

The HIV Timeline: 1980-2001

1918-19	Winter	550,000 Americans died of influenza 'A'; 25 million deaths worldwide.
1945-55		Polio epidemic kills 20,000 Americans.
1978		Unknown virus probably being transmitted among the first cases.
1980	Dec.	First cases of "new pneumonia" reported.
1981	Early	CDC publishes first reports of a rare pneumonia affecting five gay men in Los Angeles, followed by first cases of KS in New York.
	Middle	Being Haitian is cited as a risk factor.
	Fall	Term "gay cancer" emerges; there are 108 cases of gay cancer nationwide.
	Nov.	Term GRID appears (Gay-related Immune Deficiency): 200 cases in 1981.
1982	Mar.	First transfusion-related case identified; concerns about blood supply begin.
	July	CDC says it is an epidemic because cases are doubling every six months.
	Dec.	First hemophiliac cases are reported.
1983	Early	Total Number of PWAs nationally = 1,112 The term ARC (AIDS-Related Complex) emerges.
	May	Scientists in France & U.S. conclude cause of AIDS is a retrovirus.
	Summer	CDC establishes first AIDS case definition. Federal AIDS budget goes to \$4.3 million.
1984	Early	Australia & Europe create needle exchange programs to fight spread of AIDS.
	Apr.	Luc Montagnier and Robert Gallo, separately isolate retrovirus, later called HIV. Irwin Memorial Blood Bank develops new blood test to detect antibody to HIV.
1984	July	<i>TIME</i> magazine: first major coverage of PWAs in a mainstream magazine.
1985	Feb.	Blood banks begin testing donated blood as FDA approves test.
	Apr.	First anonymous test sites open.
	May	AZT appears.

	June	First International AIDS Conference.
	Oct.	Rock Hudson dies of AIDS.
	Late	Total number of PWAs in the U.S. = 13,000
1986	Early	Vice-President Bush says "AIDS is an epidemic." Surgeon General C. Everett Koop issues a landmark report on the AIDS epidemic, calling for AIDS education and condom use. 91% of all U.S. insurance companies deny coverage to HIV+ people.
	June	Ryan White, 10-year-old hemophiliac with HIV, appears in the media.
	Late	Universal precautions required in hospitals & blood-related environments.
1987	Jan.	Statistics suggest 50% of all HIV+ cases will progress to AIDS.
	Mar.	<i>TIME</i> magazine states that 1 million individuals are HIV+world-wide.
	July	Jonas Salk begins HIV vaccine research. After four years in office, President Reagan finally addresses AIDS publicly. <i>And the Band Played On</i> is published by Randy Shilts. National Black Leadership Comm. on AIDS & National Minority AIDS Council founded.
1987	Aug.	The Names Project Quilt goes to Washington D.C.
1988	Jan.	The average life span for a white PWA is two years; for a black PWA 19 weeks. NYC DPH begins 1st government funded needle exchange program. AIDS Dementia Complex is identified.
	April	Total number of PWAs in U.S. = 60,583; 33,926 have died. Greg Louganis hits his head on a diving board during the Olympics.
	Dec.	Studies say AZT delays onset of AIDS. African Americans account for half of all AIDS cases ever reported among women.
1989		Total PWAs in U.S. = 102,621; 59,291 have died. Dancer/choreographer Alvin Ailey dies of AIDS at age 58; first high profile

		African American death
1990	Feb.	Surgeon General Koop says HIV will become a chronic manageable disease.
	Middle	CDC adopts client-centered counseling strategies, moving away from traditional health models for HIV prevention education and counseling.
	June	Ryan White dies at 18.
	July	Americans with Disabilities Act includes people with HIV/AIDS. Ryan White Care Act inaugurated.
	Late	Total PWAs in U.S. = 154,917; 95,774 have already died.
1991	Early	CDC estimates 1 million U.S. HIV+infections; WHO (World Health Organization) estimates 10 million worldwide. WORLD-publishes first newsletter, by and about women living with HIV.
	Late	Magic Johnson announces he is HIV-positive.
1992	Jan.	Total PWAs in U.S. = 206,392 total cases; 133,233 have died.
	June	Arthur Ashe confirms he has AIDS;
	Sept.	First reported use of combination antiviral therapy (such as AZT and ddI.)
	Late	Robert Reed, the dad on <i>"The Brady Bunch"</i> dies of AIDS.
1993	Early	CDC case definition expanded to be more inclusive of women and injection drug users.
	Middle	More than 30 needle exchange programs, 15 legal, are in operation in U.S.
	Dec.	Red Ribbon postage stamp released.
1994	Feb.	Denzel Washington co-stars with Tom Hanks, who wins an Oscar portraying a gay man with AIDS, in the movie Philadelphia. AZT becomes the standard of care to avoid perinatal HIV transmission.
	Oct.	Experimental viral load testing begins.
1995	Early	Olympic diver Greg Louganis discloses he has HIV.
	April	Total number of panels in the AIDS Quilt: 30,704. Size of the quilt: 13 acres.
	Middle	CDC states AIDS is leading cause of death among 25-44 yr. old Americans.
	Aug.	First protease inhibitor approved (Saquinavir).

		This is the first year more Blacks died from AIDS than whites in the U.S.
1996	Early	First viral load test is approved.
	May	Triple combination therapy becomes standard of care. Oral collection (OraSure) for HIV antibody test is approved by the FDA.
	Oct.	Entire AIDS Quilt is shown for last time; Clintons view it, a presidential first. Congress passes law to discharge all military personnel living with HIV, currently more than 1,000 individuals. The provision is later repealed.
1997	Middle	Unexpected side effects of new AIDS drugs: 'protease paunch' & lipodystrophy.
	Dec.	Estimated to be 30.6 million cases of HIV worldwide; 11.7 million are dead; of those, 8.9 million are adults and 2.8 million are children under the age of 15.
1998	Early	AIDS deaths in the US drop by 47%.
	Middle	Studies show needle exchange programs prevent the spread of HIV and do not lead to increased drug use. No federal funds to support needle exchange programs are allocated.
	Dec.	AIDS is the leading cause of death in Africa and kills more people worldwide than any other infectious disease.
1999	Middle	CDC begins funding "prevention for HIV-infected persons project" (PHIPP). Estimated 900,000 people living with HIV in the U.S.
	Nov.	Feds tell states they must track HIV infection by name or case.
2000	Nov.	Coretta Scott King launches AIDS Quilt to black colleges and universities.
	Dec.	Two million Africans died of AIDS in the year 2000.
2001	Jan.	CDC reports that 43-44,000 Americans will become infected this year; half of them will be aged 24 or younger.
	April	FDA orders drug companies to tone down use of healthy models to sell HIV meds.
	May	WHO estimates 36 million people living with HIV worldwide, 25 million in Africa.
2005		CDC announces African Americans account for half of all people living with HIV/AIDS in U.S. and nearly half of all new infections.

2006

May 18th Annual National Conference on Social work and HIV/AIDS.
June 5, 2006: AIDS epidemic turns 25 years old. No vaccine or cure exists,
and none is predicted for the foreseeable future.

Adapted from:

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