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April 12, 1996

To: Jane Sanville
From: Judy Auerbach
by messenger
5/28/96

TO: Wendy Wertheimer:

FROM: Judy Auerbach

SUBJECT: National Strategy for HIV and AIDS

I have read over the draft National Strategy for HIV and AIDS and have a number of comments and concerns. The more general of these are noted below. Additional, specific comments are noted on the text itself.

A. General

- 1) In general, the document needs significant editing and rewriting both for style and for content.
- 2) Prevention and Research are not entirely distinct categories. "Prevention" should be called "Prevention Programs" if it is not prevention/intervention research. At the same time, prevention research in the behavioral and social sciences should be included in the "Research" section. Although this is the arrangement in the NIH Plan, in this National Strategy, the behavioral and social science objectives have been removed from "Research" and transferred to "Prevention." I object to this strenuously. (Epidemiology also contributes to prevention, but the research components of epidemiology have been retained in the National Strategy under Research. Why wouldn't the behavioral and social sciences components also be retained; or, conversely, why aren't the epidemiology objectives found under "Prevention"?)

A. Letter from Director, ONAP

- p. 2: first paragraph is repetitious with respect to reference to public health. Too much use of "this ...(nation, epidemic, etc.)"
- p.4: Have we really defeated polio and many forms of cancer?

B. Goal of the National Strategy

- p. 8-10: The phrase, "opportunities for progress" is strange. Why not just call them "goals" or "priorities"?
- p.11: Last paragraph could be phrased better to make the case without frightening the reader.

C. Overview of Federal Efforts

- p. 12: This section really is an overview of the document, not

of federal efforts themselves. It is very confusing, as well. ✓

p. 16ff: Areas of prevention research are not "gaps" themselves, but are priority areas that have gaps in knowledge within them. *See file*

p. 18-19: Not all research dissemination is social marketing. *See file*

p. 14-19: The whole discussion of prevention emphasizes research, but there is no mention of NIH. *See file*

p. 21: Is harm reduction (or risk reduction) only acceptable "when treatment fails or is unavailable?" *See file*

p. 23ff: Under "Research", behavioral, social science, and prevention research are excluded.

p.23-24: Why are non-AIDS contributions of AIDS research not noted before advances in AIDS research?

p.24: It is not accurate to say "persons with AIDS now live twice as long as they did a decade ago." (This shows up on other pages, too.)

NIH is barely mentioned.

p.25ff: There is almost no mention of therapeutics. It should be one of the "opportunities" sections.

Appendix on Research

Again, behavioral and social science research have been excluded and moved to "Prevention," even though they are areas of research. Although some reference to behavioral issues is mentioned in the epidemiology and natural history section, this does not reflect the true range of behavioral and social science opportunities, advances, and issues (i.e., behavioral and social science research cannot be subsumed into epidemiology.)

Appendix on Prevention

Again, the behavioral and social science research objectives have been transplanted here instead of being included under the Research section. This is not appropriate. The Research section should include all relevant research, and the Prevention section should emphasize the application of that research into programs and services (there could be a cross-reference to the Research section).

See additional comments on the text.

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Letter from the Director of the Office of National AIDS Policy

2 sentences [The national epidemic and international pandemic of HIV and AIDS is a public health crisis of unprecedented proportions, it is the health crisis of this century. The HIV/AIDS epidemic poses a continuing public health crisis that requires solid support for multiple approaches to finding a cure and a vaccine. We must also persevere in our efforts to promote prevention, care, and the ethical treatment of persons with AIDS.

This is the first time a government-wide national plan for the United States has been developed for fighting HIV. It links programs to national objectives. Such a plan was one of the recommendations put forth in 1993 by the National Commission on AIDS. The President, as part of his strong commitment to assuring an efficient coordinated effort, requested that the Office of National AIDS Policy develop a comprehensive plan to guide the federal response to this epidemic.

The Office of National AIDS Policy (ONAP) was created by President Clinton in 1993 to provide greater national focus and direction for the Federal government's response to HIV and AIDS. ONAP is an integral participant in the development of Federal AIDS policies, including annual budget requests and legislative initiatives. As Director of ONAP, I also serve as the head of the U.S. delegation to the United Nations Joint Programme on HIV/AIDS and other international forums.

True government-wide planning requires a commitment from all departments, agencies, and all levels of government to work together toward clearly defined goals. Therefore, this strategy for HIV and AIDS has been developed from the bottom up. Through the Interdepartmental Task Force on HIV and AIDS (IDTF) a request went out for the executive branch agencies to identify their activities, goals, and objectives. With leadership from the President and in partnership with the departments and agencies that are members of the IDTF, we have taken unprecedented steps to prospectively assess and map out future action. As presented here, the national strategy establishes a baseline of current efforts government-wide, links goals to budget objectives, and guides us in refining our goals and objectives in response to the changing face of the epidemic of HIV and AIDS. It is intended to be a living document that will require regular updating as goals are reached and replaced with new challenges.

The purpose of this comprehensive national strategy is to set

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forth overarching national goals and priorities for 1996 in charting our course for combatting the epidemic of HIV and AIDS. It also includes an accounting of current Federal activities in the areas of prevention, research, services, translation of science into practice, international activities, and civil rights. This document is meant to build on other planning documents such as the legislatively mandated NIH plan and the U.S. International Strategy on HIV/AIDS developed by the U.S. Department of State. I would like to thank and credit the agencies for the time and attention given by their staffs in developing the individual portions of the comprehensive plan.

This epidemic challenges our Nation on many fronts. Because the most common transmission routes are sexual activity and drug use, topics difficult for many Americans to confront directly, HIV has challenged the people of this country to look at things they would prefer to not confront. There is also fear -- fear of contracting this disease and unwarranted fear of those who are infected. Fifteen years into this epidemic, persons living with HIV still endure daily prejudice and discrimination based on their HIV status. We are challenged by the inadequacy of a social and health care infrastructure -- a system that is in many places, woefully unprepared to address the needs of the HIV-infected. Moreover, the safety net provided by programs such as Medicare and Medicaid is being threatened by funding changes. Scientifically, we have made much progress, but the virus continues to be a formidable adversary, challenging the best and brightest among us to find a cure and a vaccine.

But despite the difficulties, AIDS has also brought forth the compassion and caring found throughout this Nation. In my many meetings around the country with persons living with HIV I have been inspired by their personal courage. I have been impressed by the compassion and the dedication with which many communities and individuals have risen to the challenge of preventing infections and caring for those who are sick, demonstrating how this Nation can rise to meet the most difficult challenges placed in its path. And those Americans living with HIV, and others who are at risk of infection, their families, and their communities deserve a thoughtful, effective, and aggressive plan to combat this epidemic.

The epidemic of HIV and AIDS threatens the economic progress of many countries around the world. In the United States HIV is now the leading cause of death among Americans aged 25 to 44. Now is when we must move forward and build upon our efforts -- the future of our Nation and of our children and our world depend on

too wordy

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This is a time of great challenges and great opportunity. And while AIDS is a terrifying tragedy that has already affected far, far too many people around the world, I believe it is a disease that we can defeat -- just as we have defeated polio, smallpox, many forms of cancer, and other scourges in the history of our planet. We will be able to win our battle with HIV and AIDS with commitment, courage, and leadership.

we have?

Scope of the HIV/AIDS Pandemic

The pandemic of Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) and Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS) presents unique social, economic, and public health challenges to people and governments here in the United States and worldwide. Unlike other infectious diseases that have arisen over the course of history, HIV is infectious for life and almost always fatal. This national and international pandemic of HIV disease, now well into its second decade, is progressing virtually unabated. It also remains a deadly infection for which there are limited treatments, no vaccine, and no cure.

An Expanding Public Health Threat

As of October 1995, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports that 501,310 cases of AIDS have been diagnosed in the U.S. and an estimated 311,381 Americans have died as a result of complications related to HIV. Since 1987, AIDS has gone from being the 15th ranked cause of death to the 8th and it is now the leading cause of death among all Americans aged 25 to 44. (See Figure 1.) In 1994 alone, approximately 81,000 new cases of AIDS were reported to the CDC and over 44,000 Americans died of AIDS-related causes in 1994. The CDC estimates that between 40,000 and 60,000 Americans are becoming newly infected with HIV each year, and that between 800,000 and one million Americans are currently living with HIV.

in the U.S. AS we have witnessed a relentless ^{too strong!} increase in infections, the demographics of the epidemic have been shifting. The early years of the epidemic were dominated by cases involving gay or bisexual men living in major urban centers, such as New York, San Francisco, and Los Angeles; this group now represents less than half (43%) of all new cases. Among the populations being more heavily affected now are young men between 20 and 24 (%), and women (18%), and heterosexual injecting drug users (24%). And although gay men no longer represent the majority of new cases, this group represents the majority of persons living with HIV and AIDS. In 1995 alone, more than 14,xxx women were diagnosed with AIDS and women now comprise 21 percent of cumulatively reported AIDS cases. It is estimated that if this trend continues, 80,000 American children will have been orphaned by AIDS by the end of this decade." As of October 1995, pediatric

there are consequences for the women themselves worth mentioning - separate from those of HIV-infected mothers. (i.e. not all women with AIDS are mothers).

cases have been on the rise¹ and in 1994 alone, more than 1,000 new pediatric AIDS cases were reported -- an 8 percent increase in just one year.

Communities of color are more severely and disproportionately affected. ^{than whom?} As of October 1995, African-Americans accounted for 38 percent of newly reported AIDS cases, while representing approximately 12 percent of the general population. Hispanics represented 18 percent of new cases through October 1995, although this group represents only 9 percent of the general population. In 1981 persons of color represented only x percent of AIDS cases, as of October 1995 this group now comprises x percent of new AIDS cases. Moreover, in certain regions of the country gay men of color account for approximately 39 percent of new AIDS cases. Young gay men of color aged 10 to 24 are especially hard hit, representing 53 percent of new AIDS cases nationwide.

The proportion of cases due to the common modes of transmission are also changing. The CDC estimates that in the United States approximately 50 percent of all new cases are now related directly or indirectly to substance abuse, particularly the use of injectable drugs. As a result, the incidence and prevalence of HIV infection in injecting drug users (IDUs) and their sexual partners and their children is rising.

*cher
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Moreover, AIDS is no longer just an urban problem. The HIV/AIDS pandemic is spreading to rural areas, including dramatic increases in certain regions of the south. In fact, between 1993 and 1995 the largest numbers of AIDS cases (86,462) were reported from the south, which also accounted for the largest proportionate increase in cases (31%).² While most cases are still reported from urban areas, the rate of reported cases in non-metropolitan areas is increasing faster than in urban areas. AIDS cases have now been reported in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and each of the American territories. (See Figure 2.)

Internationally, the toll of the epidemic is even greater. The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that since 1981, 2.4 million cases of AIDS have occurred worldwide. It has estimated

¹ It is anticipated that this trend could be reversed with the implementation of the PHS recommendations for the administration of AZT to women during pregnancy and to their infants after birth.

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that as of mid-1995, 18.5 million adults and more than 1.5 million children have been infected with HIV since the beginning of the pandemic. WHO also projects that by the year 2000 at least 25 million people will become infected with HIV, or an average of 10,000 people a day.

The Social Impact

Sadly, prejudice and discrimination are still encountered by people living with HIV, their families, and their loved ones. Persons with HIV have been denied medical services, emergency medical treatment, dental services, and medical insurance. They have been discharged from their jobs and evicted from their homes. And unlike other persons with infectious diseases, many persons living with HIV to have been the target of violence, rejected by their families, and suffered discrimination based on their HIV status.

AIDS is a disease that ~~can strike at anytime~~ ^{people of all ages only in the context of certain activities.} but most often affects people in the prime of life. It disproportionately kills people during their most productive years. It is the leading cause of death among Americans 25 to 44, the age group that constituted 54% of the civilian labor force in 1992.³ Premature deaths due to AIDS result in the loss of many productive years of life and in many cases deprive young children of their parents. In terms of years of potential life lost, in 1994 AIDS ranked fourth among all leading causes of death. In developing countries, the pandemic threatens to reverse decades of progress in strengthening national economies and improving the health status and social well-being of millions of women, men, and children.

Goal of the National Strategy

The purpose of the national strategy is to establish national goals and identify opportunities for progress for 1996 in order to chart our course in combatting the epidemic of HIV and AIDS. To ensure efficient use of Federal, State, local, and private resources, it is imperative to plan and coordinate government-wide efforts.

This is the first time a government-wide national strategy for HIV and AIDS for the United States has been developed. This strategy links programs to national objectives in each federal agency that supports AIDS-related activities. It lays forth the national goals and emphasis areas for HIV/AIDS, documents current Federal activities, and links goals to budget objectives based on current scientific opportunities, public health needs and priorities, and fiscal constraints. It is intended to be a living document that will be updated regularly. By establishing a government-wide baseline, this plan will help guide Federal agencies in refining their goals and objectives in response to the changing face of the epidemic of HIV and AIDS.

The national strategy for HIV and AIDS presented here is broader in scope than prior planning efforts. To date, planning has been primarily focused in the Public Health Service as evidenced by a series of documents such as the Public Health Service Plan for the Prevention and Control of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome⁴, the "Coolfont"⁵ and "Charlottesville"⁶ reports, and the PHS Strategic Plan to Combat HIV and AIDS in the United States⁷. Recommendations have also been issued from a number of groups, including the National Commission on AIDS⁸ in addition to significant planning efforts on the part of individual agencies. However, there has not been a national plan that provides for a government-wide coordinated effort encompassing not just Public Health Service activities, but also incorporates issues such as housing, health care, and civil rights. This strategy addresses this important need. Moreover, realizing the goals of the strategy will require continued consultation and planning with Federal departments and agencies, and with the infected and affected communities.

Common Goals and Opportunities for Progress

This national strategy for HIV and AIDS has been developed from the bottom up. Through the Interdepartmental Task Force on HIV and AIDS (IDTF), a group that consists of representatives from executive branch departments and agencies that conduct AIDS-

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relevant work, a request went out for the agencies to identify their activities in relation to national goals and objectives. The IDTF member agencies developed their individual portions of the strategy, linking their goals, objectives, to budget levels and identifying areas for progress and collaboration. IDTF members, with their specialized knowledge on a broad range of HIV-related issues, have been crucial in identifying opportunities for progress and areas requiring special attention. In developing these areas for progress the Office of National AIDS Policy has also consulted members of the President's Advisory Council on HIV and AIDS, the activist community, participants in the White House Conference on HIV and AIDS, people on the front lines of the epidemic, and many HIV-infected persons and their families, friends, and caregivers. The insights provided by a number of groups including the National Commission on AIDS, the Institute of Medicine and National Research Council, the General Accounting Office, and the Office of Technology Assessment have also been helpful. Therefore, the expertise and experience of those who work closely with communities, clinicians, researchers, service and research organizations, and infected persons is reflected in these goals and opportunities for progress.

What does this mean?

Based on these consultations, the following national goals are established.

- Provide strong support for research in order to find a cure for those currently infected and a preventive vaccine to protect the uninfected.
- Provide solid support for effective prevention strategies so as to reduce the number of new infections each and every year until there are no new infections.
- Ensure appropriate care for and ethical treatment of persons with AIDS.

Poorly written

It is these goals that will set the country's sights and remain our guide as we chart our course. In addition, through the above-mentioned consultations, it became clear that there was a consensus regarding the major challenges facing us in 1996, and that these challenges warranted special attention. There was also a common sense that these challenges also represented opportunities for progress -- opportunities to take steps today to find a cure and a vaccine, reduce the number of new infections, and care for those who are infected. Based on this counsel, six areas for progress were identified and are listed below.

these don't follow

What does this phrase mean?

- Strengthening HIV prevention activities;
- Supporting diversified research approaches; ??
- Strengthening approaches to substance abuse treatment and prevention;
- Strengthening the health care and services safety net;
- Improving translation of research results into medical practice; and,
- Improving evaluation and priority setting.

not just
medical
also other
services

Within each substantive section (i.e., prevention, research, care and services, international activities, translation of research into clinical practice, and civil rights) of this strategy, there is specific discussion about opportunities for progress that are relevant to that substantive area.

Challenge of the HIV Epidemic

~~Identification~~
Since the discovery of the first AIDS cases in the early 1980s, the epidemic of HIV and AIDS has posed a series of unique challenges. But, the challenges we face today are very different than challenges we have faced so far. It is a growing epidemic in which more persons are infected every year, in every geographic area, every ethnic and racial group, and every age range. We now know how it is transmitted, the etiologic agent, and we have a test to diagnose infected persons and protect the blood supply. And thanks to behavioral researchers and the innovative outreach and prevention strategies developed by community groups, we have prevention models that work. The challenge before us now is to build on these successes and develop prevention interventions that reach even more Americans at risk for infection. Thanks to clinical research, significant progress has been made in drug development and clinical care. As a result, people with AIDS now live twice as long as they did a decade ago. And with the results of the NIH-sponsored research we now have the ability to prevent perinatally acquired HIV infection in some newborns by treating women with AZT during pregnancy and post partum (infants).

basic
and

have a
chance
Also need
to ensure
access to
AZT therapy
for all
HIV-infected
women.
A significant challenge facing the country now is ensuring access to prevention services and medical care for the growing number of people who are currently disenfranchised from the health care system. We need to improve our efforts in providing people with care early in their infection so they can receive quality health care. We also need to train health care professionals so they know the best way to provide that care. Strengthening our prevention efforts has never been more important. Developing prevention messages that are specially targeted to the group or

its not just the
messages - the
interventions themselves
(eg. skills training) are
essential.

8 additional barriers - AZT drugs
if CTS are applied

groups they are intended to reach is critical if we are to reduce the number of new infections. And, from a societal perspective, we still have a long way to go in overcoming fear and discrimination. *among whom?*

Moreover, HIV and AIDS is just one of many infections emerging world-wide that has the potential to devastate communities and nations. It is one of the most lethal epidemics to affect mankind, but it is probably not the last challenge of this kind that we will face. There are likely to be others for which there ~~is~~ no cure, treatment, or vaccine. Our efforts in combatting the pandemic of HIV and AIDS could well benefit us not only in ending this pandemic, but in preventing future ones as well.

There is a better way to phrase this that makes the case without unnecessarily frightening the reader.

Overview of Federal Efforts

Introduction

(What follows is really an overview of the document, not the actual efforts.)

The scope and nature of the HIV/AIDS epidemic has brought state, local, and Federal involvement into many AIDS-related activities. The Federal government, through its public health responsibilities in such areas as research, prevention, health care, and housing has seen a dramatic increase in Federal activities since the beginning of the epidemic. Currently, these activities include direct support for research, prevention and education, housing, medical care, support services, information dissemination, enforcement of civil rights, and assistance to international organizations and other nations. While Federal agencies are responsible for responding directly to the epidemic of HIV and AIDS, they also collaborate with and provide support for state and local governments and community-based organizations, which often have substantial surveillance, prevention, and health care responsibilities.

not entirely distinct.

The national strategy for HIV and AIDS has been organized around the substantive areas that reflect the major components of the Federal effort: prevention, research, care and services, international activities, translation of science into practice, and civil rights. Current agency activities have not been organized around administrative structures, but by substantive areas. In cases where a single agency may have responsibility for more than one component of a substantive area, such as prevention and research, documentation of their activities will be found in the respective substantive sections. In many cases there are cross-cutting issues that could fall in several categories, such as internationally-based treatment and prevention efforts. In this case, programs that are specifically targeted towards countries or regions, are included in the international section. Efforts that are part of an overall program that may include domestic and overseas endeavors, are included in their relevant sections, and not the international activities section.

Agency support of HIV/AIDS activities falls into two general categories, where HIV/AIDS activities are a central part of their mission or, not an explicit part of their mission but AIDS-related activities are indirectly supported or receive collateral benefit from agency supported work and/or policies. There are a number of agencies for whom AIDS-specific activities are central to their mission (e.g., the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the

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Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)), while other agencies maintain programs and activities that support a broad range of activities, of which HIV-related activities are one among many (e.g., the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Department of Justice (DOJ)). Agencies that support research and provide shared access to highly ~~sophisticated and expensive technology~~, such as the Department of Energy and its support of ~~sophisticated~~ imaging equipment, can assist a wide range of researchers including those studying HIV. Data are therefore presented in a manner consistent with the level of involvement an agency may have.

This is repetitions (This report is organized by the following substantive areas: prevention, research, care and services, international activities, translation of research into practice, and civil rights. Information and discussion of Federal activities can be found in two places. First, discussion on each substantive area addresses broad policy issues and new Federal objectives in terms of the national goals and opportunities for progress. Second, each substantive section has an associated appendix that provides information on individual agency goals, objectives, funding levels, constituency involvement, and unmet needs. Given that agencies and departments may have several areas of responsibility, listings of individual agency activities may be found in more than one appendix.

This section is very confusing..

PREVENTION

The Nation's prevention goal is to provide solid support for effective prevention strategies so as to reduce the number of new infections each ~~and every~~ year until there are no new infections. Achieving this goal will require a dedicated alliance between the Federal government, states, local governments, communities, businesses, non-governmental organizations, families, and individuals. Achieving this ambitious end will require a clear definition of the different roles and responsibilities of the Federal government, and an ongoing dialogue with its partners in the public and private sectors about the responsibilities each has in reaching this goal.

We know that HIV prevention works. We also know that the prevention task faced by the United States in controlling the epidemic of HIV and AIDS has reached enormous proportions.² The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that approximately 800,000 to 1 million Americans are presently HIV-infected, many of whom are unaware of their HIV status. Moreover, the CDC estimates that approximately 40,000 to 60,000 American will become infected each year. Many more Americans who are not presently infected are at risk for acquiring HIV. HIV infection is a unique ~~prevention~~ challenge because of the virus' virulence, long period of time where people may not be aware of their HIV status, long duration of infectiousness, nearly always fatal prognosis, and potential for exponential spread. Moreover, HIV is transmitted primarily as a result of personal and private individual behaviors -- sex and drug use. To be effective, HIV prevention programs must reach tens of millions of Americans who are characterized by a vast diversity of age, race, HIV status, ethnicity, geographic locale, sexual orientation, and sexual and drug use behaviors.

Prevention activities are currently supported by several Federal agencies. (See Appendix A.) Most Federal prevention efforts are funded by the Public Health Service, although other departments such as the Department of Defense (DOD), and the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) also support prevention activities. These

² This section will address primary prevention activities. Other aspects of prevention, such as secondary prevention (i.e. preventing complications of HIV infection), development of topical microbicides, the behavioral components of vaccine research, and international prevention activities will be discussed in the following research, care and services, and international activities sections.

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efforts reflect a continuum from surveillance to research to social marketing initiatives. Agency activities are also reflective of their respective missions. For example, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the agency with primary Federal HIV-prevention responsibilities, supports a wide range of surveillance and prevention projects, many in partnership with states, local governments, and community-based organizations. Other agencies focus on specific aspects of prevention. For example, the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMSHA) support efforts to prevent HIV infection among drug users, while other agencies support primary prevention efforts as part of medical care, such as at the veterans and military hospitals and clinics. The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) also encourages broader access to prevention information through the integration of prevention interventions into primary health care services and through support of early intervention services for low-income medically underserved persons.

The efforts of Federal agencies have been instrumental in expanding our knowledge base about HIV prevention. However, significant gaps remain. We know from both formal research and community experience that developing prevention programs that are effective requires knowledge of who is becoming infected and of the behaviors that are enabling transmission, an understanding of the motivations for those behaviors, and an understanding of how best to reach people with messages that will prompt behavior change.

Prevention priorities must be guided toward gaining knowledge that will improve our efforts to develop effective prevention programs. We need to improve our understanding of the major modes of transmission, close gaps in scientific knowledge, including identifying effective prevention models and strategies, and work towards eliminating gaps in program areas.

Opportunities for Progress

Modes of Transmission

An important part of strengthening prevention activities is to have a clearer understanding of who is being infected and what behaviors are placing people at risk for infection. Recent epidemiologic data show that the epidemic of HIV in the United States is being driven by people who engage in injection drug use and their sexual partners, men having sex with men, heterosexual

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This is chiefly related to IDU. transmission, and perinatal transmission. Moreover, the youth of our country are becoming infected at an alarming rate -- 50 percent of new infections in the United States are in persons under 25 years of age. HIV is the leading cause of death in Americans aged 25 to 44 and it is likely that many of these people were infected while they were adolescents. Racial and ethnic minorities are also disproportionately represented among new HIV infections. As of October 1995, African-Americans accounted for 38 percent of newly reported AIDS cases, and Hispanics represented 18 percent of new cases. These trends in the epidemic must be taken into consideration when prioritizing prevention research and service programs. *This repeats from intro*

A crucial part of effective prevention strategies includes supporting adequate surveillance of HIV infection and related diseases in order to estimate the burden of HIV illness, gauge future directions of the epidemic, and assess the effectiveness of prevention interventions. As previously noted, the CDC is the Federal agency with primary responsibility for monitoring the epidemic. The CDC AIDS case and case death reporting system provides useful data for assessing AIDS prevalence and mortality by gender, race/ethnicity, age, and mode of exposure. This surveillance system also provides essential data on HIV-related opportunistic infections.

There are, however, opportunities for refinement. Effective prevention intervention programs begin with sound information on who is at risk. Current CDC surveillance systems do not currently capture sufficient "front-end" information on the incidence and prevalence of HIV (not AIDS) in the population, and trends in modes of transmission and new infections. (These data must be collected with the appropriate confidentiality protections.) Collection of these data are needed as part of an enhanced effort to link surveillance and epidemiological data to priority setting, in addition to the design and evaluation of prevention programs. The CDC has recognized the value of this approach and has incorporated data collection design into its community planning process. These shifts in data needs also require that the CDC reevaluate and reconfigure its data collection efforts; such a change may require reconfiguring of currently collected data to address these needs. As part of the agency's implementation of the recommendations set forth in the external review of CDC's HIV prevention strategies, the CDC has initiated efforts to evaluate current data collection efforts and implement necessary changes, and this work should continue.

repetitious

Gaps in Scientific Knowledge

Factors that place individuals at risk for acquiring HIV infection are a complex combination of behavioral, social, cognitive, and biological influences. Given this complexity we must not assume we intuitively know which interventions will work, but instead base our efforts on sound research findings and evaluation. Experience has taught us that prevention efforts can be effective, but when they are it is because the intervention incorporated findings from both experience and relevant research. Behavioral research is a relatively young science and there are currently more questions than answers. The three main areas where gaps in knowledge have been identified are basic behavioral research, intervention research, and social marketing research.

There are always gaps in knowledge. These are filled by investigation in which some gaps exist.

Basic Behavioral Research. Since behavior change is the primary prevention intervention immediately available for halting the spread of HIV infection, basic behavioral research should be the foundation for prevention programs. Basic behavioral research, similar to basic research in other areas of scientific inquiry, seeks to explain the determinants and causes underlying biological, behavioral, and social processes. HIV-related risk-taking behavior is often complex and influenced by a host of individual and environmental factors. To capitalize on what is already known in addition to improving HIV prevention programs that are targeted to reach a diversity of Americans, more information on the determinants of HIV-associated sexual and drug-using behaviors is needed. For example, although much has been learned about the basic biology of substance abuse, further elucidation of the mechanisms underlying addictive behavior may assist in the development of new therapeutic approaches to addiction, which may in turn reduce the number of new infections.¹⁰ And although we have some information on relevant risk-taking behaviors, more information about knowledge, attitudes, decision-making processes, and beliefs about AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) is much needed. Such data enable scientists to establish theories of behavioral change, which then provide researchers with tools for identifying what approaches may be most effective for an individual or a community."

Intervention Research. A second major gap is research to improve prevention interventions, i.e., research that concentrates on modifying behaviors, such as those related to drug use and sexual practices. We know from other behavior-influenced diseases (such as cigarette smoking and hypertension) and practices (such as wearing seatbelts) that basic information about what motivates these behaviors can be incorporated into intervention research to advance approaches to reducing unhealthy behaviors.

is this a disease now?

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In HIV and AIDS, [?] this intervention research can focus on both individuals and communities, which often hold norms that influence personal behavior. Since the beginning of the epidemic we have made advances in our understanding of factors that are relevant to the design of intervention programs intended to reduce rates of HIV infection. This theoretically based intervention research has identified several significant predictors of changes in sexual and drug-using behaviors among gay men, adolescents, and heterosexual adults.¹³ Studies have shown that community-based HIV risk reduction programs that are gender relevant and culturally sensitive can be effective.¹⁴ A recent study has also provided a reason for optimism that the spread of HIV can be contained among injecting drug user populations when there is early community outreach and access to sterile injection equipment.¹⁴

Where is mention of NIH
However, despite these successes, there is more that we need to know if we are to develop effective prevention programs for a diversity of Americans. We must incorporate findings from basic behavioral research into effective prevention interventions. One high priority area is research regarding strategies that facilitate sustained adoption and maintenance of HIV preventive behaviors. Another area for investment is research on cultural barriers and strategies to reach populations resistant to behavior interventions. A third area is research on the effectiveness of treatment for drug abuse, mental illness, and alcoholism for reducing HIV risk behavior. Agencies supporting intervention and behavioral research must include scientists from a broad range of disciplines in their planning activities and improve their data-sharing and collaborative efforts with agencies responsible for implementing prevention programs. Enhancing the dialogue between researchers in these two related disciplines will invariably improve the development of effective prevention interventions.

Social Marketing Research. It is important that the findings from basic behavioral and intervention research be incorporated into prevention programs. Agencies supporting social marketing activities need to build on current knowledge in addition to strengthening efforts to understand barriers to the implementation and replication of promising prevention programs. Given the highly innovative nature of these endeavors, the CDC must give consider providing broader technical assistance and training to community organizations. Moreover, a community-based effort that would test prevention models in a real-world setting should be carefully considered.

We know from efforts in other countries that HIV related social

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Not all
is dissemination
is social
marketing

marketing efforts can be successful. However, in the United States, we have not been as effective as we could be in disseminating information about effective strategies so that this knowledge can be employed in the design and implementation of prevention interventions. There are good models for prevention interventions that are not making their way to those on the front lines of the epidemic. Community-based organizations, which are responsible for developing a large portion of the prevention programs often do not, or are not able to, take advantage of current knowledge about program effectiveness. why?

Current Gaps in Program Areas

have

In order to stop new infections, the results of basic behavioral, intervention and social marketing research must serve as the foundation for prevention intervention programs that reach people at risk for acquiring or transmitting HIV. Presently, the Federal government supports a range of programs that address the disparate needs of a number of at-risk populations. However, the shifting demographics of the epidemic coupled with restricted resources has resulted in gaps in program areas that limit the Nation's ability to prevent new infections. It is therefore important that prevention planners carefully prioritize their efforts based on local epidemiology.

Community Involvement. For prevention interventions to be effective they must reach communities at risk and be responsive to their unique needs. And for individuals to take control of their own lives in fighting the spread of this virus, they must first have the information and skills to protect themselves.

What exactly is C.P.? doesn't this need to come from the community

One of the most important innovations in the prevention area is community planning. The community planning process is an outstanding model of a Federal-local partnership. Through this effort, it is possible to establish joint goals for the prevention of HIV that will meet Federal standards while remaining responsive to local needs. However, this process is early in its development and requires significant, ongoing leadership and technical assistance from the CDC if it is to fulfill its potential for good priority setting and decision making.

Substance Abuse Treatment. Injection drug use is one of the major forces driving the epidemic with half of all new cases are directly or indirectly related to this mode of transmission. Limiting the impact of this mode of transmission will require efforts on several fronts. First, we need to improve the integration of HIV prevention activities and substance abuse

treatment and prevention programs. As President Clinton has noted, the epidemics of substance abuse and HIV in this country are overlapping and highly interrelated so we must work to integrate HIV prevention into current substance abuse programs and integrate substance abuse prevention into HIV prevention.

Another major avenue for controlling the spread of HIV among addicted persons is to enroll them in drug treatment programs. Substance abuse treatment is a form of HIV prevention. At present, there is a continuing need for increased treatment services for persons seeking to control their addictions.

Moreover, substance abuse problems that contribute to the spread of HIV are not limited to injecting drug use. There is substantial evidence that use of alcohol and other substances can adversely influence risk-taking behavior. It is estimated that x percent of the population is affected by alcohol and other drugs in addition to injection drug use. It must be part of the Federal response to increase the availability of treatment for a range of addictions.

how?

What?

But it didn't reduce STDs!

Treatment for Sexually Transmitted Diseases and Tuberculosis. Studies have shown that the presence of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) can significantly increase the efficiency of HIV transmission, even by as much as 20 times. Studies have also shown that widespread treatment of STDs in certain communities has led to a 40 percent reduction in new HIV infections in these groups.^{15, 16} These data suggest treating STDs can be an effective HIV prevention strategy and points to a need for all clinicians to be vigilant in efforts to prevent and treat STDs.

Persons who are HIV positive are at significant risk for developing ~~of~~ *M. tuberculosis* (TB) disease. Studies suggest that the risk of developing TB disease is 7 to 10 percent each year for persons who are infected with both TB and HIV, whereas the risk is 10 percent over a lifetime for persons not infected with HIV.¹⁷ In addition to the health implications for infected persons, there is an increased risk of transmission of TB to household members, health care workers, and other persons having regular contact with the person with TB.

It is important that Federal and state efforts to reduce the incidence of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) include an HIV prevention element. Moreover, the traditional model of targeting most STD prevention efforts towards individuals who have already contracted one STD is not necessarily effective for HIV prevention. Enhanced and innovative linkages between STD and HIV prevention need to be established. The newly organized National

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Center for HIV/STD/TB Prevention at CDC reflects the importance of integrating these inter-dependent aspects of the epidemic and illustrates our determination to integrate and coordinate HIV, STD, and TB programs.

only then?
Harm Reduction. In addition to efforts directed towards enrolling drug users in treatment programs for their addiction(s), harm reduction should be considered by communities when treatment fails or is unavailable. Although harm reduction programs for drug users have not been well accepted in our country, experts feel that it is in this area that we may be able to make a significant impact in stemming the tide of the epidemic.

badly written
There is scientific evidence that ~~controversial~~ harm reduction approaches, such as needle exchange programs, can be effective. Among the conclusions presented in a recent report by the Institute of Medicine was that there is no credible evidence that drug use is increased among participants as a result of needle exchange programs that provide legal access to sterile equipment. The IOM also concluded that the lower the fraction of needles in circulation that are contaminated, the lower the risk of new infections. They went on to recommend that needle exchange programs be regarded as an effective component of a comprehensive strategy to prevent infectious disease.¹⁸ There is also evidence that needle exchange programs provide an opportunity to get people into treatment, thereby further reducing their risk and the risk for their sexual partners. *of?*

HIV
While the data strongly support the effectiveness of needle exchange programs in preventing the spread of infection, *we* *who is "r"* continue to believe that decisions regarding these approaches should be a community decision based on local epidemiology. *We* also believe that certain existing statutes restrict potential prevention efforts. The Federal government will work with state and local officials to provide the information they need to take advantage of this intervention.

Harm reduction efforts support people by reducing their risk of HIV transmission by teaching behaviors that do not transmit HIV. In the case of HIV and substance abuse this can include: needle exchange programs, decriminalization of needle and syringe possession, legalizing syringe purchases without prescription, increasing the availability of clean syringes, providing information on cleaning injection equipment ("cleaning works"), and reducing needle sharing behaviors.

It can also include condom distribution.²¹
also (Not all harm reduction relates to drug use.)

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and to their infants post-partum

Integration Into Primary Care. To reach our prevention goal, we must also improve the integration of prevention activities and messages into primary health care services. This includes incorporating a patient's sexual history when a medical history is taken, offering HIV-related counseling and voluntary testing, and working with HIV positive individuals so they do not infect others. It also means offering pregnant women information about and access to AZT during pregnancy) to reduce the risk of perinatal transmission. Achieving this level of integration will require active collaborative efforts on the part of individual physicians, nurses, other clinicians, managed care plans, medical schools, and professional organizations in addition to local and Federal governments.

Evaluation. It is important to assess the effectiveness of the prevention interventions that have or will be implemented. Prospectively set performance measures can be used as a basis for evaluation and program improvement. Incorporating effectiveness measures must become a routine part of all Federally-funded programs. It is only through sound evaluations that we will be able to determine whether our efforts have been effective in slowing the epidemic. Achieving this will also require careful examination of what programs should to be continued, what activities need to be initiated and a awareness that a reconfiguration of some program priorities may be required.

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RESEARCH

One of the Federal government's goals is to provide strong support for research in order to find a cure for those currently infected and a preventive vaccine to protect the uninfected. It is research that will enable us to reach these goals and until they are a reality, the Federal government must provide solid ongoing support for basic and clinical research. Achieving this goal will require committed collaborative efforts among the Federal government, universities, researchers, the activist community, persons living with HIV and those at risk for infection, communities where research is conducted, charitable organizations, pharmaceutical companies, biotechnology firms, and other parts of the private sector. Realizing this ambitious goal will also require a clear definition of what the Federal government is able to do and an ongoing dialogue between the public and private sectors.

At present, a number of Federal agencies play a significant role in U.S. AIDS research efforts. (See Appendix B.) These endeavors range from basic molecular research to clinical research to health services research. The National Institutes of Health (NIH) supports a significant portion of these efforts. The NIH funds research on HIV-related natural history and epidemiology, etiology and pathogenesis, therapeutics, vaccines, and behavior. As part of its mission to protect and maintain a viable fighting force, the Department of Defense supports clinical vaccine and therapeutic research. The Agency for Health Care Policy and Research (AHCPR) funds research to help determine which medical approaches are the most cost effective. The Department of Energy (DOE), through its support of technologically advanced equipment, provides the opportunity for Federal and private researchers to share resources and thereby analyze molecular structures that, without such equipment would not be possible. And the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) supports laboratories that have sophisticated methods for identifying virus strains.

Contributions of Research

The Nation has already reaped the benefits of supporting research in general, and HIV-related research specifically. AIDS research has provided advances for treatment of other diseases. For example, HIV-related research has contributed to progress in treating breast cancer. Research revealed that by blocking cytokine receptors, tumor cell growth could be inhibited; this finding led to the development of new treatments for breast cancer. In addition, one of the most promising experimental therapies for advanced breast cancer is high-dose chemotherapy

and behavioral & social research

behavioral research

most

basic and clinical

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23

is it before
advances
AIDS

2200

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? followed by bone marrow transplantation; this treatment ~~that~~ causes profound immunosuppression and only 1 in 20 women generally survive the transplant. Advances in treating diseases resulting from immunosuppression have come from HIV-targeted research. HIV-related research has also accelerated study of the human immune system which has in turn improved our ability to understand and treat other conditions such as cancer and autoimmune diseases, including systemic lupus erythematosus, type I diabetes mellitus, rheumatoid arthritis, and multiple sclerosis. HIV research involving the blood/brain barrier has led to a better understanding of the mechanisms by which infectious agents spread into the nervous system. This research has valuable implications for research on Alzheimer's disease, dementia, multiple sclerosis, neuropsychological disorders, encephalitis, and meningitis. Moreover, before the AIDS epidemic, little investment was made in research to treat viral diseases. Studies to develop anti-HIV therapies have improved our understanding of other viral diseases and led to development of treatments for many other diseases.

In addition, research ^{in AIDS?} investments made before the advent of AIDS epidemic produced a body of scientific knowledge that enabled researchers to more quickly pursue theories and avenues of investigation. For example, research conducted previously on the immune system in general, and CD4+ cells in particular, provided early insights into the pathogenesis of HIV. Research investments in retroviruses provided valuable information for identifying HIV as the etiologic agent of the emerging epidemic, and advances in molecular biology provided researchers with the tools to understand HIV's structure and develop drugs based on that information.

This is not an accurate way to state this.
Due in great part to this Federally-sponsored research, persons with AIDS now live twice as long as they did a decade ago. AIDS-related conditions that used to mean a quick and often painful death for people living with HIV can be treated and even prevented. An NIH study found that it is possible to dramatically reduce the chance of transmission of HIV from mother to infant. Thanks to our investment in prospective epidemiological studies we are beginning to understand the factors that enable long-term non-progressors to live many years after infection virtually disease free. Understanding what happens in these non-progressors may help us develop better therapies and a vaccine.

This throws her

without experiencing this.
And there is further reason for hope. Scientists now believe that a vaccine is possible. New classes of anti-retroviral therapies appear to be powerful in controlling the virus.

what's the relative risk?

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say
more

preventing + treating AIDS.

why is this a subset of that?

cell established
in 1988

Evaluation Report

Add NZH
priorities/
opportunities

~~It is also clear that while NIH supports a significant portion of HIV-related research, other agencies and departments also play a~~

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significant role in our search for a cure and a vaccine for HIV. If the government is to effectively support a diversity of promising approaches, these research efforts must also be well-planned, coordinated, and maintain accountability. To achieve this the Director of the Office of National AIDS Policy will coordinate an inter-departmental working group, chaired by the Director of the Office of AIDS Research, whose charge is to develop a coordinated plan and budget specifically for HIV and AIDS research across all departments.

?
6
Vaccine Development. Reaching the goal of developing a vaccine will require the joint commitment of government and the private sector. Several challenges currently face the U.S. and the world in continuing the vaccine development effort. The first is to meet the daunting scientific challenge and the second is to create an environment where the private sector can effectively join in partnership with the Federal government. The National AIDS Drug Development Task Force (ADDTF), which included representatives from government, the private sector, and the activist community, identified a range of approaches to accelerating the development of therapeutics for HIV infection. And while the ADDTF focused primarily on the development of HIV-related therapeutics and not vaccines, one of the areas identified by ADDTF and the Department of Health and Human Services members for further discussion was vaccine development. Further dialogue involving key players in this areas was deemed as essential in determining and overcoming critical problems and identifying opportunities for development.

Therefore, in order to identify areas for fruitful collaboration and to accelerate the pace of development for vaccines, President Clinton has asked the Vice President to convene a meeting of government scientists and leaders of the pharmaceutical and biotechnology industries to identify barriers to the development of these agents.

At present researchers hold two major views regarding the most promising approaches to vaccine development. Some scientists believe that we need to return to basic science to gather more information to guide us, while others believe that only efficacy trials will provide the answers that really matter and in the face of a global emergency we must empirically test candidate vaccines in people immediately. Both groups have valid arguments, and both approaches are being pursued.

X
The issues driving this debate are both scientific and social, with different parts of the world experiencing the epidemic in different ways. Some regions of the world have already experienced the devastating consequences of the epidemic while,

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X in some regions the epidemic is in its early stages. Some governments have shown a greater interest than others in pursuing vaccine trials as a method of slowing the growth of the epidemic in their countries. Both the social and scientific issues must be considered when planning trials. However, given the state of scientific knowledge, both the 'basic' and 'empirical' avenues can, should, and are being pursued.

It is also vital that this effort be well-coordinated and that all available data are shared and used by scientists as vaccine development moves forward. Therefore, a coordinated vaccine program that ensures support for promising avenues of vaccine research, ~~will be one of the issues addressed in the~~ ^{is being} ~~interdepartmental research plan to be developed~~ under the direction of the Director of the Office of AIDS Research.

Topical Microbicides. Many scientists believe that the prevention of sexually transmitted HIV infection, as well as the prevention of major sequelae of STDs in women and infants, will depend on the development of a safe, effective, female-controlled mechanical and chemical barrier methods that will block HIV transmission.

The barrier methods that are currently available have limitations. Most require consent, if not active participation of the male partner, and therefore cannot be independently used at the discretion of the female partner. Although epidemiological studies have demonstrated that the correct and consistent use of condoms can reduce the risk of ^{transmission} ~~acquiring~~ some STDs (including HIV) there are many situations in which personal, social, or cultural barriers interfere with a woman's ability to successfully negotiate condom use. The need for a method which can be employed by women is based on the prevalence of non-consensual sex, sex without condom use, and risky behaviors that occur without partner knowledge.

to control their health The development of this important prevention approach will depend on strong support for ~~the~~ basic and clinical research. Topical Microbicides are a promising approach, but will require preliminary support before they reach a stage where the private sector can assume a lead role. Given that worldwide over 80% of HIV infections are acquired heterosexually, and given that the risk of becoming infected or infecting others is substantially increased by the presence of other STDs¹⁹, topical microbicides could provide an easily available and inexpensive protection option for millions of women worldwide.

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Clinical Effectiveness Research. It is also important that we continue to support the wide spectrum of research needed to find effective treatments by maintaining research to forward our understanding of the virus' life cycle and pathogenesis, natural history and epidemiology, and clinical research including clinical effectiveness research.

Due in part to the FDA's accelerated approval program⁴, the Federal government is now approving new treatments in record numbers and at record speed, but it is not always known whether the treatment confers a clinical benefit for the person. Specifically, while some treatments have shown promise based on surrogate markers and/or laboratory tests, data regarding clinical effectiveness is increasingly unavailable. For example, we do not know the optimal stage in the course of HIV disease to begin treatment, for which patient groups, with which regimen, or with single or combination therapy. We also do not know when it is appropriate to switch or add therapies.

With the advent of accelerated approval by the FDA it is incumbent on the government to ensure that the post-marketing efficacy studies, currently mandated through regulation are carried out. Conducting these studies will require the efforts of clinicians who have demonstrated their ability to carry out the long-term follow-up of patients that such clinical effectiveness studies require. It is also essential that these studies, like all studies, include persons representing a diversity of race, ethnicity, gender, ^{and} age, ^{injury and disease} and drug using behaviors. ^{who use drugs.} If these studies are not done we will not know which of the available treatments is more effective and for whom, and under what circumstances. As a result, patients may be receiving less effective treatments or combinations of treatments, and Federal programs such as Medicaid and Medicare and private insurers may be paying for these less effective treatments.

One of the most difficult tasks for clinicians and patients is

^{effectiveness?}
⁴ The accelerated approval program permits companies to seek approval of drugs for serious or life-threatening illnesses based on surrogate or laboratory markers, such as CD4+ cell count or viral burden measures. For drugs approved under this program, the sponsoring company is required to conduct follow-up studies that determine whether there is a clinical benefit for the patient. There is currently concern that these subsequent clinical effectiveness studies are not being. However, by law, if the subsequent studies do not prove a clinical benefit, approval may withdrawn by the FDA.

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interpreting the patchwork of data and articles regarding treatments and converting it into a therapeutic strategy. With every research breakthrough, this task becomes more difficult. It is essential that practical information for practicing clinicians and their patients is provided in a timely manner. The Federal government must develop a mechanism for ensuring periodic assessment of the state of the art, ensuring that essential information can be found easily, and disseminating that information widely. This will require collaboration with industry, government, and professional groups. [See Translation of Science into Practice section for further discussion.]

Public-Private Partnerships. A key role for the Federal government is to act in partnership with the private sector and support areas where there is a market failure, i.e., areas where industry is unlikely to pursue research that would be beneficial to the public health. Vaccine development is one such area, but there are others. The Department of Defense has been successful in developing partnerships in this area and this effort should be strengthened. As noted previously, topical microbicides (i.e., chemical barrier methods for preventing HIV transmission) are a promising approach, but will require preliminary support before they reach a stage where the private sector can assume a lead role.

? It is also unlikely that the free market will conduct head-to-head clinical trials of therapies that have been approved or are in development. However, information about these therapies is important to improving patient care and ensuring that the Nation's health dollars are wisely spent. The National Institutes of Health and Veteran's Administration have been successful in carrying out this type of valuable research. Similarly, it is unlikely that the private sector would support research for therapies that are on the market but have not been tested in controlled clinical trials, such as alternative therapies. Americans are spending millions of dollars per year on such therapies about which little is known. (So, should NIH study these? (see Levine report on CAM.

It is also cost effective for the government to provide access to sophisticated equipment and personnel that can be shared among many researchers in both the private and public sectors. For example, the Department of Energy has supported sophisticated imaging equipment that would be prohibitively expensive for individual researchers or companies to purchase. This shared resource that has accelerated our understanding of molecular structures in a number of research fields, including HIV research. Information gained from this research can form the basis for targeted drug design and development.

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Research: An Investment for the Future. And finally, research is an investment in our future. It must receive consistent and adequate funding if we hope to bring the best and the brightest to meet the research challenges that will lead them to a cure and a vaccine. At present, the NIH receives many more outstanding research applications than it is able to fund; these unfunded proposals represent a lost opportunity for scientific progress. Other departments and agencies, such as the Department of Defense and Veteran's Administration also support crucially important research that strengthens the overall U.S. research effort. Research has been key to improving lives and the Nation must continue this investment.

Research

~~PREVENTION~~

Agency: National Institutes of Health

Goal: Prevent new HIV infections through behavioral interventions.

Objective 1: Enhance understanding of determinants of HIV-related behavior.

This is #2 in plan

Action Steps: Strengthen the behavioral science base.
Conduct a wide range of studies to expand knowledge of the principles of behavior and behavior change

Descriptions: Support studies to develop models of behavioral, social, cultural, cognitive, and psychological mechanisms and processes that determine the acquisition, maintenance, and change of HIV-related behaviors in individuals and groups in various populations and settings;

Identify processes that exacerbate or minimize adverse consequences of HIV infection for the individual, group, and community;

Support basic behavioral and social research on factors that shape and change social norms concerning HIV-related behavior and their influence on individual behaviors;

Develop and improve methods to obtain and analyze valid and reliable data on HIV-related behaviors; and

Study the process of information diffusion; understanding this process is necessary for effective communication of HIV-related knowledge.

This is #1 in Plan.

Objective 2: Develop behavioral and social science research intervention strategies.

basic

Action Steps: Translate findings from behavioral and social science research to design, implement, and evaluate interventions in diverse settings and populations.

Descriptions: Develop and evaluate demographically and culturally appropriate behavioral and social interventions based on the changing epidemiology of HIV in different populations and on the incidence, frequency, and change in high-risk HIV-related behaviors; international comparisons are essential for identifying effective interventions;

Support multidisciplinary research on behavior change strategies that target the sustained adoption and maintenance of HIV preventive behaviors (e.g., increase use of condoms, virucides, spermicides, and sterile injection

drug equipment);

Support research on increasing the effectiveness of drug abuse, mental health, and alcoholism treatment for reducing HIV risk behavior;

Design and test interventions to increase the recruitment, retention, and adherence to protocols for adopting and maintaining low-risk behavior in prevention research, including vaccine studies; and

Support research on overcoming barriers associated with the implementation and replication of potentially effective prevention programs.

Objective 3: Assess innovative dissemination strategies.

Action Steps: Develop, assess, and rapidly disseminate research findings and treatment strategies to give researchers and communities access to state-of-the-art communications.

Descriptions: Develop and test innovative dissemination strategies for promoting adoption of successful (empirically tested) behavior change interventions by HIV prevention providers;

Develop, test, and rapidly disseminate research findings that have immediate implications for the conduct of HIV prevention and education programs conducted in the community; explore novel mechanisms to disseminate behavioral and social science research findings and model approaches to the prevention field (e.g., consensus conferences, interactive computer bulletin boards, media strategies, and mechanisms to reach providers and community-based organizations);

Support and strengthen partnerships between community-based organizations and behavioral and social scientists to encourage bi-directional exchange of information and experience to enhance research and prevention efforts; and

Utilize new and innovative techniques (e.g., social marketing) to disseminate research to different populations.

Objective 4: Prevent the negative consequences of HIV Infection.

Action Steps: Discover, develop, and evaluate strategies to prevent or minimize the physical, psychological, cognitive, and social consequences of HIV, including strategies to improve adherence to proven therapies and recruitment, retention, and adherence to clinical trial protocols.

This is
not an
objective
in
the
NIH
plan
(at least not
since FY96)

This is
#3 in
the
plan

Descriptions: Identify the behavioral, psychological, cognitive, and social consequences of HIV disease for HIV-seropositive individuals, their support systems, and their communities; develop and evaluate innovative behavioral and social approaches to manage these consequences, including health behavior changes, stress management, and improved access and utilization of care;

Discover, implement, and evaluate therapeutic strategies to delay or prevent progression of HIV-associated cognitive dysfunction;

Develop and evaluate interventions to increase recruitment, adherence, and retention in HIV treatment studies and clinical trials; and

Develop and test models of caregiving tailored to the physical, cognitive, and emotional needs of patients with HIV disease, including their significant others, extended family members, and care providers.

Repeats #3 above **Objective 5: Create and test innovative dissemination strategies.**

Action Steps: Develop, assess, and rapidly disseminate research findings and treatment strategies to give researchers and communities access to state-of-the-art communications

Descriptions: Develop and test innovative dissemination strategies for promoting adoption of successful (empirically tested) behavior change interventions by HIV prevention providers;

Develop, test, and rapidly disseminate research findings that have immediate implications for the conduct of HIV prevention and education programs conducted in the community; explore novel mechanisms to disseminate behavioral and social science research findings and model approaches to the prevention field (e.g., consensus conferences, interactive computer bulletin boards, media strategies, and mechanisms to reach providers and community-based organizations);

Support and strengthen partnerships between community-based organizations and behavioral and social scientists to encourage bi-directional exchange of information and experience to enhance research and prevention efforts; and

Utilize new and innovative techniques (e.g., social marketing) to disseminate research to different populations.

This is no longer an Objective in the Plan (was it in FY 96?) **Objective 5: Strengthen the behavioral and social science infrastructure.**

Action Steps: Develop multidisciplinary and interagency collaborative efforts to enhance the AIDS behavioral research effort; enhance the behavioral aspect of research into therapeutics, natural history and epidemiology, and vaccines. Train researchers to conduct basic and applied social science research related to HIV. Provide the state-of-the-art physical facilities and equipment that are necessary to conduct HIV-related behavioral and social science research within relevant settings

Descriptions: Establish multidisciplinary AIDS research consortia to test novel behavioral approaches, replicate psychosocial and behavioral studies, and promote their use in appropriate populations; collaborate with other agencies of the PHS and outside organizations to maximize research resources;

Promote HIV-related research in predoctoral and postdoctoral programs; facilitate the development of *practica* and field placements in HIV treatment, prevention, and research settings; provide research career awards; actively recruit ethnic minorities, women, and those dedicated to community-based programs; expand behavioral and social training and research efforts aimed at limiting infections such as TB and malignancies related to HIV infection;

Ensure adequate representation of social and behavioral scientists on IRGs, OAR Advisory Committees, and OAR staff;

Support and expand computer networking among behavioral and social science researchers; provide additional laboratory and research facilities for human and animal research for behavioral studies; and

Collect, archive, and disseminate existing data for secondary data analysis.

FY 95: 159,720,000

FY 96: 161,595,000

Pops. Served: All populations

Constituency Involvement: Researchers, clinicians, community and patient representatives, ~~National Advisory Council~~, ARAC, and OAR Advisory Committees. Others?

Unmet Needs: The NIH FY 1996 Plan and Budget Estimate for Scientific Opportunities in HIV-Related Research identified areas for further productive research in this area in the amount of \$44,298 over the FY 96 figure.

FY 97 Plan - Objective 5.4 = Methodology