



Support a \$2 Million Increase to Invigorate HIV Prevention in Illinois

A \$2 million increase in HIV prevention funds is needed to help distribute condoms and other prevention supplies; promote HIV/AIDS awareness and risk-reduction strategies; provide outreach, prevention education, and voluntary counseling and testing; and expand other interventions aimed at reaching people at highest risk of infection.

40,000-42,000 people living with HIV in Illinois 1600 new infections each year

- **People of color** represent **64%** of adults living with HIV in Illinois.
- **One-quarter** of all people living with HIV in Illinois are **women**.
- In Illinois, 57% of men living with HIV were infected through sex with another man (MSM). Heterosexual contact accounts for 43% of HIV cases in Illinois women.
- 14% of people with HIV diagnoses in Illinois were infected through injection drug use.
- **More than 87%** of the state's HIV diagnoses are in the six-county **Chicago metro area**.
- Young men who have sex with men (MSM) are at high risk for HIV infection. In the 7 cities that participated in the CDC's Young Men's Survey during 1994–1998, 14% of African American MSM and 7% of Hispanic MSM aged 15–22 were infected with HIV
- Key HIV risk factors include housing instability and **homelessness, poverty**, and a history of **incarceration**.

We ask the General Assembly to consider the following:

Prevention funding has not kept pace with the epidemic: Federal HIV prevention funding has been cut nationally by \$25 million over the past three years. In those same three years 120,000 people (including nearly 5,000 Illinoisans) have become infected with HIV and the estimated number of annual new infections in the U.S. has steadily remained at 40,000. To sufficiently fund new voluntary HIV testing initiatives and to provide comprehensive HIV prevention programs in an era of decreased federal funding, legislators should appropriate an addition \$2 million for HIV prevention programming.

State and regional planning groups should have an active role in allocating funding: Illinois officials regularly develop and update the state's comprehensive HIV prevention plan in close consultation with its statewide community advisory board. Unfortunately, there are too few dollars current to meet all the needs that are identified statewide. New dollars should go to fully implement Illinois' comprehensive HIV prevention plan.

HIV prevention works: The number of new HIV infections has remained steady at around 1,600 per year. An increase in prevention funding could contribute to a further decline in new infections.

The average lifetime cost of treating a person living with HIV is more than \$380,000. Each year, the number of people newly infected in Illinois results in an estimated \$490 million of future medical care costs. By investing in HIV prevention now, the state will save money on future medical expenses and save lives.

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