

LOS ANGELES COUNTY
HIV PREVENTION PLANNING COMMITTEE
 600 S. Commonwealth Avenue-10th Floor-Los Angeles, CA 90005-Fax 213/381-8023

OVERVIEW:

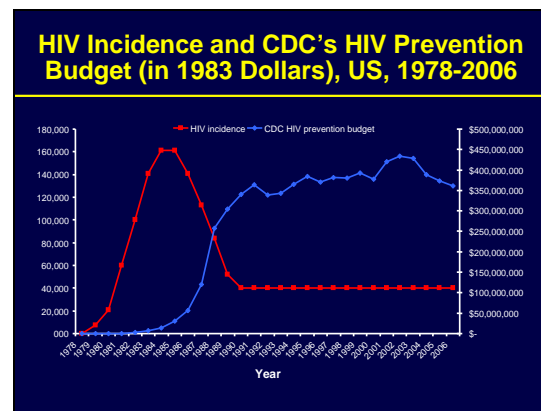
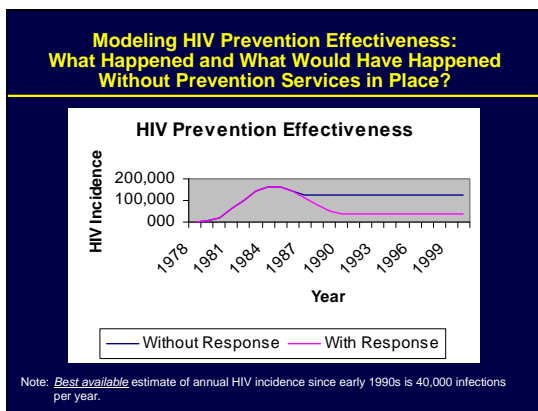
On May 26, 2009, the State Department of Finance presented the Governor’s updated budget cut proposals to the Legislature that include a \$12.3 million cut to the AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) and elimination of **all general fund contributions to HIV/AIDS** programs of the California State Office of AIDS (OA).

This would mean a virtual elimination of OA and would affect the following programs:

- Education and Prevention
- HIV Counseling and Testing
- Epidemiologic Studies/Surveillance
- Early Intervention
- Therapeutic Monitoring Program
- AIDS Drug Assistance Program
- Housing
- Home and Community-Based Care

HIV PREVENTION WORKS:

- Prevention efforts are effective in stopping the spread of HIV among persons who know their HIV status.
- The prevention of HIV is a cost saving measure. In 2004, the lifetime cost of treating someone with HIV was estimated to be in excess of \$600,000.
- Research has demonstrated that **when HIV prevention funding decreases, HIV infection rates increase.**



David Holtgrave, PhD, Professor & Chair, Department of Health, Behavior & Society
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IMPACT OF CUTS:

- African American and Latino communities are disproportionately impacted by HIV – the proposed cuts would result in the continuing increase of HIV in these communities.
- Elimination of State prevention funding would have a devastating impact on California’s marginalized communities (e.g. gay men, transgendered people, substance users, undocumented individuals, sex workers, etc.)
- HIV Epidemiology Program estimates 3,100 new HIV infections occurred in Los Angeles County in 2007. Of all persons living with HIV, an estimated 25% are unaware of their infection. Eliminating prevention programs would cause HIV rates to increase dramatically.
- Current OAPP-funded prevention programs targeting women, HIV positive people, and Native Americans, among other at risk populations, are funded by State Office of AIDS general funds. The proposed budget cuts would eliminate all funding that supports these programs.
- Eliminating HIV Prevention funds in Los Angeles County would result in:
 - A decreased number of people tested for HIV;
 - An increase in the number of people acquiring HIV, especially among African-American and Latino populations;
 - An estimated 19,000 fewer residents being reached by HIV prevention services;
 - An estimated 2,900 fewer individual risk reduction counseling sessions;
 - An estimated 3,800 fewer people reached via group risk reduction counseling sessions, and;
 - An estimated 1,000 fewer people reached via community forums and other health communication/public information programs.
- Cutting prevention will have a greater fiscal impact on the already overburdened health care system as more individuals will become infected with HIV.

It is critical that any effective HIV/AIDS response is comprehensive and inclusive of care, treatment and prevention services.