

Investment in research saves lives and money



facts about:

HIV/AIDS

Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS) is caused by the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). Infection with HIV gradually destroys the body's immune cells. AIDS occurs when the immune system can no longer provide protection from infections, cancers or other diseases. Treatment slows the destruction of the body's immune system, but does not eliminate HIV. There is no vaccine and no cure.

"If you think research is expensive, try disease."
— Mary Lasker 1901–1994

Today:

- 1.2 million Americans are living with HIV/AIDS.
- 1 in 4 Americans with HIV do not know they are infected.
- AIDS has taken the lives of more than 550,000 Americans.
- In the U.S., new HIV infections have remained around 110 a day for more than a decade. They are now increasing in certain populations.
- Black women are nearly 23 times more likely to be diagnosed with AIDS than white women in the U.S.

SOURCE: CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION (WWW.CDC.GOV)

The Cost:

- The 40,000 new HIV infections that occur each year in the U.S. will cost a projected \$12.1 billion in lifetime medical expenses.*
- The U.S. will lose \$30 billion in productivity due to the premature deaths of the Americans infected with HIV in a single year.**

SOURCE: *SCHACKMAN, B. ET AL. MEDICAL CARE. 2006; 44(11): 990-996.
**HUTCHINSON, A. ET AL. JOURNAL OF ACQUIRED IMMUNE DEFICIENCY SYNDROMES. 2006; 43(4): 451-457.

SAVING LIVES SAVING MONEY

HOW RESEARCH SAVES LIVES:

- Increasingly effective AIDS therapies have saved at least 3 million years of life in the U.S. since researchers developed the first drug to treat the disease.*
- As many as 1.5 million Americans do not have HIV because of prevention efforts, such as counseling and education programs that reduce high-risk behaviors.**

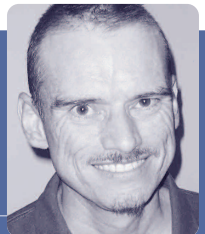
SOURCE: *WALENSKY, R.P. ET AL. JOURNAL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES. 2006; 194:11-19.
**HOLTGRAVE, D.R. AIDS. 2002; 16(17): 2347-49.

HOW RESEARCH SAVES MONEY:

- Recent studies show that preventing just one adult HIV infection saves \$303,100 in lifetime medical care.*
- Treatment to prevent mother-to-child transmission of HIV saves an estimated \$650,616 in medical costs and lost productivity over a child's lifetime.** To date, the interventions developed in the mid-90s have averted more than 2,900 infant infections.***

SOURCE: * SCHACKMAN, B. ET AL. MEDICAL CARE. 2006; 44(11): 990-996.
**BISHAI D. ET AL. VACCINE. 2001; 20:526-531.
*** WALENSKY ET AL. JOURNAL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES. 2006; 194:11-19.

survivor



NAME: PETER DOBSON
AGE: 46
DISEASE: HIV / AIDS

Peter Dobson, a computer scientist from Los Angeles, found out he was HIV positive in the mid-1980s. Peter credits his survival to medical research. "Back then, I thought my life was over. That period was a dark experience for me. Many of my friends were dying." Peter expected to die too.

About that time, the first anti-HIV medications became available and Peter began taking them. As the drugs have improved over the years, so has Peter's health. For the past 14 years, he has been healthy enough to devote his time and technical skills to helping others with HIV.

Thanks to medical research conducted by government, academia and industry, today's anti-HIV drugs are keeping close to a million Americans from succumbing to AIDS. Unfortunately, these drugs also have debilitating side effects. Peter has been plagued by constant fatigue and dramatic weight loss.

"I have lost nearly all of my body fat. My arms are so thin that they hurt." Still, Peter no longer views HIV as a death sentence. He's now taking business management classes and planning for his future. "Medical research saved my life," Peter says. "But I am looking for even better HIV drugs. And—a cure would be nice."

facts about: } HIV/AIDS

Hope for the Future:

- NIH-funded studies in Kenya and Uganda have shown that circumcision reduces the likelihood that a man will contract HIV by approximately 50%.*
- Researchers recently generated 3-D images of key parts of HIV. The images show changes in the shape of the virus as it interacts with other molecules, which could help scientists develop a vaccine.**

SOURCE: *NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH (WWW.NIH.GOV)

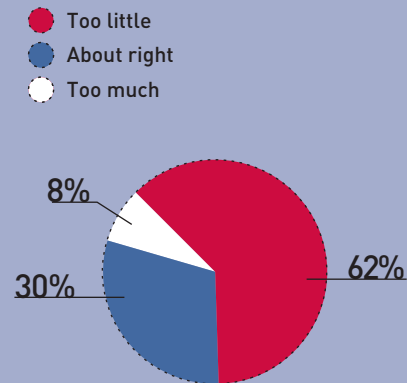
**ZHOU, T. ET AL. NATURE. 2007; 445(7129):732-7.

The Bottom Line:

Research has led to drugs and treatments that have given many Americans with HIV/AIDS a chance to live longer and better lives. A strengthened commitment to research in the United States is needed to develop an effective vaccine to prevent HIV infection altogether.

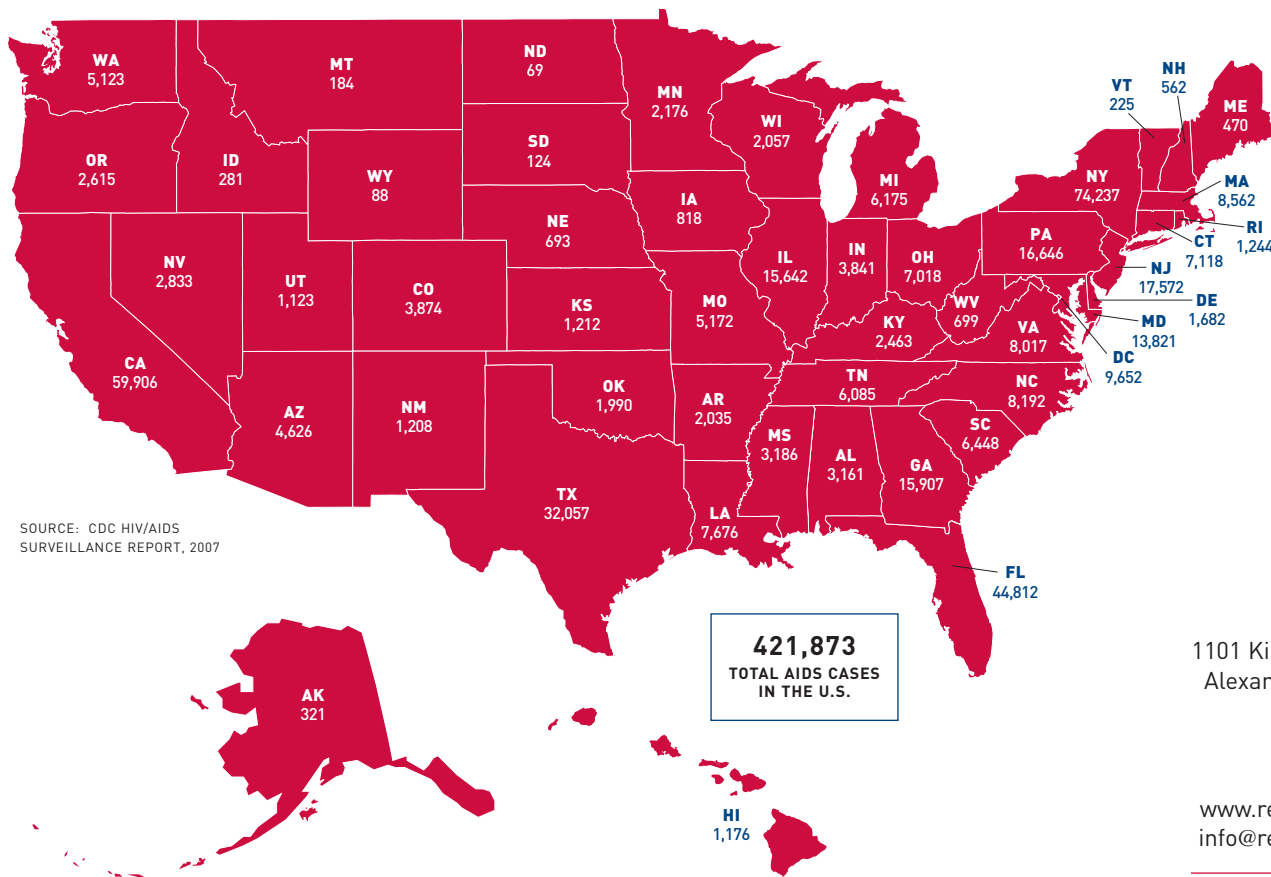
Most Americans Think the U.S. Spends Too Little on Health Research

Currently, the U.S. government spends much less than one penny of every dollar on research to improve health around the world. Would you say this amount is...



SOURCE: ATTITUDES: GLOBAL HEALTH RESEARCH, 2006
CHARLTON RESEARCH FOR RESEARCH!AMERICA

People Living with AIDS, All Ages, 2005



SOURCE: CDC HIV/AIDS SURVEILLANCE REPORT, 2007

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For additional information, contact
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OR The Foundation for AIDS Research at www.amfar.org.

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