

World AIDS Day — December 1, 2016

World AIDS Day, observed on December 1, draws attention to the status of the human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS) epidemic worldwide.

The first cases of AIDS in the United States were reported more than 35 years ago in the June 5, 1981 issue of *MMWR*. Today, approximately 36.7 million persons worldwide are living with HIV infection, including approximately 2.1 million persons who were newly infected during 2015 (1). Although AIDS-related deaths have declined by 45% since 2005, an estimated 1.1 million persons died from AIDS in 2015 (1), with tuberculosis contributing to an estimated 400,000 of these deaths (2).

Global efforts, including the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, in which CDC is a key implementing agency, have resulted in 18.2 million persons worldwide receiving antiretroviral therapy for HIV infection by June 2016, an increase from 7.5 million in 2010 (1).

In the United States, an estimated 44,000 persons received a diagnosis of HIV infection in 2014 (3). In 2013, an estimated 1.2 million persons in the United States were living with HIV, 87% of whom were aware of their infection (4).

References

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Early Diagnosis of HIV Infection in Infants — One Caribbean and Six Sub-Saharan African Countries, 2011–2015

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Pediatric human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection remains an important public health issue in resource-limited settings. In 2015, 1.4 million children aged <15 years were estimated to be living with HIV (including 170,000 infants born in 2015), with the vast majority living in sub-Saharan Africa (1). In 2014, 150,000 children died from HIV-related causes worldwide (2). Access to timely HIV diagnosis and

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