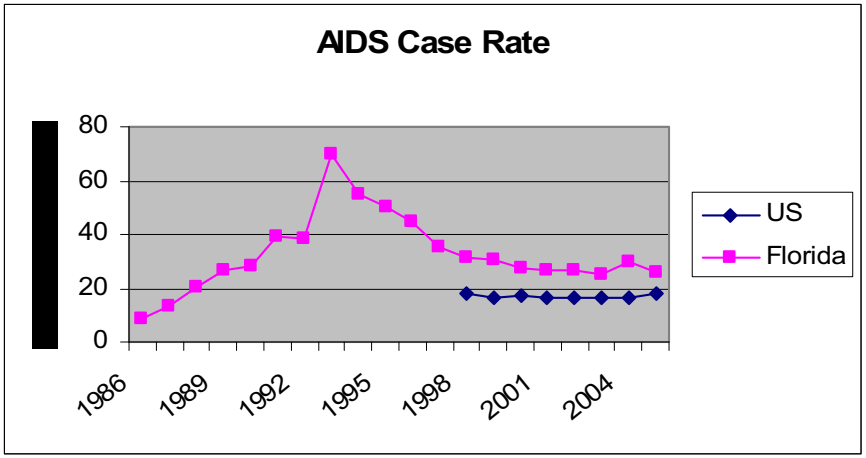
HIV/AIDS

HIV stands for human immunodeficiency virus. This is the virus that causes AIDS. HIV is different from most other viruses because it attacks the immune system. The immune system gives our bodies the ability to fight infections. HIV finds and destroys a type of white blood cell (T cells or CD4 cells) that the immune system must have to fight disease.



Why is this Important?

- AIDS is a significant and persistent public health problem, which first emerged in the late 1970s.
- Of all HIV infected people, 25% do not know their infection status.
- HIV/AIDS is the leading cause of death among black males and black females aged 25-44 years.
- Although good treatment and available medication regimes allow HIV to be managed like a chronic disease, HIV remains incurable.
- HIV infection is 100% preventable.

YEAR	US	Florida
1986		8.5
1987		13.2
1988		20.5
1989		26.6
1990		28.1
1991		39.2
1992		38.6
1993		69.5
1994		54.9
1995		50.4
1996		44.4
1997		35.1
1998	17.8	31.6
1999	16.8	30.2
2000	17	27.6
2001	16.3	26.9
2002	16.3	27
2003	16.6	25
2004	16.4	29.9
2005	18.1	25.8

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HIV/AIDS, cont'd

How is Florida Doing?

- In Florida, more than 100,000 cumulative AIDS cases have been reported.
- 60,000 HIV/AIDS deaths have been reported through 2006.
- Approximately 90% of all diagnosed AIDS cases are reported.
- Florida is 3rd in the nation in cumulative AIDS cases.
- Florida is 2nd in pediatric (<13 years) cases.
- Pediatric AIDS cases have decreased 92% since they peaked in 1992.
- Among blacks, the most impacted racial/ethnic group, HIV/AIDS diagnoses have decreased more than 40% during 1999-2006.
- AIDS is a marker for broader racial/ethnic health disparities - more than 50% of cases are among blacks, who represent 14% of the state population.
- HIV/AIDS deaths in 2005 were 65% lower than when they peaked in 1994.

Bureau of HIV/AIDS

AIDS Drug Assistance Program

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HIV/AIDS, cont'd

What influences HIV/AIDS?

- The HIV virus may be passed from one person to another when infected blood, semen, or vaginal secretions come in contact with an uninfected person's broken skin or mucous membranes.
- Infected pregnant women can pass HIV to their babies during pregnancy or delivery, as well as through breast-feeding. People with HIV have what is called HIV infection. Some of these people will develop AIDS as a result of their HIV infection.

What is the State's Role?

States Can

- Make quality care and treatment accessible to all those diagnosed with HIV as soon as possible after the diagnosis.
- Promote medication adherence among those in treatment.
- Promote primary HIV prevention in reducing the burden of AIDS.
- Stress the importance of early detection of HIV infection to avoid its progression to AIDS.
- Provide partner counseling and referral services to those who are HIV diagnosed.
- Ensure that diagnosed HIV-infected people receive prevention case-management services to reduce further spread.
- Sustain the Targeted Outreach to Pregnant Women Act (TOPWA) Program.
- Sustain ADAP, the AIDS Drug Assistance Program that provides needed medication free of charge to approximately 12,000 HIV-infected persons ineligible for Medicaid.
- Sustain Medicaid coverage for care and treatment of large numbers of HIV-infected persons.

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Florida Initiatives

National HIV Testing Day is June 27th. The Bureau of HIV/AIDS has worked with Early Intervention Consultants on identifying and promoting testing events throughout the state.

Florida's AIDS DRUG ASSISTANCE PROGRAM: The purpose of the AIDS Drug Assistance Program is to ensure that underserved and uninsured individuals living with HIV/AIDS have access to life-saving medications.

The AIDS Insurance Continuation Program (AICP) is a statewide program for persons who are diagnosed with AIDS or are HIV positive with symptoms and who, because of their illness, are unable to maintain their private health insurance coverage. The program makes direct payments (up to $650/month) to each client's employer or insurance company for the continuation of medical, dental, mental health and optical coverage.

The Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS, known as HOPWA, is funded through a grant from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to provide states and designated eligible metropolitan areas with resources and incentives for meeting the housing needs of persons with HIV disease and AIDS.

The Targeted Outreach for Pregnant Women Act (TOPWA) program was funded by the Legislature in 1998 to reach high-risk or HIV-infected pregnant women not receiving adequate prenatal care. The purpose of the program is to lower the number of babies born with prenatal drug exposure and HIV infection.