaths and between 1998 and 1999, there was a 9% decline.⁵ AIDS is now the 5th leading cause of death among Americans ages 25 to 44, down from #1 in 1995.⁸
- Treatment advances have also delayed the progression of HIV to AIDS, leading to a decrease in new AIDS cases. These declines are also slowing.⁵
- Sexual transmission and injection drug use (IDU) are the primary modes of HIV transmission. Almost half (47%) of all reported adult AIDS cases have been linked to sex between men and 25% to injection drug use (IDU). Ten percent have been linked to heterosexual sex, and 6% to men who have sex with men and inject drugs. IDU also indirectly accounts for HIV transmission among the partners and children of injection drug users.⁹
- Recent estimates of new HIV infections indicate that one-third (33%) are attributable to heterosexual sex and 42% to sex between men. One-quarter are due directly to IDU.⁵

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Impact on Racial and Ethnic Minority Americans

- Racial and ethnic minorities have been disproportionately affected by HIV/AIDS since the beginning of the epidemic, and minority Americans now represent both the majority of new AIDS cases and of Americans living with AIDS in the U.S.⁴
- Although African Americans and Latinos represent 12% and 13% of the U.S. population respectively, they accounted for 47% and 19% of newly reported AIDS cases in 1999.¹⁰ (see Figure 3).
- AIDS is the 2nd leading cause of death among African Americans between the ages of 25 and 44 and the 4th leading cause of death for Latinos in this age group, compared to the 5th for whites.⁸

Figure 3: Newly Reported AIDS Cases and Estimated U.S. Population by Race/Ethnicity, 1999¹⁰



Impact on Women and Young People

- Women account for a growing proportion of new AIDS cases. Women represented one quarter (24%) of new AIDS cases reported in the most recent period, up from 7% in 1986.^{4,11} Women are estimated to account for 30% of new HIV infections.⁵
- Most women are estimated to have been infected through heterosexual sex (75%), followed by IDU (25%).⁵
- Women of color are particularly affected. African American women account for 63% of new AIDS cases reported among women and Latinas account for 17%.⁴
- Young adults and teens also continue to be at risk. At least one-half of all new HIV infections are estimated to be among those under the age of 25.³ Most young people are infected through sex.
- Among young people, young women and young minority Americans have been particularly affected. Teen girls now represent more than half (58%) of new AIDS cases among those aged 13-19. Young African Americans represent 60% of new AIDS cases among 13-19 years olds and Latinos represent 24% in this age group.¹²

- Due to the availability of treatments that dramatically reduce the risk of transmission during pregnancy, the perinatal transmission rate continues to decline.³

Impact on Men Who Have Sex with Men

- Despite declines in HIV infection rates among men who have sex with men (MSM) since the early years of the epidemic, they continue to be at high risk for infection, accounting for an estimated 42% of all new HIV infections.⁵ Recent data indicate increases in sexual risk taking among MSM in a growing number of cities.¹³
- Younger MSM and MSM of color are at particularly high risk and minority MSM now account for a majority of cases reported among MSMs.¹³

The U.S. Response

- In FY 2000, U.S. federal spending on HIV/AIDS totaled \$10.8 billion. Of this total, 19% was spent on research, 8% on prevention, 71% on care and assistance, and 2% on combating the international epidemic.¹⁴
- Some of the key programs that provide coverage and care to people with HIV/AIDS in the U.S. are Medicaid, Medicare, and the Ryan White CARE Act.¹⁵ A variety of federally-supported prevention services are provided by state and local health departments and community planning groups.

Endnotes

- ¹ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), "Pneumocystis Pneumonia – Los Angeles," *MMWR*, Vol.30, June 1981.
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- ³ CDC, *HIV Prevention Strategic Plan Through 2005*, January 2001.
- ⁴ CDC, *HIV/AIDS Surveillance Report, Mid-Year Edition*, Vol. 12, No.1
- ⁵ CDC, *A Glance at the HIV Epidemic*, December 2000.
- ⁶ CDC, *HIV/AIDS Surveillance Supplemental Report*, Vol.7, No.1, 2001.
- ⁷ CDC, *HIV/AIDS Surveillance Report*, Vol.10, No.2, 1998.
- ⁸ NCHS, *National Vital Statistics Report*, Vol. 48:No. 11; July 24, 2000.
- ⁹ CDC, *Fact Sheet, Drug-Associated HIV Transmission Continues in the United States*, 2001.
- ¹⁰ CDC, *HIV/AIDS Surveillance by Race/Ethnicity*, L238 Slide Series (through 1999).
- ¹¹ CDC, *HIV/AIDS Surveillance Report*, 1986.
- ¹² CDC, *HIV/AIDS Surveillance in Adolescents*, L265 Slide Series (through 1999).
- ¹³ CDC, *Bulletin: Taking Action to Combat Increases in STDs and HIV Risk Among Men Who Have Sex with Men*, 2001.
- ¹⁴ Kaiser Family Foundation, *Federal HIV/AIDS Spending: A Budget Chart Book, FY 2000*, October 2000.
- ¹⁵ Kaiser Family Foundation, Issue Brief, *Financing HIV/AIDS Care: A Quilt With Many Holes*, October 2000.