

World AIDS Day — December 1, 2019

World AIDS Day, observed annually on December 1, draws attention to the status of the human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS) epidemic. Approximately 37.9 million persons worldwide are living with HIV infection, including 1.7 million persons newly infected in 2018 (1).

With support from the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), several African countries are on track to achieve HIV epidemic control. In 2017, an estimated 1,020,419 persons in the United States and dependent areas were living with diagnosed HIV infection; 37,832 new cases were diagnosed in 2018 (2). The aim of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' proposed Ending the HIV Epidemic: A Plan for America initiative (3) is to end the U.S. HIV epidemic within 10 years.

Through global efforts, including PEPFAR, in 2018, 23.3 million persons worldwide received antiretroviral therapy. A report in this issue of *MMWR* describes the status of implementation of HIV case-based surveillance systems in 39 PEPFAR-supported countries (4).

References

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3. US Department of Health and Human Services. What is 'ending the HIV epidemic: a plan for America'? Washington, DC: US Department of Health and Human Services; 2019. <https://www.hiv.gov/federal-response/ending-the-hiv-epidemic/overview>
4. Hughes JR, Dinh T-H, Farach N, et al. Status of HIV case-based surveillance implementation in 39 U.S. PEPFAR-supported countries, May–July 2019. *MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep* 2019;68:1089–95.

Status of HIV Case-Based Surveillance Implementation — 39 U.S. PEPFAR-Supported Countries, May–July 2019

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Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) case-based surveillance (CBS) systematically and continuously collects available demographic and health event data (sentinel events*) about persons with HIV infection from diagnosis and, if available, throughout routine clinical care until death, to characterize HIV epidemics and guide program improvement (1,2). Surveillance signals such as high viral load, mortality, or recent HIV infection can be used for rapid public health action. To date, few standardized assessments have been conducted to describe HIV CBS systems globally (3,4). For this assessment, a survey was disseminated during May–July 2019 to all U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief

*Sentinel events include various events throughout medical care for a client with diagnosed HIV infection, such as HIV recency status (recent or long-term infection at time of diagnosis), clinical laboratory values such as CD4 count and viral load, change in antiretroviral therapy regimens, and death.

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