

## COMPREHENSIVE HIV PREVENTION

### WHAT IS THE PUBLIC HEALTH ISSUE?

- In the United States, an estimated 850,000 to 950,000 people are infected with HIV, roughly half of whom remain undiagnosed, untreated, or both. HIV prevention has helped slow the rate of new HIV infection in the United States, but the rate of new infections is still unacceptably high, at about 40,000 annually.
- Male-to-male sexual contact is the predominant mode of HIV exposure. In 2002, men accounted for 74% of all new AIDS diagnoses among adults in the United States.
- Of the 71,996 female adults and adolescents living with HIV/AIDS in the 30 areas with confidential name-based HIV infection reporting, 72% had been exposed through heterosexual contact, and 26% through injection drug use.
- Communities of color are disproportionately affected by HIV. More than 61% of the estimated 384,906 people now living with AIDS are African American and Hispanic/Latino.

### WHAT HAS CDC ACCOMPLISHED?

Prevention remains the best strategy for reducing the human and economic toll from HIV/AIDS. CDC efforts are designed to decrease by 50% the number of new HIV infections in the United States by addressing changes in the epidemic and incorporating the latest scientific research into program interventions. CDC's goals include decreasing the number of people at high risk for HIV infection and strengthening the capacity nationwide to monitor the epidemic and implement and evaluate programs. HIV prevention hinges on a comprehensive strategy of tracking the epidemic, researching prevention, and helping communities implement programs at the local level. CDC monitors HIV and AIDS nationally and publishes annual reports that provide national information about the epidemic. CDC also conducts surveys of HIV-related behaviors to inform and target prevention programs and supports biomedical and behavioral research regarding HIV prevention. Finally, CDC supports local communities in their HIV prevention efforts with both funding and technical assistance.

CDC announced a new initiative, "Advancing HIV Prevention: New Strategies for a Changing Epidemic," aimed at reducing the number of new infections caused by HIV each year in the United States. The new initiative expands on current HIV prevention strategies and models other approaches that have proven effective in preventing infectious diseases.

#### *Example of Program in Action*

The Family Health Centers of San Diego is the largest comprehensive provider of HIV-related services in San Diego County, California. For more than 13 years, the centers have targeted services to medically underserved communities. Currently, the centers collaborate with local healthcare agencies to provide a comprehensive network of HIV prevention, testing, and referral services to communities of color at risk for HIV. CDC funds the centers' services in three program announcements targeting gay men of color, persons at high risk for HIV, and young men of color who have sex with men.

### WHAT ARE THE NEXT STEPS?

CDC will continue to focus prevention efforts on populations at highest risk for HIV infection, especially communities of color. Key strategies include making voluntary HIV testing more routine, creating new models for diagnosing HIV infections, and providing prevention services for persons living with HIV and their partners. CDC will continue to support primary prevention and behavioral risk-reduction programs for persons at high risk for acquiring HIV through programs funded through state and local health departments and through directly-funded community-based organizations program