

Investment in research saves lives and money



facts about:

HIV/AIDS

"If you think research is expensive, try disease."

- Mary Lasker 1901-1994

Today:

- Approximately 1.2 million Americans are living with HIV/AIDS.*
- There are approximately 50,000 new HIV infections every year in the U.S.*
- More than 1.8 million Americans have become infected with HIV since the epidemic began in 1981, and an estimated 659,000 have died.*
- An estimated 35.3 million people are living with HIV/AIDS worldwide, and more than 36 million people have died since the first case was reported in 1981.**
- African-Americans and Latino-Americans are disproportionately affected by new HIV infections. In 2010, the rate of new HIV infections was eight times higher among African-Americans than whites, while Latino-Americans had a rate three times that of whites.***
- In 2011, approximately 70% of Americans with HIV did not have their virus under control. Of this subset, 66% had been diagnosed but were not engaged in regular HIV care, 20% did not yet know they were HIV-positive, 10% did not achieve viral suppression with antiretroviral treatment, and 4% were engaged in care but not prescribed antiviral treatment.*

The Cost:

- In FY 2014, U.S. federal funding to combat HIV/AIDS here and abroad and assist those affected by the disease totaled \$29.5 billion.***
- The lifetime medical costs of treating a person with HIV are estimated at approximately \$402,000.*

*CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION <WWW.CDC.GOV> 2014.
 ** WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION <WWW.WHO.INT> 2014.
 *** THE HENRY J. KAISER FAMILY FOUNDATION <WWW.KFF.ORG> 2014.

SAVING LIVES

SAVING MONEY

HOW RESEARCH SAVES LIVES:

- The public- and private-sector funded research that led to the development of Highly Active Antiretroviral Therapy (HAART) revolutionized the battle against HIV/AIDS; access to the medications – coupled with strict adherence – transforms the virus from a virtual death sentence to a manageable chronic condition.
- Since the introduction of HAART, life expectancy for Americans infected with HIV has increased from 36.1 to 51.4 years.**
- Research has demonstrated that Truvada, a drug for the treatment of certain strains of HIV/AIDS, can also be effective in reducing the rate of infection when used prophylactically.†

HOW RESEARCH SAVES MONEY:

- Underscoring the importance of regular testing, the CD4 test, an early screening tool developed at the Stanford University School of Medicine and the Palo Alto Veterans Health Care System, has been shown to help patients live longer and reduce the cost of their care.†
- A study funded by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) concluded that HIV positive patients who start treatment earlier in the disease progression will save up to \$64,000 in direct health care costs in their lifetime, compared to those who start treatment later.**

* CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION <WWW.CDC.GOV> 2013.
 ** SAMJI H, ET. AL. PLoS ONE 2013. 8(12): e81355.
 †CHOOPANYA, K. ET. AL. LANCET 2013. 381(9883):2083-1090.
 ‡STANFORD UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE <WWW.MED.STANFORD.EDU> 2012.
 ++FLEISHMAN, JOHN A. ET. AL. MED CARE 2010. 48(12):1071-1079.

What is HIV/AIDS?

Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) is a viral infection that can lead to acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS). Infection with HIV gradually destroys the body's immune cells. AIDS occurs when the immune system can no longer provide protection from infections, cancers and other diseases. Treatment slows the destruction of the body's immune system, but does not eliminate HIV. There is no vaccine and no cure.

Patient:



NAME: **Maria Davis**
 AGE: **54**
 CONDITION: **AIDS**
 Diagnosed with HIV at age 35

Maria Davis was pursuing a childhood dream to model and work in entertainment when she was diagnosed with HIV in 1995. At 35-years-old, having already collaborated with artists like Jay-Z and Puff Daddy, Davis' new challenge was survival. At that time, medications, such as AZT, only temporarily prolonged life for HIV/AIDS patients, and stigma and cultural barriers prevented many from seeking much-needed help.

In 1998, Davis began taking medication, and since, through her 30s, 40s and now 50s, she has been a first-hand observer of the progress of HIV/AIDS treatments. Davis, who has participated in a trial for a new medication, now takes a manageable six pills per day - supplemented with vitamins - and her journey continues to inspire others to live meaningfully and find inner beauty and love.

Davis, in addition to still promoting music and comedy twice a month, currently encourages people living with HIV/AIDS to talk about their treatment with their provider and speaks at schools and universities, educating about the realities of prevention, transmission, testing and stigma. She's also completed two New York marathons.

There is no cure for HIV/AIDS; however, medical research has played a critical role in reducing the risk of transmission and has led to new drugs that have transformed HIV/AIDS from a fatal to a chronic illness for millions worldwide. The National Institutes of Health commits 10 percent of its budget to AIDS research and has been at the forefront of significant scientific advances. But there are critical challenges ahead.

facts about: } HIV/ AIDS

Hope for the Future:

- Public- and private-sector research is underway to test drug combinations that could dramatically reduce life-threatening complications for individuals with both HIV and other chronic conditions such as kidney disease.*
- Development of a safe and effective vaccine to prevent HIV infection is a top priority for the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Working closely with academia, private sector innovators such as Geovax, Inc., and government/business/philanthropic collaborations or product development partnerships (PDPs) such as the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative (IAVI), NIH is helping to fund promising vaccine research that could ultimately eradicate HIV/AIDS.**

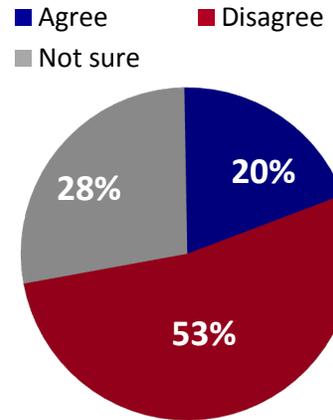
* KRISTOFF, JAN. ET. AL. J CLIN INVEST 2014;124(6):2802-2806.

** NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF ALLERGY AND INFECTIOUS DISEASE <WWW.NIAD.NIH.GOV> 2014.

National Poll:

Officials Aren't Paying Enough Attention to Deadly Diseases

Do you agree or disagree that elected officials in Washington are paying enough attention to combating the many deadly diseases that afflict Americans?



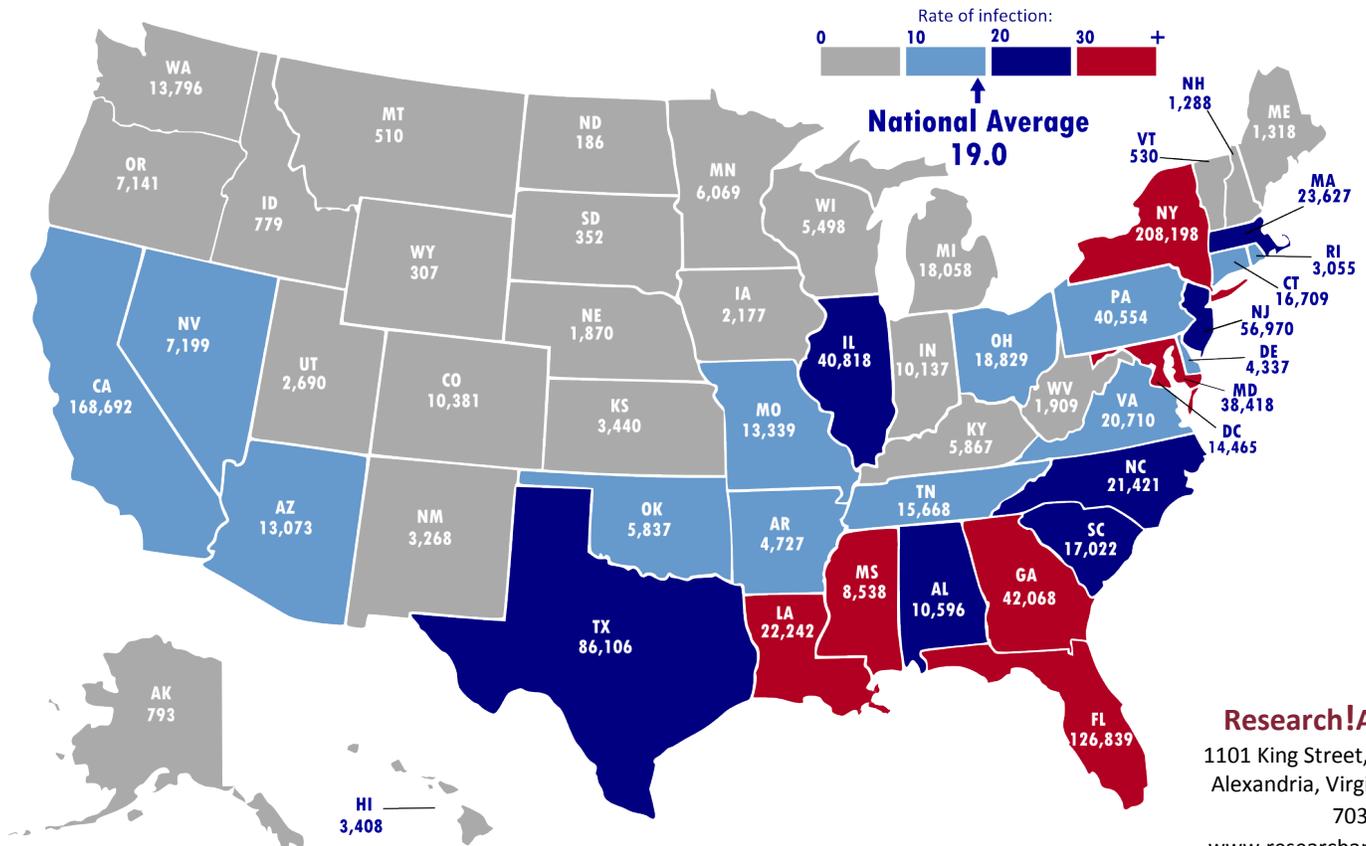
SOURCE: A RESEARCH!AMERICA POLL OF U.S. ADULTS CONDUCTED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ZOGBY ANALYTICS, WITH SUPPORT FROM THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF HEMATOLOGY, IN NOVEMBER 2013.

The Bottom Line:

Research has led to prevention strategies, diagnostics and medicines that have given millions of Americans and others across the globe with HIV/AIDS a chance to live longer and healthier lives. A strengthened commitment to research is needed to develop an effective vaccine and cure to end this deadly and costly disease.

HIV Rate of Infection per 100,000 and Total Number of Infections, 2011

SOURCE: THE HENRY J. KAISER FAMILY FOUNDATION



Research!America
 1101 King Street, Suite 520
 Alexandria, Virginia 22314
 703.739.2577
www.researchamerica.org
info@researchamerica.org

The Albert and Mary Lasker Foundation is a founding partner in this series of fact sheets. www.laskerfoundation.org