



SHARP News



CDC Releases 2001 HIV-AIDS Data

The 2001 year-end edition of the "HIV/AIDS Surveillance Report" (Vol. 13, No. 2) is now available at <http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/stats/hasr1302.htm>. This report details U.S. HIV and AIDS cases reported through December 2001.

Some highlights from the report:

In 1996, sharp declines in AIDS incidence occurred for the first time; from 1998 through 1999, declines in AIDS incidence began to level, and essentially no change occurred from 1999 (41,165) through 2001 (41,311).

By region, from 1996 through 2001, AIDS incidence declined in the West; declined and then leveled in the Northeast, Midwest, and U.S. territories; and declined and then increased in the South.

By race/ethnicity, from 1996 through 2001, AIDS incidence declined sharply and then slowed among whites; declined more slowly and then slightly increased among blacks, Hispanics, and Asian/Pacific Islanders; and increased (from 154 in 1998 to 184 in 2001) among American Indian/ Alaska Natives.

By risk, AIDS incidence declined sharply and then leveled among men who have sex with men (MSM) and men who have sex with men and inject drugs (MSM/IDUs); incidence continued to decline among injection drug users (IDUs). Among persons exposed through heterosexual contact, incidence declined slowly from 1996 through 1998 but seems to have increased through 2001.

AIDS prevalence has increased steadily over time: at the end of December 2001, approximately 362,827 persons in the United States were living with AIDS. Through December 2001, 807,075 adult/adolescents had been reported as having AIDS; of these, 462,653 (57%) had died.

SHARP comment:

The decline in AIDS prevalence and deaths among Americans infected with HIV since 1996 coincides with the widespread use of highly active antiretroviral therapy (HAART). Since then, AIDS incidence data has become less indicative of HIV incidence trends. Although an estimated 362,827 Americans were living with AIDS at the end of 2001, the CDC estimates that 800,000 to 900,000 are living with HIV (40 million worldwide).

During calendar year 2001, 101 active duty Sailors and Marines tested positive for HIV. Since 1985, there have been 4,786 documented cases of HIV infection among active duty Sailors and Marines. The HIV seroconversion rate of Sailors increased in calendar year 2000 and again in 2001. Among active duty Sailors, the rates rose during 1999-2001 from 16 to 21 to 24 per 100,000. Among Marines, the 2000 rate fell in 2001 from 16 to 11. A more complete report of these data will be published in a future issue of the NEHC *Naval Medical Surveillance Report*.

