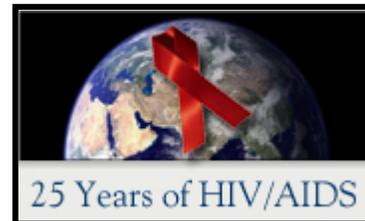


HIV/AIDS—25 Years (7/06)

CDC. Twenty-five years of HIV/AIDS—United States, 1981–2006. MMWR 2006;55:585–620.

On June 5, 1981, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) published a report of *Pneumocystis carinii* pneumonia in five previously healthy young men in Los Angeles, California. These cases were later recognized as the first reported cases of acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) in the United States. This disease has become one of the greatest public health challenges both nationally and globally. Nearly 25 years later there are still over 1 million persons living with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) in the United States. About one-fourth of those with HIV have not yet been diagnosed and are unaware of their infection. The “new” syndrome discovered 25 years ago has become one of the deadliest epidemics in human history, killing more than 25 million people around the world, including more than 500,000 Americans. In the last decade, major advances in prevention and treatment for HIV/AIDS have prolonged and improved the lives of many, but despite extremely beneficial advances, the epidemic is far from over. An estimated 40,000 Americans still become infected with HIV every year, and many of these are young persons under the age of 25. Twenty-five years since the onset of the epidemic, prevention is still the only “cure” for HIV/AIDS. The CDC reports that a comprehensive approach must be used to prevent the further spread of HIV and AIDS. Comprehensive HIV prevention strategies include monitoring the epidemic to target prevention and care activities, researching the effectiveness of prevention methods, diffusing proven effective interventions, funding the implementation and evaluation of prevention efforts in high-risk communities, encouraging early diagnosis of HIV infection, and fostering linkages between prevention and treatment programs.



DECS Comment: This Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR) issue reviews important milestones in the U.S. HIV/AIDS epidemic, including the changing epidemiology of HIV/AIDS, the public health achievement in reducing perinatal transmission of HIV, and the evolution of measures to prevent HIV/AIDS. The complete MMWR is available by visiting: <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/PDF/wk/mm5521.pdf>.