

KEEPING TIME

social and governmental developments in HIV

- 1980**
 - The first cases of two rare illnesses – *Pneumocystis carini* pneumonia and Kaposi's sarcoma (KS, a rare cancer) – are reported in New York and California. These are the first reported cases of what will later be known as AIDS.ⁱ
- 1981**
 - The New York Times*, with a circulation of 912,649, publishes its first story on 41 cases of a "rare and often fatal cancer" in gay men in New York and California.ⁱⁱ The article suggests that the illness may not be contagious and that there is "no apparent danger to non-homosexuals."ⁱⁱⁱ
 - The first weekly support group meeting for people living with KS begins in San Francisco through the Shanti Project, a volunteer-based organization whose mission is to provide support, both physical and emotional, for people living with life-threatening illnesses.^{iv}
- 1982**
 - After being known as "gay cancer," "new pneumonia," and Gay-Related Immune Deficiency (GRID), the syndrome is renamed Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS).^v
 - The Bay Area Reporter*, a San Francisco weekly newspaper targeted to the gay community, publishes its first cover story on Acquired Immune Deficiency, an article prepared by New York City's Mayor's Health Crisis Committee, which advises that, "It is the number of different sexual encounters that may increase risk, not sex itself."^{vi}
 - The city of San Francisco agrees to spend \$450,000 to fund the world's first AIDS clinic that includes grief counseling and personal support programs for people with AIDS (through the Shanti Project), and the first locally funded outreach and education efforts through the Kaposi's Sarcoma Foundation (later renamed the San Francisco AIDS Foundation).^{vii}
 - The first AIDS hotline is established by Gay Men's Health Crisis (GMHC), a New York non-governmental organization, to answer questions and provide support and crisis response to callers.^{viii}
 - The "Buddy" program is established by GMHC as a peer support service for people who are sick or dying from AIDS to help with their day-to-day needs as part of a newly established Patient Services division. Meanwhile, Shanti has established a similar program in San Francisco.^{ix}
 - The first safe sex pamphlet for gay men, entitled "Can We Talk..." is published in San Francisco by the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence.^x
- 1983**
 - Terms such as "sexually active" and "bodily fluids" become part of the first official public health language of AIDS.^{xi}
 - People living with AIDS, attending a conference in Denver, develop the "Denver Principles," a set of recommendations for a more humane response to the AIDS epidemic and form the National Association of People with AIDS (NAPWA), the first national AIDS advocacy group.^{xii}
 - The first inter-faith religious meeting on the spiritual needs of people living with AIDS is sponsored by the Shanti Project; the meeting results in the call for an inter-faith AIDS network.^{xiii}
 - AIDS cover story in *Time* magazine, which has a circulation of 4,615,594, uses the term "groups at risk" and identifies the four "groups" as "homosexual men," "intravenous drug users," "immigrants from Haiti," and "hemophiliacs."^{xiv}
 - The first governmental AIDS hotline is established by the federal Department of Health and Human Services.^{xv}
 - The first woman is diagnosed with AIDS (in San Francisco).^{xvi}
 - A service to find emergency housing for people with AIDS who are evicted from their homes or discharged from hospitals with no place to go is formed in New York City by the AIDS Resource Center (later called Bailey House).^{xvii}
 - The first meeting of the AIDS/KS Social Work Discussion Group is held in New York City with the objective of setting standards to address the psycho-social needs of people living with AIDS and their loved ones.^{xviii}
 - The first AIDS discrimination lawsuit is filed by GMHC and the Lambda Legal Defense Fund in the case of a New York doctor who is evicted from his building for treating AIDS patients.^{xix}
- 1984**
 - The virus that causes AIDS is identified by American and French scientists. The virus is initially called Human T-Cell Leukemia Virus (HTLV-III) by the Americans and Lymphadenopathy-Associated Virus (LAV) by the French. Later it is renamed HIV – Human Immunodeficiency Virus.^{xx}
 - Community-based AIDS service organizations join together to form AIDS Action, a national organization in Washington, DC, to advocate on behalf of people and communities affected by the epidemic, to educate the federal government, and to help shape policy and legislation relating to AIDS.
- 1985**
 - The enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (known as ELISA) test kit is licensed for clinical use, allowing for the first testing of blood for the presence of HIV antibodies.^{xxi}
 - The first anonymous HTLV/LAV test sites open in New York and San Francisco.^{xxii}
 - The first International AIDS Conference is held in Atlanta, Georgia. The opening address, by Dr. James Curran, director of the CDC's AIDS Program, on "The HTLV/LAV Update," reflects early assumptions about infection and the progression from infection to AIDS.^{xxiii}
- 1986**
 - The Texas State Health Commissioner proposes, then drops, a statewide plan to add AIDS to the list of diseases for which people could be quarantined.^{xxiv}
 - California voters defeat Proposition 64, which would have allowed for the quarantine of people living with AIDS.^{xxv}
 - The Surgeon General issues a landmark federal report to the Reagan Administration and to the public that calls for AIDS education and condom use to prevent the transmission of HIV.^{xxvi}
 - Activists in New Haven and Boston begin the first street outreach needle exchange programs specifically targeted toward HIV prevention.^{xxvii}
 - Women living with HIV/AIDS in New York City come together to form Women and AIDS Resource Network (WARN).^{xxviii}
- 1987**
 - The AIDS activist group ACT UP (the AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power) is founded by Larry Kramer in New York City. On March 24th, the coalition holds their first demonstration on Wall Street to protest against the high profit margins enjoyed by the pharmaceutical companies.^{xxix}
 - In Florida, Ricky, Randy, and Robert Ray, three brothers who are all HIV positive and hemophiliacs, return to school after a judge orders the school system that barred the boys from attending class for a year to readmit them. On August 28th, the Ray family's home is set on fire, and the Rays decide to leave town. The case is never solved.^{xxx}
 - The Association of Nurses in AIDS Care is founded to address the specific needs of nurses working with people living with AIDS.^{xxxi}
 - AZT (zidovudine), the first drug for the treatment of AIDS, is approved by the federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA).^{xxxii}
 - National Minority AIDS Council establishes offices in Washington, DC to address disparities and the needs of people and communities of color living with and affected by HIV/AIDS.
- 1988**
 - Ryan White, an HIV positive teenager, who has become a national spokesperson for AIDS education, treatment, and funding, testifies before the President's Commission on AIDS during the Reagan Administration.^{xxxiii}
 - Elizabeth Glaser, an HIV positive mother of two HIV positive children, and two of her friends form the Pediatric AIDS Foundation (later renamed the Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation) to advocate for research into the care and treatment needs of children living with HIV.^{xxxiv}
 - The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services mails "Understanding AIDS," an eight-page booklet that includes information on transmission, testing, risk behaviors and prevention, to all 107 million U.S. households.^{lxx}
 - An article published in *Cosmopolitan* magazine (current readership: 2,963,351) authored by a psychiatrist informs women that "most heterosexuals are not at risk" and that it is impossible to transmit HIV using the missionary position.^{lxx}
 - The first HIV specific needle exchange program to operate with community support begins in Tacoma, WA. Later called the Point Defiance AIDS Project, this program receives a contract to operate under the city health department.^{lxi}
 - ACT UP closes down the offices of the FDA to protest the lengthy testing and approval process that is preventing access to experimental HIV medications.^{lxi}
- 1990**
 - Ryan White dies at the age of 18. Later that year, the Ryan White CARE Act is named after him.^{lxi}
 - ACT UP organizes a protest to "Storm the NIH" demanding more HIV treatments and the expansion of clinical trials to include more women and people of color.^{lxiv}
- 1991**
 - ddl (didanosine), a nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitor, is the second drug for treatment of AIDS approved by the FDA.^{lxv}
- 1993**
 - The female condom is approved by the FDA.^{lxvi}
 - Researchers in France and Britain conclude that AIDS treatment AZT has little or no benefit when taken early in the progression of the disease.^{lxvii}
- 1994**
 - The CDC announces that AIDS is the leading cause of death among 25-44 year old Americans.^{lxviii}
 - The FDA approves the first HIV saliva test (Orasure) for use in clinical settings.^{lxix}
- 1995**
 - Saquinavir, the first protease inhibitor (a new class of antiretroviral treatment) is approved.^{lxx}
 - Researchers studying the life cycle of HIV show that because of the high level of viral replication that takes place in the body, and the fact that the virus is easily susceptible to mutation, it is inevitable that such replication and mutation will lead to drug resistance in individuals on antiviral therapy.^{lxxi}
- 1996**
 - The viral load test, which determines the amount of HIV present in a person's blood, is approved by the FDA. Test results can be used to determine what the best course of treatment for an individual is and to measure a treatment's effectiveness.^{lxxii}
 - "Triple combination therapy," using three antiretroviral medications in combination, is introduced and becomes the new standard of HIV care.^{lxxiii}
 - Dr. David Ho advocates for a new strategy for treating HIV — "hit early, hit hard," in which patients are placed on new, more aggressive treatment regimens earlier in the course of their infection in hopes of keeping them healthier longer.^{lxxiv}
 - Time* magazine names Dr. Ho "Man of the Year" for his ground-breaking work on protease inhibitors, a new class of antiretroviral drugs.^{lxxv}
- 1997**
 - The effect of new treatments is clearly seen as the number of Americans newly diagnosed with AIDS drops for the first time since the epidemic began.^{lxxvi}
 - Highly active antiretroviral therapy (HAART), consisting of three or more antiretrovirals, replaces the expression "triple combination therapy" and becomes the new standard of HIV care in response to the call to "hit early, hit hard."^{lxxvii}
 - As a greater number of people begin taking protease inhibitors, resistance to the drugs becomes more common and emerges as an area of grave concern within the AIDS community.^{lxxviii}
- 1998**
 - The CDC announces that the number of American AIDS deaths dropped 47% in the previous year. The drop is credited to the effectiveness of HAART.^{lxxviii}
 - The unpleasant side effects of HAART, including nausea, kidney failure, changes in body shape, and hallucinations, are seen in many patients taking the medications.^{lxxx}
 - "Adherence" to the complicated treatment regimens that characterize HAART becomes a major concern within the HIV/AIDS community and health care professionals.^{lxxx}
 - The Alliance for Microbicide Development, a global, non-governmental organization, is founded to encourage the development of safe, affordable, and effective microbicides to prevent HIV/AIDS and other STDs.^{lxxx}
- 1999**
 - The first Minority HIV/AIDS Initiative (MHAII) funding is made available to organizations and institutions responding to HIV in minority communities.^{lxxxii}
- 2000**
 - Noxonyl-9 (N-9), a common spermicide believed to be a potentially effective barrier against HIV, is shown to significantly increase the risk of HIV transmission. Prior to this discovery, prevention efforts encouraged individuals to use products containing N-9, whose possible microbicidal effect against HIV was being actively studied.^{lxxxiii}
- 2001**
 - The NIH releases a report showing mixed effectiveness of condoms in protection against the transmission of HIV and other STDs. The report renews the controversy around the CDC's policy regarding the promotion of condoms as an effective HIV prevention tool.^{lxxxiv}
 - AIDS service organizations participate in an historic session of the United Nations General Assembly on the AIDS epidemic in which a unanimous resolution declaring the disease a global catastrophe and calling for worldwide commitment to end the epidemic is passed. The meeting also calls for the creation of an international "global fund" to support efforts by countries and organizations to combat the spread of HIV through prevention, care, and treatment – including the purchase of HIV medications.^{lxxxv}
- 2002**
 - Side effects and increasing evidence of drug resistance call into question the "hit early, hit hard" strategy and HAART is replaced by ART (antiretroviral therapy) as the new standard of treatment.
- 2003**
 - A \$60 million grant is awarded to the International Partnership for Microbicides by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to support research and development of microbicides to prevent the transmission of HIV. This is the largest grant ever awarded to support work on microbicides.^{lxxxvi}
 - The CDC announces to the HIV community a new initiative to target people who are living with HIV and their prevention and care needs.^{lxxxvii}
- 2004...**

until it's over
AIDS ACTION