



## The Global HIV/AIDS Epidemic: A Timeline of Key Milestones

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### Introduction

*On June 5, 1981, the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued its first warning about a relatively rare form of pneumonia among a small group of young gay men in Los Angeles, which was later determined to be AIDS-related. Since that time, tens of millions of people have been infected with HIV worldwide. The Global HIV/AIDS Timeline is designed to serve as an ongoing reference tool for the many political, scientific, cultural, and community developments that have occurred over the history of the epidemic.*

### Pre-1981

*While 1981 is generally referred to as the beginning of the HIV/AIDS epidemic, scientists believe that HIV was present years before the first case was brought to public attention.*

### 1981

*U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports first cases of rare pneumonia in young gay men in the June 5 MMWR, later determined to be AIDS. This marks the official beginning of the HIV/AIDS epidemic. CDC also issues report on highly unusual occurrence of rare skin cancer, Kaposi's Sarcoma, among young gay men in the July 4 MMWR.*


First mainstream news coverage of the CDC's June 5 MMWR by the Associated Press and the LA Times on the same day it is issued. The San Francisco Chronicle reports on it the next day.

New York Times publishes its [first news story on AIDS](#) on July 3, 1981.

### 1982

*U.S. CDC formally establishes the term Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS); refers to four "identified risk factors" of male homosexuality, intravenous drug abuse, Haitian origin and hemophilia A.*

ABC World News Tonight: October 18, 1982

 [Cause of AIDS epidemic still unknown, now present in many states.](#)

First AIDS case reported in Africa.

First U.S. Congressional hearings held on HIV/AIDS.

"GRID" or "gay-related immune deficiency" increasingly used by the media and health care professionals, mistakenly suggesting inherent link between homosexuality and the syndrome.

Gay Men's Health Crisis, the first community-based AIDS service provider in the U.S., established in New York City.

City and County of San Francisco, working closely with San Francisco AIDS Foundation, Shanti Project and others, develops the "San Francisco Model of Care," which emphasizes home and community-based services.

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## 1983

 *The U.S. Public Health Service issues recommendations for preventing transmission of HIV through sexual contact and blood transfusions.*

The World Health Organization (WHO) holds first meeting to assess the impact of AIDS globally, begins international surveillance.

Dr. Luc Montagnier of the Pasteur Institute in France isolates lymphadenopathy-associated virus (LAV)—which he believed to be related to AIDS—and publishes findings. That same year, Dr. Robert Gallo of the National Cancer Institute in the United States successfully cultivates LAV (which he identified as HTLV-III) in lab and submits paper for publication proposing that a retrovirus causes AIDS.

U.S. CDC clarifies its use of term "high risk group" and urges that it not be used to justify discrimination or unwarranted fear of casual transmission.

U.S. CDC adds female sexual partners of men with AIDS as fifth risk group.

The Orphan Drug Act is signed into U.S. law, providing incentives to drug companies to develop therapies for rare diseases.

People living with AIDS (PWAs) take over plenary stage at U.S. conference and issue statement on the rights of PWAs referred to as The Denver Principles.

 National Association of People with AIDS (NAPWA), National AIDS Network (NAN) and Federation of AIDS Related Organizations form.

AIDS Candlelight Memorial held for the first time.

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## 1984

*U.S. Department of Health and Human Services announces Dr. Robert Gallo of the National Cancer Institute finds that a retrovirus causes AIDS. Dr. Gallo and Dr. Luc Montagnier of the Pasteur Institute hold joint press conference in June announcing discovery that a retrovirus (identified as HTLV-III by Gallo and LAV by Montagnier—see 1983 entry) —later named Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV)—causes AIDS.*

*ABC World News Tonight: November 23, 1984*

■ [San Francisco officials order bathhouses closed; major public controversy ensues and continues in Los Angeles, New York and other cities.](#)

AIDS Action Council is formed by small group of AIDS service organizations from across the United States.

CDC states that abstention from intravenous drug use and reduction of needle-sharing "should also be effective in preventing transmission of the virus."

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## 1985

*First International AIDS Conference held in Atlanta. Hosted by U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and the World Health Organization (WHO).*

At least one HIV/AIDS case has been reported from each region of the world.

First HIV case reported in China.

The U.S. Public Health Service issues first recommendations for preventing transmission of HIV from mother to child.

First HIV test licensed by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), detects antibodies to HIV. Blood banks begin screening the U.S. blood supply.

Pentagon announces that it will begin testing all new recruits for HIV infection and will reject those who are positive.

*ABC World News Tonight: October 2, 1985*

■ [Rock Hudson announces that he has AIDS and dies later this year.](#)

Ryan White, an Indiana teenager with AIDS, is barred from school; goes on to speak out publicly against AIDS stigma and discrimination.

New York production of "The Normal Heart", by playwright Larry Kramer, opens; first major play about the early days of the AIDS epidemic.

American Foundation for AIDS Research (amfAR) is founded by Co-Chairs Mathilde Krim and Michael S. Gottlieb, and National Chair Elizabeth Taylor.


Project Inform founded to advocate for faster government approval of HIV drugs.

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## 1986

→ *President Reagan first mentions the word AIDS in public.*

Informal distribution of clean syringes begins in Boston and New Haven.

*ABC World News Tonight*: September 19, 1986  
 [AZT, the first drug used to treat AIDS, begins clinical trials.](#)

2nd International AIDS Conference, Paris, France.

U.S. Surgeon General Koop issues "Surgeon General's Report on AIDS", calling for education and condom use.

International Steering Committee for People with HIV/AIDS (ISC) created; becomes Global Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS (GNP+) in 1992.

First HIV cases reported in Russia and India.

National Academy of Science issues report critical of the U.S. response to "national health crisis;" calls for a \$2 billion investment.



First panel of the AIDS Memorial Quilt created.

Ricky Ray, a nine-year-old hemophiliac with HIV, is barred from Florida school and his family's home is burned by arsonists in the following year.

Institute of Medicine report calls for a national education campaign and creation of National Commission on AIDS.

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation creates "AIDS Health Services Program", providing funding to hard hit U.S. cities; program is precursor to Ryan White CARE Act.

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## 1987

→ *First antiretroviral drug - Zidovudine or AZT (a nucleoside analog) - approved by U.S. FDA.*


AIDS becomes the first disease ever debated on the floor of the United Nations (UN) General Assembly. The Assembly designates the WHO to lead the effort to address AIDS globally.

Global Programme on AIDS launched by the World Health Organization.

3rd International AIDS Conference, Washington, DC.

The AIDS Support Organisation (TASO) formed in Uganda.

ABC World News Tonight: April 1, 1987

 [President Reagan makes first public speech about AIDS; establishes Presidential Commission on HIV \(Watkins Commission\).](#)

U.S. FDA sanctions first human testing of candidate vaccine against HIV.

U.S. FDA creates new class of experimental drugs, Treatment Investigational New Drugs (INDs), which accelerates drug approval by two to three years.

U.S. Congress approves \$30 million in emergency funding to states for AZT.


U.S. adds HIV as a "dangerous contagious disease" to its immigration exclusion list; mandates testing of all applicants.

U.S. Congress adopts Helms Amendment banning use of federal funds for AIDS education materials that "promote or encourage, directly or indirectly, homosexual activities," often referred to as the "no promo homo" policy.


U.S. FDA adds HIV prevention as a new indication for male condoms.

U.S. CDC launches first AIDS-related public service announcements, "America Responds to AIDS".

U.S. CDC holds its first National Conference on HIV and communities of color.

 "And the Band Played On: Politics, People and the AIDS Epidemic", a history of the early years of the epidemic by Randy Shilts, is published.

Entertainer Liberace dies of AIDS.

 AIDS Memorial Quilt displayed on National Mall in Washington, DC for first time.

The National Black Leadership Commission on AIDS, the National Minority AIDS Council, and the National Task Force on AIDS Prevention form in the U.S.

AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power (ACT UP) established in New York in response to proposed cost of AZT; the price of AZT is subsequently lowered.

First issue of "AIDS Treatment News" published to provide HIV treatment information to community members.

# 1988

World AIDS Day first declared by World Health Organization (WHO) on December 1.

UNAIDS reports that the number of women living with HIV/AIDS in sub-Saharan Africa exceeds that of men.

Elizabeth Glaser, an HIV positive mother of two HIV positive children, and two of her friends, form the Pediatric AIDS Foundation, which is later renamed the [Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation](#).

The U.S. Health Services and Resources Administration (HRSA) awards 21 grants to plan for HIV/AIDS systems of care, laying the groundwork for statewide programs that will later become funded through the Ryan White CARE Act.

4th International AIDS Conference, Stockholm, Sweden.

International AIDS Society forms.

U.S. Surgeon General and CDC mail brochure, "Understanding AIDS" to all U.S. households; first and only national mailing of its kind.

The U.S. Health Omnibus Programs Extension (HOPE) Act of 1988 authorizes the use of federal funds for AIDS prevention, education, and testing.

U.S. National Institutes of Health (NIH) establishes Office of AIDS Research (OAR) and AIDS Clinical Trials Group (ACTG).

U.S. FDA allows the importation of unapproved drugs for persons with life-threatening illnesses, including HIV/AIDS.

ACT UP demonstrates at FDA headquarters in protest of slow pace of drug approval process.

First comprehensive needle exchange program (NEP) established in North America in Tacoma, WA. New York City creates first government-funded NEP and San Francisco establishes what becomes largest NEP in the nation.

*ABC World News Tonight*: January 8, 1988  
"WHO reports AIDS cases has jumped 56% worldwide."

*ABC World News Tonight*: August 29, 1988  
"A young girl with AIDS can only attend school if she is in a glass enclosure."

*ABC World News Tonight*: June 17, 1988  
"A scientist injects himself with an experimental vaccine to help find a cure."

*ABC World News Tonight*: October 6, 1988  
"A reversal in Department of Justice policy: AIDS/HIV patients can no longer be discriminated against."

*ABC World News Tonight*: October 17, 1988  
"A TV commercial campaign about AIDS awareness is aimed at minorities."

*ABC World News Tonight*: June 24, 1988  
"A special commission on AIDS presents a tough report to President Reagan."

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## 1989

→ *First guidelines for the prevention of *Pneumocystis carinii* pneumonia (PCP), an AIDS-related opportunistic infection and major cause of morbidity and mortality for people with HIV, are issued by U.S. CDC.*

ABC World News Tonight: April 6, 1989

■ [A foreigner with AIDS is not allowed into the U.S. because he has the virus.](#)

5th International AIDS Conference ("The Scientific and Social Challenge of AIDS"), Montreal, Canada.

U.S. Congress creates the National Commission on AIDS.

Head of NIH's National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), Dr. Anthony Fauci, endorses parallel track policy, giving those that do not qualify for clinical trials access to experimental treatments.

AIDS activists stage several major protests about AIDS drugs during the year, including at the Golden Gate Bridge, the New York Stock Exchange, and U.S. headquarters of Burroughs Wellcome.

ABC World News Tonight: December 1, 1989

■ [First "Day Without Art" organized by Visual AIDS to acknowledge the impact of AIDS on the arts.](#)

Dancer and choreographer Alvin Ailey dies of AIDS.

Photographer Robert Mapplethorpe dies of AIDS.

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## 1990

→ *6th International AIDS Conference ("AIDS in the Nineties: From Science to Policy"), San Francisco, CA. To protest U.S. immigration policy, domestic and international non-governmental groups boycott the conference. (The 1992 conference, scheduled to take place in Boston, is moved to Amsterdam.)*

ABC World News Tonight: April 8, 1990

■ [Ryan White dies at the age of 18.](#)

ABC World News Tonight: April 9, 1990

■ [The Ryan White Comprehensive AIDS Resources Emergency \(CARE\) Act of 1990 is enacted by the U.S. Congress, providing federal funds for community-based care and treatment services. In first year, it is funded at \\$220.5 million.](#)

U.S. FDA approves use of AZT for pediatric AIDS.

Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 enacted by the U.S. Congress, prohibiting discrimination against individuals with disabilities, including people living with HIV/AIDS.

First National Conference on Women and AIDS held in Boston, MA.

"Women, AIDS and Activism," developed by ACT UP's Women's Caucus, is published, becoming the first book of its kind.

Pop artist Keith Haring dies of AIDS.

Kimberly Bergalis, of Florida, is believed to have been infected with HIV by her dentist, causing major public debate.

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## 1991

*NBA legend Earvin "Magic" Johnson announces that he is HIV-positive and retires from basketball.*

7th International AIDS Conference ("Science Challenging AIDS"), Florence, Italy.

Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS (HOPWA) Act of 1991 enacted by the U.S. Congress, to provide housing assistance to people living with AIDS through grants to U.S. states and local communities.

U.S. CDC recommends restrictions on the practice of HIV-positive health care workers and Congress enacts law requiring states to take similar action.

ICASO (International Council of AIDS Service Organizations) forms as global network of non-governmental and community-based organizations.


Red ribbon introduced as the international symbol of AIDS awareness at the Tony Awards by Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS and Visual AIDS.

Freddie Mercury, lead singer of the rock band Queen, dies of AIDS.

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## 1992

*8th International AIDS Conference ("A World United Against AIDS"), Amsterdam; would have taken place in Boston, but was moved due to U.S. immigration ban.*

ABC World News Tonight: December 18, 1992  
 [Teenager Ricky Ray, whose home was torched because he and his siblings were HIV-positive, dies of AIDS.](#)

International Community of Women Living with HIV/AIDS (ICW) is founded.

FDA licenses first rapid HIV test, which provides results in as little as ten minutes.

AIDS becomes number one cause of death for U.S. men ages 25 to 44.



Mary Fisher and Bob Hattoy, each HIV-positive, address the Republican and Democratic National Conventions, respectively.

Tennis star Arthur Ashe announces he has AIDS.

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## 1993

*President Clinton establishes White House Office of National AIDS Policy (ONAP).*

"Philadelphia," a film starring Tom Hanks as a lawyer with AIDS, opens in theaters, becoming the first major Hollywood movie on AIDS.

9th International AIDS Conference, Berlin, Germany.

U.S. FDA approves female condom for sale in U.S.

Women's Interagency HIV Study (WIHS) and HIV Epidemiology Study (HERS) begin; both major U.S. federally-funded research studies on women and HIV/AIDS.

President Clinton signs HIV immigration exclusion policy into law.

U.S. Congress enacts the NIH Revitalization Act, giving the OAR primary oversight of all NIH AIDS research; requires NIH and other research agencies to expand involvement of women and minorities in all research.

U.S. CDC expands case definition of AIDS to reflect fuller spectrum of the disease, including adding a condition specific to women and those more prevalent among injection drug users.

U.S. CDC initiates HIV prevention community planning process for local distribution of federal prevention funding.



"Angels in America", Tony Kushner's play about AIDS, wins the Tony Award and Pulitzer Prize.

First annual "AIDSWatch" - hundreds of community members from across the U.S. converge in Washington, DC to lobby Congress for increased AIDS funding.

World class ballet dancer Rudolf Nureyev dies of AIDS.

Katrina Haslip, leading advocate for women with AIDS in prison, dies of AIDS.

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## 1994

*U.S. Public Health Service recommends use of AZT by pregnant women to reduce perinatal transmission of HIV, based on "076" study showing up to 70% reduction in transmission.*


10th International AIDS Conference ("The Global Challenge of AIDS: Together for the Future"), Yokohama, Japan.

AIDS becomes leading cause of death for all Americans ages 25 to 44; remains so through 1995.


U.S. FDA approves an oral HIV test, the first non-blood based antibody test for HIV.

NIH issues guidelines requiring applicants for NIH grants to address "the appropriate inclusion of women and minorities in clinical research."

Elizabeth Glaser, co-founder of the Pediatric AIDS Foundation, dies of AIDS.

 Pedro Zamora, a young gay man living with HIV, appears on the cast of MTV's popular show, *The Real World*; dies later this year at age 22.

*ABC World News Tonight*: February 22, 1994

 [Randy Shilts, author of "And the Band Played On" dies of AIDS at age 42.](#)

## 1995

*First protease inhibitor, saquinavir, approved in record time by the U.S. FDA, ushering in new era of highly active antiretroviral therapy (HAART).*



CDC issues a [report on syringe exchange programs \(SEPs\)](#). The National Academy of Sciences concludes that SEPs are an effective component of a comprehensive HIV prevention strategy.

President Clinton establishes Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS.

First guidelines for the prevention of opportunistic infections in persons infected with HIV issued by U.S. CDC.

First White House Conference on HIV/AIDS.

First National HIV Testing Day created by the National Association of People with AIDS.

 *ABC World News Tonight*: February 23, 1995  
 [Olympic Gold Medal diver Greg Louganis discloses that he is living with HIV, leading to public debate regarding disclosure of HIV status.](#)

Rap artist Eric Wright (Eazy-E of NWA) dies of AIDS.

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# 1996

→ *11th International AIDS Conference ("One World, One Hope"), Vancouver, Canada; highlights effectiveness of HAART, creating period of optimism.*

Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) begins operations; established to advocate for global action on the epidemic, and to coordinate HIV/AIDS efforts across the UN system.

Brazil begins national ARV distribution, first developing country to do so.

U.S. FDA approves first non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitor (NNRTI), nevirapine.

U.S. FDA approves HIV urine test and first HIV home testing and collection kit.

U.S. FDA approves viral load test, a new test that measures the level of HIV in the body.

The number of new AIDS cases diagnosed in the U.S. declines for first time in history of epidemic, though experience varies by sex, race and ethnicity.

HIV no longer leading cause of death for all Americans ages 25-44; remains leading cause of death for African Americans in this age group.


U.S. Congress reauthorizes the Ryan White CARE Act.


The Levine Committee, a blue ribbon advisory panel, calls for overhaul of NIH AIDS research, including stronger role for OAR and increased support for vaccine-related and investigator-initiated research.


International AIDS Vaccine Initiative (IAVI), an NGO, forms to speed the search for an effective HIV vaccine.


 Time Magazine names AIDS researcher Dr. David Ho as its "Man of the Year."


Former heavyweight boxing champion Tommy Morrison announces he is HIV-positive.

*ABC World News Tonight: February 1, 1996*  
 [Interview with AIDS researcher Dr. David Ho on a new AIDS drug.](#)

*ABC World News Tonight: February 1, 1996*  
 [ABC News poll on public attitudes towards AIDS](#)

*ABC World News Tonight: July 8, 1996*  
 [A period of optimism begins- being HIV-positive is no longer a death sentence.](#)

*ABC World News Tonight: July 8, 1996*  
 [AIDS awareness ad campaigns target everyone, not only high-risk groups.](#)

*ABC World News Tonight: July 8, 1996*  
 [Images of what the AIDS virus looks like in the body.](#)

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## 1997

*AIDS-related deaths in the U.S. decline by more than 40 percent compared to the prior year, largely due to HAART.*

President Clinton announces goal of finding an effective vaccine in 10 years and the creation of Dale and Betty Bumpers Vaccine Research Center.

U.S. Congress enacts FDA Modernization Act of 1997, codifying accelerated approval process, and allowing dissemination of information about off-label uses of drugs.

## 1998

*Minority AIDS Initiative created in U.S., after African American leaders declare a "state of emergency" and Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) calls on the Department of Health and Human Services to do the same.*

12th International AIDS Conference ("Bridging the Gap"), Geneva, Switzerland.

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services issues first national guidelines for the use of antiretroviral therapy in adults.

First large scale human trials (Phase III) for an HIV vaccine begin.

Despite earlier optimism, several reports indicate growing signs of treatment failure and side effects from HAART.

Ricky Ray Hemophilia Relief Fund Act of 1998 enacted by U.S. Congress, authorizing payments to hemophiliacs infected through unsterilized blood-clotting agents between 1982 and 1987.

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Shalala determines that needle exchange programs are effective and do not encourage the use of illegal drugs, but Clinton Administration does not lift the ban on use of federal funds for such purposes.

The U.S. Supreme Court in *Bragdon v. Abbot* rules that the Americans with Disabilities Act covers those in earlier stages of HIV disease, not just AIDS.

Treatment Action Campaign (TAC) forms in South Africa; grassroots movement pushes for access to treatment.

Global AIDS and human rights activists Jonathan Mann and Mary Lou Clements-Mann are killed in a plane crash en route to World Health Organization in Geneva.


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## 1999

→ *President Clinton announces "Leadership and Investment in Fighting an Epidemic" (LIFE) Initiative to address the global epidemic; leads to increased funding.*


First human vaccine trial in a developing country begins in Thailand.

Congressional Hispanic Caucus, with the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute, convenes Congressional hearing on impact of HIV/AIDS on Latino community.

 Reggie Williams, founder of the National Task Force on AIDS Prevention, dies of AIDS.

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## 2000

→  *13th International AIDS Conference ("Breaking the Silence"), Durban, South Africa; first to be held in a developing nation, heightens awareness of the global pandemic.*

U.S. and UN Security Councils each declare HIV/AIDS a security threat.

G8 Leaders acknowledge need for additional HIV/AIDS resources during Okinawa Meeting.

President Clinton issues Executive Order to assist developing countries in importing and producing generic forms of HIV treatments.

UNAIDS, WHO and other global health groups announce joint initiative with five major pharmaceutical manufacturers to negotiate reduced prices for AIDS drugs in developing countries.

Global AIDS and Tuberculosis Relief Act of 2000 enacted by U.S. Congress, authorizing up to \$600 million for U.S. global efforts.

Millennium Development Goals, announced as part of Millennium Declaration, include reversing the spread of HIV/AIDS, malaria and TB as one of 8 key goals.

U.S. Congress reauthorizes the Ryan White CARE Act for the second time.

President Clinton announces Millennium Vaccine Initiative, creating incentives for development and distribution of vaccines against HIV, TB and malaria.

U.S. CDC reports that, among men who have sex with men in the U.S., African American and Latino cases exceed those among whites.

President Clinton creates first ever Presidential Envoy for AIDS Cooperation.

U.S. CDC forms Global AIDS Program (GAP).

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services approves first state 1115 Medicaid expansion waivers for low-income people with HIV in Maine, Massachusetts and District of Columbia; in 2001, Massachusetts becomes first state to enroll new clients.

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## 2001

*United Nations General Assembly convenes first ever special session on HIV/AIDS, "UNGASS"*

First Annual National HIV Vaccine Awareness Day in the United States.

*ABC World News Tonight: June 25, 2001*

 [The state of treatment for AIDS patients.](#)

June 5 marks 20 years since first AIDS case reported.

First Annual National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day in the United States.

UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan calls for a global fund, a "war chest", to fight AIDS, during African Summit on HIV/AIDS in Abuja, Nigeria.


The World Trade Organization, meeting in Doha, Qatar, announces "DOHA Agreement", to allow developing countries to buy or manufacture generic medications to meet public health crises, such as HIV/AIDS.

Newly appointed U.S. Secretary of State, Colin Powell, reaffirms U.S. statement that HIV/AIDS is a national security threat.

Generic drug manufacturers offer to produce discounted, generic forms of HIV/AIDS drugs; several major pharmaceutical manufacturers agree to offer further reduced drugs prices in developing countries.

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## 2002

 *The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria begins operations; approves first round of grants later this year.*

*ABC World News Tonight: July 7, 2002*

 [AIDS & African Americans](#)

HIV is leading cause of death worldwide, among those aged 15-59.

UNAIDS reports that women comprise about half of all adults living with HIV/AIDS worldwide.

14th International AIDS Conference ("Knowledge and Commitment"), Barcelona, Spain.

U.S. National Intelligence Council releases report on "Next Wave" of the Epidemic, focused on India, China, Russia, Nigeria, and Ethiopia.

Approval of OraQuick Rapid HIV-1 Antibody Test, by U.S. FDA; first rapid test to use finger prick. OraQuick granted a Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA) waiver in 2003, enabling the test to be performed outside of the laboratory, allowing more widespread use.

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## 2003

→ *President Bush announces PEPFAR, the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, during the State of the Union Address; PEPFAR is a five-year, \$15 billion initiative to address HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria primarily in hard hit countries.*

▼ "3 by 5" Initiative announced by World Health Organization, to bring treatment to 3 million people by 2005.

▼ The William J. Clinton Presidential Foundation secures price reductions for HIV/AIDS drugs from generic manufacturers, to benefit developing nations.


▼ First Annual National Latino AIDS Awareness Day in the United States.

▼ The South African Government announces new antiretroviral treatment program.

▼ G8 Evian Summit includes special focus on HIV/AIDS, new commitments to the Global Fund announced.

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## 2004

→  *15th International AIDS Conference ("Access for All"), Bangkok, Thailand; first to be held in Southeast Asia.*

▼ The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria holds first ever "Partnership Forum," in Bangkok, Thailand; 400 delegates participate.

▼ Leaders of the Group of Eight (G8) nations call for creation of "Global HIV Vaccine Enterprise," a consortium of government and private sector groups designed to coordinate and accelerate research efforts to find an effective HIV vaccine.


▼ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services announces expedited review process by FDA for fixed dose combination and co-packaged products - to be used by U.S. in purchasing medications under PEPFAR.

▼ PEPFAR, President Bush's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, begins first round of funding.

▼ UNAIDS launches The Global Coalition on Women and AIDS to raise the visibility of the epidemic's impact on women and girls around the world.


▼ OraQuick Rapid HIV-1 Antibody Test approved for use with oral fluid by U.S. FDA. Oral fluid rapid test is granted a CLIA waiver.

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 Keith Cylar, long time AIDS activist and founder and co-president of Housing Works, Inc. in the United States, dies at age 45.

*ABC World News Tonight*: July 12, 2004  
 [AIDS in China](#)

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*ABC World News Tonight*: July 13, 2004  
 [Kofi Annan compares the war on terror to the war on AIDS.](#)

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## 2005

*United Nations General Assembly convenes high-level meeting to review progress on targets set at 2001 special session on HIV/AIDS, "UNGASS".*

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United Kingdom hosts G8 Summit at Gleneagles; focus on development in Africa, including HIV/AIDS.

At historic and unprecedented joint press conference, the World Health Organization, UNAIDS, the United States Government, and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria announce results of joint efforts to increase the availability of antiretroviral drugs in developing countries. An estimated 700,000 people had been reached by the end of 2004.

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At World Economic Forum's Annual Meeting in Davos, Switzerland, priorities include a focus on addressing HIV/AIDS in Africa and other hard hit regions of the world.

First Annual National Asian and Pacific Islander HIV/AIDS Awareness Day in the United States.

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The U.S. Food and Drug Administration grants "Tentative Approval to Generic AIDS Drug Regimen for Potential Purchase Under the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief", marking first ever approval of an HIV drug regimen manufactured by a non-U.S.-based generic pharmaceutical company, under FDA's new expedited review process.

Ranbaxy becomes first Indian drug manufacturer to gain U.S. Food and Drug Administration approval to produce generic antiretroviral for PEPFAR.

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## 2006

*June 5 marks a quarter century since first AIDS case reported.*

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First Annual National Native HIV/AIDS Awareness Day in the United States.

United Nations convenes follow-up meeting and issues progress report on the implementation of the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS.



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[16th International AIDS Conference](#) ("Time to Deliver"), Toronto, Canada.

 [View kaisernetwork.org's online coverage of the conference.](#)

U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention releases revised HIV testing recommendations for health-care settings, recommending routine HIV screening for all adults, aged 13-64, and yearly screening for those at high risk.

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First Eastern European and Central Asian AIDS conference (EECAAC) held (Moscow).

Russia hosts G8 Summit for first time (St. Petersburg); HIV/AIDS is addressed.

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U.S. Congress reauthorizes the Ryan White CARE Act for the third time.

First Annual National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day in the United States.

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## 2007

*[President Bush calls on Congress to reauthorize PEPFAR at \\$30 billion over 5 years.](#)*

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International [HIV/AIDS Implementers Meeting](#) held in Kigali, Rwanda and hosted by the Rwandan Government. It draws over 1,500 delegates from around the world to share lessons on HIV prevention, treatment, and care from the field.

Co-sponsors include PEPFAR, The Global Fund, UNAIDS, WHO, UNICEF, The World Bank, and GNP+.

 [View kaisernetwork.org's online coverage of the conference.](#)

The World Health Organization and UNAIDS issue new guidance recommending "provider-initiated" HIV testing in health-care settings.

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The World Health Organization and UNAIDS recommend that "male circumcision should always be considered as part of a comprehensive HIV prevention package."

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## 2008

*[U.S. Congress reauthorizes PEPFAR for an additional 5 years at up to \\$48 billion; the legislation ends the statutory HIV travel and immigration ban.](#)*

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[17th International AIDS Conference](#) ("Universal Action Now"), Mexico City; first to be held in Latin America.

 [View kaisernetwork.org's online coverage of the conference](#)

First Annual National Gay Men's HIV/AIDS Awareness Day in the United States.

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International [2008 HIV/AIDS Implementers Meeting](#) held in Kampala, Uganda and hosted by the Ugandan Government. Co-sponsors include PEPFAR, The Global Fund, UNAIDS, WHO, UNICEF, The World Bank, and GNP+.

 [View kaisernetwork.org's online coverage of the conference](#)

United Nations General Assembly convenes UNGASS follow-up meeting and issues progress report on the implementation of the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS.

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U.S. CDC releases [new HIV incidence estimates for the United States](#), showing that the U.S. epidemic is worse than previously thought.

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## 2009

*President Obama launches the [Global Health Initiative \(GHI\)](#), a six-year effort to develop a comprehensive approach to addressing global health in low and middle income countries, with PEPFAR as a core component.*

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Newly elected President Obama calls for the first ever [National HIV/AIDS Strategy](#) for the United States.

First Annual National Caribbean American HIV/AIDS Awareness Day in the United States.

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The Obama Administration officially [lifts HIV travel and immigration](#) ban by removing the final regulatory barriers to entry, to take effect in January 2010. Leads to announcement that the International AIDS Conference will return to the United States for the first time in more than 20 years, and be held in be held in Washington, DC in 2012.

U.S. Congress eliminates long-standing statutory ban on the use of federal funding for needle exchange in the United States.

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## 2010

*Removal of U.S. HIV travel and immigration ban officially begins.*

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The [XVIII International AIDS Conference](#) held in Vienna, Austria. The theme is "Rights Here, Right Now," with an emphasis on human rights as a central part of the HIV response."

United Nations convenes a summit to accelerate progress toward the 2015 [UN Millennium Development Goals](#).

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Obama Administration releases first comprehensive [National HIV/AIDS Strategy](#) for the United States in July.

South African researchers announce results of a clinical trial ([CAPRISA 004](#)) showing that use of microbicide gel significantly reduced risk of HIV infection among sexually active women.

Large international clinical study ([iPrEx](#)) showed a daily dose of combination antiretroviral pill reduced the risk of acquiring HIV among men who have sex with men and transgendered women who have sex with men.

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## 2011

→ *June 5 marks 30 years since first AIDS case reported.*

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services launches the "[12 Cities Project](#)," focusing resources on areas with the highest AIDS burden in the country.

[Elizabeth Taylor](#), AIDS activist and award-winning actress, dies.

U.S. government announces goal of an AIDS-free generation, highlighted in speeches by [Secretary of State Clinton](#) and [President Obama](#).


U.S. CDC releases [new HIV incidence estimates](#) for the United States

Large, multinational study of discordant, mostly heterosexual, couples ([HPTN 052](#)) shows early treatment of HIV-infected person greatly reduces transmission to negative partner.

United Nations General Assembly convenes [UNGASS](#) meeting to review progress on HIV/AIDS; adopts new Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS.

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## 2012

→ *The [XIX International AIDS Conference](#) is held in Washington, DC, marking the first time the conference has been held in the United States since 1990.  [View KFF's online coverage of the conference.](#)*

U.S. FDA [approves OraQuick In-Home Test](#), the first rapid test using oral fluid that can be bought over-the-counter; results of which are obtained at home.

U.S. FDA [approves the use of Truvada](#) (emtricitabine/tenofovir disoproxil fumarate) for reducing the risk of HIV infection in uninfected individuals at high risk, marking the first HIV treatment to be approved for pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP).

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