

HIV/AIDS IN THE U.S.

HIV and AIDS continue to take a toll on the U.S. after more than 25 years.

- ▶ **Someone in the U.S. is infected with HIV every nine and a half minutes.** In 2006, an estimated 56,300 Americans were newly infected with HIV, the virus that causes AIDS. The number of new U.S. cases has remained relatively stable for more than a decade despite prevention efforts.¹
- ▶ **Sustained prevention and treatment programs over the past 20 years have reduced the total number of AIDS deaths.** However, HIV and AIDS are still major problems in the U.S.
- ▶ **More than 1 million people in this country are infected with the HIV virus, and 20 percent of them don't know it.** This lack of knowledge not only puts their own health at risk but also increases the risk they will spread the virus to others. More than half of all Americans living with HIV reside in the Southern states, and the total number of people living with HIV or AIDS has grown in recent years, due in part to earlier diagnosis and availability of effective treatments.
- ▶ **HIV/AIDS disproportionately affects men who have sex with men, African-Americans and Hispanics/Latinos.** Of the people newly diagnosed with HIV in 2006, 73 percent were men and nearly half were African-American.² African-American women and youth are increasingly at risk of infection compared to women and youth of other races.

The risk of acquiring HIV/AIDS is higher for young men who have sex with other men and racial and ethnic minority youth, particularly African-Americans.³ Among women living with HIV/AIDS, nearly three-fourths became infected through high-risk heterosexual contact and the rate of HIV is nearly 15 times higher in African-American women than in white women.⁴

State and federal HIV prevention programs support testing, treatment and prevention efforts, including education on how to prevent HIV infection.

- ▶ **Routine testing for HIV infection is recommended so that every person with HIV knows their status.** All patients ages 13 to 64 should be tested for HIV infection as part of *routine* care in health care settings, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Testing is recommended at least once a year for those at high risk of infection. This approach reduces the stigma surrounding HIV testing, and once people are aware of their HIV infection, research shows they take steps to avoid spreading HIV to others. The CDC also recommends that states allow general consent for medical care to be sufficient to encompass consent for HIV testing, and that states allow patients to opt out or decline HIV testing when they are notified that HIV testing will be performed. To prevent mother-to-child transmission during delivery, HIV testing is recommended as part of prenatal testing unless the woman declines.⁵ Laws and medical practice requirements regarding HIV testing are changing in the states, and a majority of state laws regarding testing now conform to the CDC's opt-out recommendation.⁶
- ▶ **Patients with HIV/AIDS who are diagnosed early and receive antiretroviral therapy live longer and more productive lives.** A variety of state and federal programs support treatment and services for HIV/AIDS patients. Medicare and Medicaid contributed nearly 75 percent of the \$11.6 billion in federal funds spent on HIV/AIDS in



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the 2008 fiscal year, according to the Kaiser Family Foundation. Other federal and state programs that provide health coverage and support to people with HIV include the Ryan White Program, Housing Opportunities for Persons with HIV/AIDS, Social Security's income programs for those who are disabled—Supplemental Security Income and Social Security Disability Insurance—and prevention services through state and local health departments and community organizations. Most people with HIV on Medicaid qualify because they are both low-income and permanently disabled, and many of those who are newly diagnosed with HIV are already covered by Medicaid.⁷

- ▶ **Evidence-based sexual health education programs can help in preventing further transmission of HIV infection.** Research shows that sexual health education can be effective in reducing sexual risk behaviors, especially education that is delivered by trained instructors, is age-appropriate, and includes accurate information about preventing or reducing the risk of HIV infection or getting pregnant, forming strong relationships, and making good decisions. Programs can also encourage regular HIV testing.

¹ Act Against AIDS. "Nine And A Half Minutes, Get the Facts." Accessed from <http://www.nineandahalfminutes.org> August 28, 2009.

² Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. "HIV Incidence U.S., 2006 Slide Set." Accessed from <http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/topics/surveillance/resources/slides/incidence/index.htm> August 28, 2009.

³ CDC. "HIV/AIDS Fact Sheet: HIV/AIDS Among Youth" August 2008. Accessed from <http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/resources/factsheets/PDF/youth.pdf> August 28, 2009.

⁴ Kaiser Family Foundation. "HIV/AIDS Policy Fact Sheet: Black Americans and HIV/AIDS" October 2008. Accessed from <http://www.kff.org/hivaids/upload/6089-061.pdf> August 28, 2009.

⁵ CDC. "Revised Recommendations for HIV Testing of Adults, Adolescents, and Pregnant Women in Health-Care Settings." *MMWR* 2006; 55(No. RR-14):4. Accessed from <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5514a1.htm> August 28, 2009.

⁶ UCLA Newsroom. "Most states' laws consistent with CDC's opt-out HIV testing guidelines." Accessed from <http://newsroom.ucla.edu/portal/ucla/most-states-laws-are-consistent-83883.aspx> August 28, 2009.

⁷ Kaiser Family Foundation. "HIV/AIDS Policy Fact Sheet: Medicaid and HIV/AIDS" February 200. Accessed from http://www.kff.org/hivaids/upload/7172_04.pdf August 28, 2009.

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	Rate of Adults/Adolescents Reported with AIDS per 100,000 Population, 2007 ^{1,2}				FY 2007 Federal Program Spending (\$ in thousands, excludes Medicaid) ³	Health Departments Offering Routine HIV Testing/Screening for: ⁴		
	All	White	African- American	Hispanic/ Latino		Adolescents & Adults	Pregnant Women	Newborns
Alabama	10	4	28	15	\$33,896		Yes	Yes
Alaska	6	3	20	14	\$4,044		Yes	
Arizona	11	9	50	13	\$36,099		Yes	
Arkansas	8	4	31	15	\$13,048		Yes	Yes
California	17	16	56	16	\$362,987		Yes	
Colorado	9	7	42	12	\$37,637			
Connecticut	18	7	66	62	\$44,326	Yes	Yes	
Delaware	24	9	82	23	\$10,406		Yes	
District of Columbia	172	63	264	101	\$86,604			
Florida	26	11	99	23	\$286,866		Yes	
Georgia	24	8	61	20	\$98,150		Yes	
Hawaii	7	14	16	16	\$7,987			
Idaho	2	2	32	3	\$3,030			
Illinois	13	5	49	14	\$107,739		Yes	Yes
Indiana	6	4	28	12	\$22,946		Yes	
Iowa	3	2	31	7	\$6,843		Yes	
Kansas	6	4	32	10	\$6,561		Yes	Yes
Kentucky	8	5	48	37	\$15,299		Yes	
Louisiana	25	8	61	33	\$57,174		Yes	Yes
Maine	4	3	60	26	\$4,579		Yes	
Maryland	30	7	86	25	\$87,160			
Massachusetts	11	6	57	41	\$78,659			
Michigan	8	3	34	10	\$47,059		Yes	
Minnesota	5	2	46	20	\$19,422		Yes	Yes
Mississippi	15	4	33	29	\$26,099	Yes	Yes	Yes
Missouri	11	6	46	25	\$38,196		Yes	Yes
Montana	3	3	30	5	\$3,354			
Nebraska	6	4	35	14	\$4,640			
Nevada	16	12	60	15	\$20,195		Yes	Yes
New Hampshire	5	3	103	29	\$4,112		Yes	
New Jersey	16	5	70	23	\$118,422	Yes	Yes	Yes
New Mexico	7	7	19	7	\$9,683			
New York	30	9	98	58	\$493,059		Yes	
North Carolina	14	4	45	16	\$60,471			
North Dakota	1	1	22	11	\$1,315		Yes	
Ohio	7	4	30	15	\$44,772			
Oklahoma	9	7	28	17	\$15,642		Yes	Yes
Oregon	8	7	16	13	\$18,120		Yes	
Pennsylvania	17	7	82	58	\$110,846			
Puerto Rico	26	n/a	n/a	n/a	\$72,105		Yes	
Rhode Island	7	4	41	18	\$10,277		Yes	Yes
South Carolina	20	6	53	31	\$46,955	Yes	Yes	
South Dakota	2	1	124	0	\$2,132		Yes	Yes
Tennessee	13	6	48	17	\$43,729		Yes	
Texas	16	9	54	15	\$205,605	Yes	Yes	
Utah	3	3	47	4	\$7,078			
Vermont	1	1	0	0	\$3,172	Yes	Yes	
Virginia	10	4	31	19	\$49,964			
Washington	8	6	51	12	\$33,563		Yes	
West Virginia	5	4	42	7	\$5,367			
Wisconsin	4	2	35	17	\$20,018		Yes	Yes
Wyoming	3	2	26	7	\$2,195			
United States	15	7	60	20	\$2,956,311	6	36	14

Kaiser Family Foundation Resources:

¹ <http://www.statehealthfacts.org/comparemaptable.jsp?ind=656&cat=11>, "AIDS Case Rate per 100,000, Adults/Adolescents, 2007"

² <http://www.statehealthfacts.org/comparetable.jsp?ind=515&cat=11>, "AIDS Case Rate per 100,000, Adults/Adolescents, by Race/Ethnicity, 2007"

³ <http://www.statehealthfacts.org/comparetable.jsp?ind=528&cat=11>, "Total HIV/AIDS Funding, 2007"

⁴ <http://www.kff.org/hiv/aids/upload/7932.pdf>, page 35, "The State of HIV Prevention Across the U.S.," 2008