



STATE TREK: March 3-4, 2009 • Springfield
ILLINOIS HIV/AIDS LOBBY DAYS

Lawmakers: Maintain Illinois' Commitment to Essential HIV Prevention and Care Services

The HIV/AIDS epidemic continues to affect tens of thousands of Illinoisans and creates urgent public health challenges across our state. Despite the nation's recession, now is not the time to let down our guard against HIV/AIDS.

HIV/AIDS is larger and more complex than ever:

- More than 42,000 state residents are living with HIV, including an estimated 8,000 – 10,000 who do not know they are HIV-positive.
- An estimated 3,000 new HIV infections occur in Illinois each year.
- African Americans account for half of all new HIV diagnoses in Illinois; Latinos account for an additional 13% of new cases of HIV. 80% of female HIV cases occur among women of color.
- Sustained HIV prevention and care services are especially important for low-income communities where the effects of the recession are most acute.

Illinois is making important progress against HIV/AIDS:

- Thanks to state and federal resources, Illinois has a comprehensive AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP), which provides HIV-related medications to more than 4,000 state residents who lack adequate healthcare or the means to afford lifesaving HIV medications.
- Thanks to public health leadership, Illinois has achieved universal access to voluntary HIV testing for pregnant women and one of the lowest rates of mother-to-child transmission in the nation.
- Proven HIV prevention has reduced injection-drug-related HIV infections by 40% from 2003-2007.
- Illinois invests more than \$26 million on the response to HIV/AIDS. The federal government matches the state's investment more than 2 to 1.

Many critical challenges remain in Illinois' fight against HIV/AIDS:

- Expanded HIV prevention efforts are needed to curb HIV transmission among gay men and other men who have sex with men (MSM), particular MSM of color.
- 1 in 4 HIV infections occurs among women, a rate that has more than doubled in the past 10 years.
- Cases among teens and young adults have increased in the past 5 years; meanwhile cases among people over age 50 have also increased.

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