



World AIDS Day 2015

Year-by-Year Milestones in HIV/AIDS

(Adapted from “The POZ Timeline: Milestones in the HIV/AIDS Pandemic” with additions compiled by Eric Brus, Director of HIV Health Promotion, AIDS Action Committee)

1981

- In the June 5 Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, CDC reports a rare form of pneumonia in five gay men, which are later determined to be the first published cases of AIDS.
- The first AIDS service organization, Gay Men’s Health Crisis (GMHC), is founded in New York City.
- **U.S. Year-End Statistics:** A total of 159 cases of the new disease are recorded during 1981.
- The Fenway Community Health Center reports the first AIDS case in New England.
- In Massachusetts, there is a sharp increase in the number of new AIDS cases each year from 1981 through 1990. Between 1985 and 1990, an average of 700 AIDS cases are reported each year.

1982

- CDC introduces the term Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome, or AIDS, as a replacement for Gay-Related Immune Deficiency (GRID).
- The Community-based KS/AIDS Foundation is formed, which later becomes the San Francisco AIDS Foundation.
- **U.S. Year-End Statistics:** 771 cases of AIDS reported to date, with 618 deaths.

1983

- The primary cause of AIDS is confirmed: French researchers isolate a virus, dubbed LAV, that kills CD4 cells in a patient with AIDS. U.S. scientists make a similar discovery in 1984, involving an isolated virus dubbed HTLV-III.
- The Advisory Committee of People With AIDS releases The Denver Principles, officially launching the self-empowerment movement among people living with HIV/AIDS.
- **U.S. Year-End Statistics:** 2,807 cases of AIDS reported to date, with 2,118 deaths.
- Governor Michael Dukakis convenes the Massachusetts Task Force on AIDS, which meets monthly to develop, guide, and plan the Commonwealth’s response to the epidemic.
- The AIDS Action Committee is founded - initially as a committee of the Fenway Community Health Center - to respond to the epidemic. AIDS Action remains the largest AIDS service organization in New England.
- Fenway/AIDS Action opens the first statewide AIDS hotline.

1984

- San Francisco bathhouses are ordered shut, with similar efforts in other major metropolitan areas.
- With the isolation of HIV, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services predicts an HIV vaccine will be available by 1990. This prediction proves to be overoptimistic.
- **U.S. Year-End Statistics:** 7,239 cases of AIDS reported to date, with 5,596 deaths.



AIDS Action Committee of Massachusetts is a leader in the fight against HIV/AIDS, advocating at the city, state, and federal levels for fair and effective AIDS policies, conducting cutting edge HIV prevention programs, and providing health and wellness services to people already living with HIV. Since 1988, AIDS Action’s Health Library has provided reliable and updated information about HIV treatment and wellness. Learn more at www.aac.org.

1985

- FDA approves the first HIV antibody test, and blood banks begin screening for HIV.
- First International AIDS Conference is held in Atlanta, with AIDS reported in 51 nations.
- The Normal Heart debuts in New York; a revival opens on Broadway in 2011.
- Ryan White, an Indiana teenager with AIDS, is barred from school, a case of stigma and discrimination that gains international media attention.
- Rock Hudson confirms that he has AIDS, bringing international attention to the disease.
- **U.S. Year-End Statistics:** 15,527 cases of AIDS reported to date, with 12,529 deaths.
- The Massachusetts Department of Public Health establishes the HIV/AIDS Bureau (now known as the Office of HIV/AIDS).
- AIDS Action opens the first residence for people with HIV in Boston.

1986

- HIV is officially adopted as the name of the virus that causes AIDS.
- Early results from a clinical trial suggest Retrovir (AZT) is effective for people with AIDS.
- The U.S. Surgeon General publishes his first report on AIDS, the government's first major statement on what the nation should do to prevent the spread of HIV.
- The first panel of the AIDS Memorial Quilt is created in San Francisco.
- **U.S. Year-End Statistics:** 28,712 cases of AIDS reported to date, with 24,559 deaths.

1987

- The first antiretroviral drug, Retrovir (AZT), is approved by the FDA.
- The AIDS Memorial Quilt is displayed on the National Mall in Washington, DC, for the first time.
- Total approved HIV drugs at year's end: one.
- **U.S. Year-End Statistics:** 50,378 cases of AIDS reported to date, with 40,849 deaths.
- ACT UP is founded in New York. A Boston Chapter soon follows. Through a combination of protest, negotiation, and education, ACT UP-Boston is instrumental in:
 - ▷ raising awareness about HIV/AIDS;
 - ▷ speeding up the process for drug approvals;
 - ▷ gaining health insurance for HIV-related illnesses;
 - ▷ influencing national HIV/AIDS policy; and
 - ▷ creating the nation's first online registry of AIDS clinical trials.
- At the urging of AIDS Action and others, Boston mayor Ray Flynn backs a pilot needle exchange program in Boston, but needs state legislature approval to implement it.

1988

- The World Health Organization (WHO) declares the first World AIDS Day on December 1.
- The Office of the U.S. Surgeon General mails a booklet, Understanding AIDS, to every household in the United States – nearly 107 million copies.
- First U.S. needle exchange programs are established in New York City, San Francisco, and Tacoma, Washington.
- **U.S. Year-End Statistics:** 82,362 cases of AIDS reported to date, 61,816 deaths.
- The Massachusetts AZT Reimbursement Plan (now called its HIV Drug Assistance Plan) is first funded.
- Cambridge Cares About AIDS and Strongest Link organizations are established in 1988.
- AIDS Action and its volunteers establish the HIV Treatment Education Library (now known as AIDS Action's Health Library).

1989

- Activists work with National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) Anthony Fauci to endorse “parallel track,” whereby people living with HIV/AIDS who don't qualify for clinical trials can

access experimental treatments.

- FDA approves ganciclovir for CMV and aerosolized pentamidine for PCP.
- **U.S. Year-End Statistics:** 117,508 cases of AIDS reported to date, with 89,343 deaths.
- Activists, clinicians, and consumers work together to form Community Research Initiative of New England (CRI). CRI becomes and remains a major national HIV research organization.
- The Boston Living Center is founded.

1990

- AZT becomes the first drug approved for children.
- The Americans with Disabilities Act is enacted, barring discrimination against people with disabilities, including people living with HIV/AIDS.
- Ryan White CARE Act is passed, providing federal funding for AIDS care.
- **U.S. Year-End Statistics:** 160,969 cases of AIDS reported to date, with 120,453 deaths.
- The number of active AIDS Action clients tops 1,000.

1991

- Basketball legend Magic Johnson reveals he is HIV positive.
- Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS (HOPWA) Act is enacted, providing state funds to support housing for those living with the virus.
- The red ribbon makes its debut.
- FDA approves one new HIV drug – Videx (ddI) – in 1991, bringing the total approved HIV drugs to two.
- The International AIDS Conference is moved from Boston to Amsterdam in protest over the U.S. ban on HIV-positive immigrants.
- **U.S. Year-End Statistics:** 206,563 cases of AIDS reported to date, with 156,143 deaths.
- The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that nearly 10 million people are infected with HIV worldwide.
- In Massachusetts, the number of newly diagnosed AIDS cases averages more than 1,600 a year between 1991 and 1993. The increase during this time period is due in part to the expansion of the AIDS case definition in 1993. The peak number of AIDS cases reported in the state is 1,753 in 1993.

1992

- AIDS becomes the No. 1 cause of death for men in U.S. between ages 25 to 44.
- Both Democratic and Republican national conventions feature speakers living with HIV.
- The first clinical trial of combination HIV treatment begins.
- The FDA issues new rules that allow accelerated approval of new HIV drugs based on “surrogate markers” of their efficacy, such as laboratory tests, rather than long-term clinical outcomes such as the relief of symptoms or prevention of disability and death.
- FDA approves one new HIV drug – Hivid (ddC) – in 1992, bringing the total approved HIV drugs to three.
- **U.S. Year-End Statistics:** 254,147 cases of AIDS reported to date, with 194,476 deaths.

1993

- President Bill Clinton creates the White House Office of National AIDS Policy.
- CDC expands its definition of AIDS to include HIV-positive people with a CD4 cell count under 200; cervical cancer is also included as an AIDS-defining cancer. This leads to a 111% increase in the number of U.S. AIDS cases. Many of these new cases are among women.
- Angels in America wins both the Tony Award and Pulitzer Prize.
- **U.S. Year-End Statistics:** 360,909 cases of AIDS reported to date, with 234,225 deaths.
- Governor William Weld signs into law legislation allowing 10 pilot needle exchange programs to be

established in Massachusetts.

- AIDS Action's "Who Touched Me Ministry" is formed to do AIDS education and prevention outreach in the African American community through Black churches.

1993 - 1999

- In Massachusetts, the number of newly diagnosed AIDS cases falls between 1993 and 1997, and levels off at about 850 to 900 per year between 1997 and 1999. During this period, the proportion of cases diagnosed among women increases.

1994

- U.S. Public Health Service recommends AZT during pregnancy, after a study shows a 70% reduction in HIV transmission rate.
- FDA approves one new HIV drug - Zerit (d4T) - in 1994, bringing the total approved HIV drugs to four.
- **U.S. Year-End Statistics:** 441,528 cases of AIDS reported to date, with 270,870 deaths.
- In Massachusetts, AIDS deaths reach a peak of 1,156 deaths in 1994.
- The first needle exchange in Massachusetts opens in Boston; others follow later in Cambridge, Northampton, and Provincetown.
- AIDS Action works to get an AIDS education curriculum and condoms into schools in Boston and 28 other school districts.

1995

- The Joint United Nations Programme on AIDS (UNAIDS) is created.
- AIDS becomes the No. 1 cause of death for men and women in U.S. between ages 25 to 44.
- Between 1991 and 1995, the number of American women diagnosed with AIDS increased by more than 63%.
- FDA approves two new HIV drugs - Epivir (3TC) and Invirase (saquinavir) and - in 1995, bringing the total approved HIV drugs to six. Invirase, the first available protease inhibitor, was approved in record time.
- **U.S. Year-End Statistics:** 513,486 cases of AIDS reported to date, with 319,849 deaths. Deaths during 1995 alone total more than 49,000 - an all-time high for the U.S. epidemic.
- Massachusetts medical research centers are key participants in the testing of new antiretroviral drugs and drug combinations to fight HIV.

1996

- At the 11th International AIDS Conference, many studies highlight the lifesaving potential of combination therapy. Renowned researcher David Ho also suggests HIV drug combinations may cure HIV with just a few years of treatment. Although combination HIV treatment is a great advance, the prediction of an HIV cure proves overoptimistic.
- The first viral load test is approved.
- The number of new AIDS cases declines for the first time in the history of the U.S. epidemic.
- For the first time in the U.S., a larger proportion of AIDS cases occur among African Americans than among Whites.
- FDA approves three new HIV drugs - Crixivan (indinavir), Norvir (ritonavir), and Viramune (nevirapine) - in 1996, bringing the total approved HIV drugs to nine. Viramune is the first approved non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitor (non-nuke) drug.
- **U.S. Year-End Statistics:** 581,429 cases of AIDS reported to date, 362,004 deaths.
- Because the new HIV regimens involve many doses and pills each day, AIDS Action launches an adherence program to help people keep up with their HIV medication regimens.

1997

- Number of AIDS deaths continues to fall, but reports of HIV combination treatment effects and adherence problems are on the rise.
- FDA approves two new HIV drugs – Rescriptor (delavirdine) and Viracept (nelfinavir) – in 1997, bringing the total approved HIV drugs to 11. In addition, FDA approves the first two-HIV-drug pill – Combivir (AZT + 3TC).
- **U.S. Year-End Statistics:** 641,086 cases of AIDS reported to date, with 390,692 deaths.

1998

- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services issues first set of federal HIV treatment guidelines.
- At the 12th International AIDS Conference, attention focuses on the need for treatment access in developing nations. Treatment Action Campaign is formed in South Africa.
- FDA approves two new HIV drugs – Sustiva (efaviranz) and Ziagen (abacavir) – in 1998, bringing the total approved HIV drugs to 13, plus one combination pill.
- **U.S. Year-End Statistics:** 688,200 cases of AIDS reported to date, with 410,800 deaths.

1999

- Scientists map out the likely source of HIV: A form of simian immunodeficiency virus (SIV) from the common chimpanzee *Pan troglodytes*, which likely entered human populations earlier in the 20th century, probably as a result of the bush meat trade.
- AIDS becomes No. 4 cause of death worldwide.
- FDA approves one new HIV drug – Agenerase (amprenavir) – in 1999, bringing the total approved HIV drugs to 14, plus one combination pill.
- In over 27 countries, the HIV infection rate has doubled since 1996. More than 95% of all HIV-infected people live in the developing world, which experienced 95% of AIDS deaths to date.
- Experts estimate that at least half of all new HIV infections in the U.S. (and worldwide) occur among young people under the age of 25.
- **U.S. Year-End Statistics:** 733,374 cases of AIDS reported to date, with 429,825 deaths.
- Massachusetts Comprehensive Health Insurance Initiative (CHII) is implemented to help people living with HIV access and pay for comprehensive health insurance.

2000

- AIDS is the No. 1 cause of death in Africa.
- U.S. and U.N. declare AIDS national security risks.
- UNAIDS, WHO, and other groups strike deals with major pharmaceutical companies to provide reduced-cost treatment in the developing world.
- HIV drug resistance testing becomes the standard-of-care to help people living with HIV make better treatment decisions.
- FDA approves two new combination HIV pills – Kaletra (lopinavir boosted with ritonavir) and Trizivir (AZT + 3TC + abacavir) – in 2000. This brings the total to 14 single-drug HIV pills and three combination pills.
- UNAIDS reports that 36.1 million people are living with HIV/AIDS, over 13 million children have lost one or both parents to AIDS, and nearly 22 million people have died of AIDS-related causes since the epidemic began.
- **U.S. Year-End Statistics:** 774,467 cases of AIDS reported to date, with 448,060 deaths.
- The number of people living with AIDS in Massachusetts reaches about 7,200 by the end of the year.
- The number of active AIDS Action clients tops 2,000.

- Youth on Fire, a drop-in center for homeless and street-involved youth ages 14 to 24, opens in Harvard Square, Cambridge.
- AIDS Action's Neighborhood Mobilization Project opens its doors in Boston's South End.

2001

- First Annual National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day is commemorated in the U.S.
- Generic drug manufacturers begin providing large-scale, low-cost access to HIV meds in developing world.
- FDA approves one new HIV pill - Viread (tenofovir) - in 2001. This brings the total to 15 single-drug HIV pills and three combination pills.
- **U.S. Year-End Statistics:** 816,149 cases of AIDS reported to date, with 462,653 deaths.
- In Massachusetts, expansion of the Medicaid 1115 Waiver allows non-disabled HIV-infected persons with incomes below 200% of the federal poverty limit to enroll in MassHealth.

2002

- The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria is launched.
- UNAIDS reports that women make up half of all adults living with HIV worldwide. HIV is also found to be the leading cause of death worldwide among men and women 15 to 59 years of age.
- OraQuick Rapid HIV test is approved, allowing HIV antibody testing in as little as 20 minutes using blood from a finger prick.
- No new HIV drugs or combination pills are approved in 2002.
- **U.S. Year-End Statistics:** 886,000 cases of AIDS reported to date, with 501,669 deaths.

2003

- During his State of the Union address, President George W. Bush announces his Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), a five-year, \$15 billion initiative to fight HIV/AIDS, primarily in Africa and the Caribbean.
- First National Latino AIDS Awareness Day is commemorated in the U.S.
- Major vaccine trials, started several years earlier, report disappointing results.
- FDA approves four new HIV drugs - Emtriva (FTC), Fuzeon (enfuvirtide), Lexiva (fosamprenavir), and Reyataz (atazanavir) - in 2003. Fuzeon is the first HIV fusion inhibitor; it is taken by injection. This brings the total to 19 individual HIV drugs and three combination pills.
- **U.S. Year-End Statistics:** 930,000 cases of AIDS reported to date, with 524,060 deaths.

2004

- PEPFAR begins first round of funding.
- First saliva-based rapid HIV test approved.
- FDA approves two new combination HIV pills - Epzicom (abacavir + 3TC) and Truvada (FTC + tenofovir) - in 2004. This brings the total to 19 individual HIV drugs and five combination pills.
- 15 million children worldwide have lost one or both parents to HIV/AIDS.
- **U.S. Year-End Statistics:** 940,000 cases of AIDS reported to date, with 529,113 deaths.

2005

- CDC releases post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) guidelines for possible sexual exposure to HIV.
- Reports of a rapidly progressive, multiple-drug-resistant strain of HIV being transmitted in New York City, setting off fears of a super virus.
- FDA approves one new HIV drug - Aptivus (tipranavir) - in 2005. This brings the total to 20 individual HIV drugs and five combination pills.
- A new report released by WHO and UNAIDS shows that the number of people on HIV antiretroviral treatment in developing countries has more than tripled since 2003 to 1.3 million.
- UNAIDS estimates that more than 40 million people are living with HIV worldwide.

- **U.S. Year-End Statistics:** About 975,000 cases of AIDS reported to date. CDC reports that more than one million Americans are living with HIV/AIDS.
- TransCEND (Transgender Care and Education Needs Diversity) opens in Cambridge.

2006

- The CDC reports that African Americans account for more than half of new HIV infections in the U.S.
- The CDC announces that mother-to-child HIV transmission in the U.S. has declined to less than 2% – a drop from about 27% in the years before HIV drugs were used to prevent such transmission.
- The CDC recommends that all adolescents and adults be routinely tested for HIV infection.
- Circumcision is shown to reduce HIV infection among heterosexual men.
- FDA approves one new HIV drug – Prezista (Darunavir) – In addition, FDA approves one combination pill – Atripla (FTC + efavirenz + tenofovir). Atripla is the first one-pill-a-day HIV regimen. The drug Hivid is discontinued in 2006. This brings the total to 20 individual HIV drugs and six combination pills.
- **U.S. Year-End Statistics:** About 1,015,000 cases of AIDS reported to date.
- The Men’s Action Life Empowerment (MALE) Center, a community resource center for gay and bisexual men, opens in the South End in Boston.
- Massachusetts Legislature passes the Pharmacy Needle Access Bill allowing people to gain access to sterile needles without a prescription.

2007

- FDA approves two new HIV drugs – Isentress (raltegravir) and Selzentry (maraviroc) – in 2007. Isentress is the first approved integrase inhibitor, and Selzentry is the first approved CCR5 blocker. The drug Agenerase is discontinued in 2007. This brings the total to 21 individual HIV drugs and six combination pills.
- New UNAIDS statistics, based on new surveillance methods, estimate that 33 million people worldwide are living with HIV/AIDS.
- **U.S. Year-End Statistics:** About 1,030,000 to 1,050,000 cases of AIDS reported to date.

2008

- CDC revises estimates of new HIV infections in the U.S. to more than 56,000 a year – substantially higher than the previous estimate of 40,000 annual new infections.
- U.S. Congress reauthorizes PEPFAR for five years, while also voting to end the HIV travel and immigration ban.
- FDA approves one new HIV drug – Intelence (etravirine) – in 2008. This brings the total to 22 individual HIV drugs and six combination pills.
- **U.S. Year-End Statistics:** About 1,065,000 cases of AIDS reported to date.

2009

- The U.S. Global Health Initiative (GHI) is launched by President Barack Obama, which includes PEPFAR and additional funds for other diseases.
- President Barack Obama calls for the U.S. to develop its first National HIV/AIDS Strategy.
- The U.S. Congress eliminates long-standing ban on the use of federal funds for needle exchange programs.
- No new HIV drugs or combination pills are approved in 2009.
- **U.S. Year-End Statistics:** About 1,097,000 cases of AIDS reported to date.

2010

- U.S. HIV travel ban officially ends.
- Congress passes and President Obama signs the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, establishing

a national health care plan aimed at reforming the U.S. health care system.

- The White House unveils the first National HIV/AIDS Strategy.
- “The Berlin Patient” – a man living with HIV who underwent a transplant involving HIV-resistant stem cells in 2007 for the treatment of leukemia – is classified as cured of his HIV.
- Results from the iPrEX study indicate that pill-based pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) – the use of daily antiretroviral drugs by uninfected persons – can reduce the risk of HIV infection.
- No new HIV drugs or combination pills are approved in 2010.
- The number of people receiving HIV/AIDS treatment in low- and middle-income countries reaches 5.25 million, but universal access remains a distant goal.
- **U.S. Year-End Statistics:** About 1,124,000 cases of AIDS reported to date, with about 659,000 deaths. An estimated 1,148,000 people are living with HIV in the U.S. (most recent available CDC estimate).
- Cambridge Cares About AIDS merges with AIDS Action.

2011

- On June 5, the world commemorates 30 years of AIDS.
- FDA approves one new HIV drug – Edurant (rilpivirine) – in 2011. In addition, FDA approves one combination pill – Complera (rilpivirine + FTC + tenofovir). Complera is the second approved one-pill-a-day HIV regimen. This brings the total to 23 individual HIV drugs and seven combination pills.
- FDA approves two new drugs for the treatment of chronic hepatitis C virus (HCV) infection, which is common among HIV-infected persons. When combined with older HCV medications, these new drugs substantially increase the cure rate for hepatitis C.
- A landmark research study shows that putting healthy people living with HIV on antiretrovirals can limit their transmission of the virus by 96%. This strategy is called “treatment as prevention.”
- Scientific interest in the search for a cure for HIV/AIDS intensifies as the International AIDS Society and the U.S. National Institutes of Health announce plans to launch their own cure initiatives.
- **U.S. Year-End Statistics:** About 1,156,000 cases of AIDS reported to date (the last year for which AIDS cases data are available).
- In Massachusetts, new HIV diagnoses declined 44% and HIV/AIDS deaths declined 41% between 2000 and 2011, according to the data from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health’s Office of HIV/AIDS.
- New HIV diagnoses average about 660 per year between 2009 and 2011.
- HIV/AIDS deaths reach a low of 208 in 2011, down more than 80% since the 1994 peak.
- Strongest Link merges with AIDS Action.

2012

- The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services issues new HIV treatment guidelines that, for the first time, recommend treatment for all HIV-infected adults and adolescents, regardless of CD4 count or viral load.
- The 19th International AIDS Conference (AIDS 2012) was held in Washington, DC, in July. It was the first time since 1990 that the Conference had been held in the U.S.
- The AIDS Memorial Quilt was displayed in its entirety in Washington, DC, in July during AIDS 2012. It was last displayed in full in 1996.
- FDA approves one new combination pill – Stribild (elvitegravir + cobicistat + FTC + tenofovir) in 2012. Stribild is the third approved one-pill-a-day HIV regimen. This brings the total to 23 individual HIV drugs and eight combination pills.
- FDA also approves the use of the HIV combination pill Truvada (FTC + tenofovir) to prevent sexual transmission of HIV.

- **U.S. Year-End Statistics:** Based on recent HIV infection and death rates, more than 1.2 million people are living with HIV by year's end.
- Boston Living Center merges with Victory Programs.

2013

- The treatment of HIV-infected women under the PEPFAR program has prevented a total of more than 1 million infant HIV infections in 10 years.
- U.S. Congress passes and President Obama signs the HIV Organ Policy Equity (HOPE) Act, which will allow persons living with HIV to receive organs from other infected donors. The HOPE Act has the potential to save the lives of about 1,000 HIV-infected patients with liver and kidney failure annually.
- FDA approves one new HIV drug – Tivicay (dolutegravir) – in 2013. This brings the total to 24 individual HIV drugs and eight combination pills.
- FDA approves two new drugs – Olysio (simeprevir) and Sovaldi (sofosbuvir) – for the treatment of chronic HCV infection. Clinical trials indicate that both drugs can achieve high cure rates when used in combination with other HCV drugs.
- An estimated 35.0 million people worldwide were living with HIV in 2013, up from 29.8 million in 2001. An estimated 1.5 million people worldwide died of AIDS in 2013, a 35% decrease since 2005.
- Overall, new HIV infections worldwide declined 38% between 2001 and 2013. Nevertheless, there were about 2.1 million new HIV infections in 2013. That is equal to about 5,800 new infections per day or one every 15 seconds.
- **U.S. Year-End Statistics:** Based on recent HIV infection and death rates, an estimated 1.25 million people in the U.S. are living with HIV by year's end.
- Between 1981 and the end of 2013, a total of 32,345 people had been diagnosed with HIV or AIDS in Massachusetts. Of these, 41% (13,180) had died and 59% (19,165) were living with HIV.
- An estimated 25,000 to 26,000 people were living with HIV in Massachusetts at year's end. This figure includes people who did not yet know their HIV status, who were first diagnosed in another state, or whose infection had not yet been reported.
- AIDS Action and Fenway Health form a strategic alliance to allow the two organizations to work more closely together and improve delivery of care and services to people living with HIV/AIDS.

2014

- UNAIDS establishes “90-90-90” HIV treatment targets to help end the global HIV/AIDS epidemic. This initiative has three main goals to be achieved by 2020: to diagnose HIV in 90% of all people infected; to provide sustained HIV treatment to 90% of all people with diagnosed HIV; and to achieve viral suppression in 90% of all people receiving HIV treatment. UNAIDS calculates that achieving the 2020 goals could effectively end the global epidemic by 2030.
- The U.S. National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors publish their “Raising the Bars” report recommending policies to enhance state health department's efforts to end the U.S. HIV/AIDS epidemic.
- FDA approves two individual HIV drugs – Tybost (cobicistat) and Vitekta (elvitegravir) – in 2014. The agency also approved one combination pill Triumeq (dolutegravir + abacavir + lamivudine). This brings the total to 26 individual HIV drugs and nine combination pills.
- FDA approves the first combination pill – Harvoni (sofosbuvir + ledipasvir) – for the treatment of chronic HCV infection. Another combination treatment for HCV infection called Viekira Pak is approved late in the year. It consists of four drugs (ombitasvir + paritaprevir + dasabuvir + ritonavir).
- Clinical trials show that Harvoni, Viekira Pak, and many other combinations of approved and experimental HCV drugs can often cure chronic HCV infection without the use of either interferon or ribavirin – older HCV drugs that commonly cause serious side effects.

2015

- The World Health Organization (WHO) recommends that antiretroviral treatment be offered to all HIV-infected persons – regardless of CD4 T-cell count. WHO also endorses pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) as a prevention choice for people at substantial risk of HIV infection.
- The White House launches its National HIV/AIDS Strategy: Updated to 2020, with 5-year goals for: reducing new HIV infections; increasing access to care and improving health outcomes for people living with HIV; reducing HIV-related disparities and health inequities; and achieving a more coordinated national response to the HIV epidemic.
- The U.S. Supreme Court rules that health care subsidies under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) are legal – an important victory for supporters of the ACA and health care reform.
- A major HIV outbreak in rural Indiana is attributed to the abuse of intravenous prescription drugs. This outbreak is part of a larger U.S. trend of new HIV and viral hepatitis infections and diagnoses, especially among young persons who inject drugs. Public health officials respond by renewing their call for prevention and treatment services for persons who inject drugs.
- CDC reports that U.S. HIV diagnosis rates have remained stable at about 45,000 to 50,000 per year from 2009 through 2013. More than two-thirds of all new diagnoses are among gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men.
- CDC researchers estimate that more than 90% of all new HIV infections in the U.S. could be averted if people were diagnosed early and received prompt, ongoing HIV care and treatment.
- FDA approves three antiretroviral pills that combine previously approved drugs: Dutrebis (lamivudine + raltegravir); Evotaz (atazanavir + cobicistat); and Prezcofix (darunavir + cobicistat). A fourth new combination pill called Genvoya combines three previously approved drugs (cobicistat, elvitegravir, emtricitabine) plus a new drug called tenofovir alafenamide. This brings the total approved HIV drug treatments to 26 individual HIV drugs and 13 combination pills.
- The development of new drugs and combination treatments for chronic HCV infection continues at a rapid pace. FDA approves two new treatments for chronic HCV infection: daclatasvir (sold under the trade name Daklinza) and Technivie, a combination treatment consisting of ombitasvir + paritaprevir + ritonavir.
- **U.S. Year-End Statistics for HIV:** Based on recent HIV infection and death rates, the number of people living with HIV in the U.S. exceeds 1.3 million by year's end.