

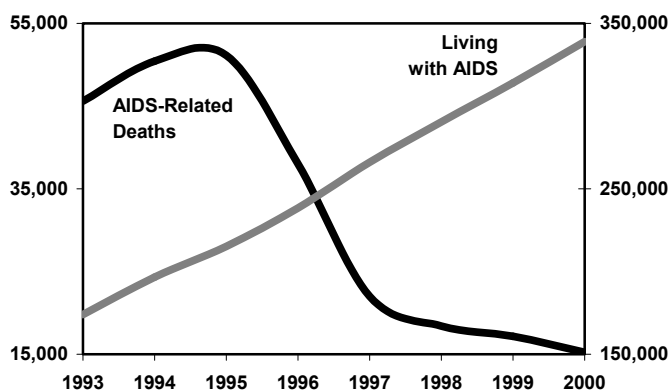
The HIV/AIDS Epidemic in the United States

July 2002

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, approximately 800,000 cases of AIDS have been reported in the U.S.² Advances in the treatment of HIV disease have substantially reduced AIDS-related mortality and extended the lives of many people living with HIV, although there continues to be a steady number of new HIV infections each year.^{2,3}

These trends have resulted in more Americans living with 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 42% to 59% of people living with HIV/AIDS are not in regular HIV care.⁴ As many as one-third of those living with HIV/AIDS do not know they are HIV positive.⁴

Figure 1: AIDS-Related Deaths and Number of People Living with AIDS, 1993-2000 (Estimated)²



Snapshot of the HIV/AIDS Epidemic

- Over 793,000 cases of AIDS have been reported in the U.S. since 1981, including 40,894 cases reported between July 2000 and June 2001.²
- To date, there have been 457,667 AIDS-related deaths.²
- An estimated 850,000 to 950,000 Americans are living with HIV/AIDS, including more than 300,000 living with AIDS, the most advanced stage of HIV disease.^{2,3,4}
- An estimated 40,000 new HIV infections occur in the U.S. each year.³

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).²
- 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).²

- The South is the region of the country with the greatest estimated numbers of people living with AIDS and AIDS cases diagnosed in 2000, followed by the Northeast, West, and Midwest.² Between July 2000 and June 2001, 7 of the 10 states/territories with the highest AIDS case rates per 100,000 (a measure of the epidemic's impact standardized to population size) were in the South.²

Figure 2: AIDS Cases Reported 1981 – 2001²
Includes AIDS cases reported through June 2001

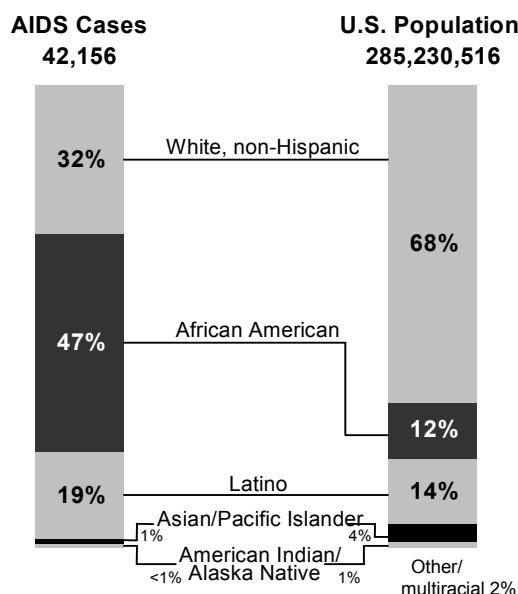
Top 10 States/Territories	Number of Cases	Top 10 Metropolitan Areas ⁵	Number of Cases
New York	144,106	New York City	122,062
California	121,831	Los Angeles	42,796
Florida	83,005	San Francisco	28,212
Texas	55,292	Miami	24,838
New Jersey	43,017	Washington, DC	24,029
Illinois	25,665	Chicago	22,217
Puerto Rico	25,459	Philadelphia	19,605
Pennsylvania	25,264	Houston	19,582
Georgia	23,575	Newark, NJ	17,472
Maryland	22,432	Atlanta	16,423
Subtotal	569,646	Subtotal	337,236
Total U.S. = 793,026			

- Treatment advances have led to dramatic declines in AIDS-related deaths, including a decline of more than 40% between 1996 and 1997.^{2,3} However, the rate of decline is slowing, and was 11% between 1999 and 2000.^{2,3} HIV is now the 5th leading cause of death among Americans ages 25 to 44, down from #1 in 1995.^{6,7}
- Treatment advances have also delayed the progression of HIV to AIDS, leading to a decrease in new AIDS cases. These declines are also slowing.³ In addition, the estimated number of new AIDS diagnoses among women and those infected through heterosexual sex has increased.²
- Sexual transmission and injection drug use (IDU) are the primary modes of HIV transmission. Almost half (46%) of all reported adult/adolescent AIDS cases have been linked to sex between men and 25% to injection drug use. Eleven percent have been linked to heterosexual sex, and 6% to men who have sex with men and inject drugs.² Injection drug use also indirectly accounts for HIV transmission among the partners and children of injection drug users.⁸
- 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 injection drug use.³

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.²
- Although African Americans and Latinos represent 12% and 14% of the U.S. population respectively, they accounted for 47% and 19% of newly reported AIDS cases in 2000^{9,10} (see Figure 3). The majority of new HIV infections are among African Americans (54%); 19% are among Latinos.³
- HIV is the leading cause of death among African Americans between the ages of 25 and 44 and the 3rd leading cause of death for Latinos in this age group, compared to the 5th for whites.⁶

Figure 3: Newly Reported AIDS Cases and Estimated U.S. Population by Race/Ethnicity, 2000^{9,10}



Impact on Women and Young People

- Women account for a growing proportion of new AIDS cases, rising from 7% in 1986 to one quarter (25%) of new AIDS cases reported in the most recent period.^{2,11} Women are estimated to account for 30% of new HIV infections.³
- New HIV infections among women are primarily due to heterosexual sex (75%), followed by IDU (25%).³
- Women of color are particularly affected. African American women account for 64% of new AIDS cases reported among women and Latinas account for 17%.²
- 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. Most young people are infected through sex.¹²
- Among young people, young women and young minority Americans have been particularly affected. Teen girls now represent more than half (54%) of new AIDS cases among those aged 13-19. Young African Americans represent 64% of new AIDS cases among 13-19 years olds and Latinos represent 20% in this age group.¹³

- Due to the availability of treatments that dramatically reduce the risk of transmission during pregnancy, the perinatal transmission rate in the U.S. has significantly declined.¹⁴

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.³ Recent data indicate increases in sexual risk taking among MSM in a growing number of cities, and that MSM are at significantly greater risk than other groups in the U.S.¹⁵
- Younger MSM and MSM of color are at particularly high risk and minority MSM now account for a majority of AIDS cases reported among MSMs.^{15,16}

The U.S. Response

- In FY 2002, U.S. federal spending on HIV/AIDS is expected to total \$14.7 billion. Of this total, 18% will go to research, 7% to prevention, 59% to care (health care and support services), 11% to cash and housing assistance, and 6% to combating the international epidemic.¹⁷
- Some of the key programs that provide health insurance coverage, care, and support to people with HIV/AIDS in the U.S. are Medicaid, Medicare, and the Ryan White CARE Act.^{17,18} A variety of federally and state-supported prevention services are provided by state and local health departments and community planning groups.

Endnotes

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