



## The Interior AIDS Association and the Smart People in Medicine and Scientific Research Encourage PrEP – Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis - to Prevent HIV

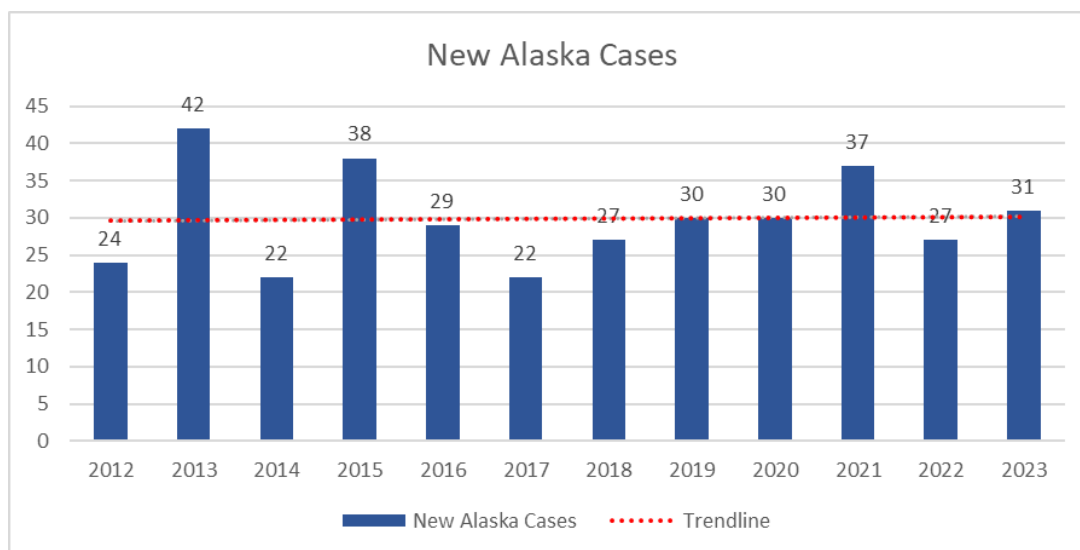
September 5, 2025

The Interior AIDS Association is partnering with physicians Herbert Day and Ashley Lundgren Strum to increase access to PrEP for preventing transmission of HIV. With the help of Navigators Ryan Pennington and Meredith McMahon at IAA and some support from Gilead Sciences (big pharma) the goal is to remove barriers to starting PrEP.

**PrEP**, or pre-exposure prophylaxis, is medicine people at risk for HIV take to prevent getting HIV from sex or injection drug use. PrEP can stop HIV from taking hold and spreading throughout your body. Currently, there are two FDA-approved daily oral medications for PrEP. A long-acting injectable form of PrEP has also been approved by the FDA. [See more on hiv.gov](https://www.hiv.gov)

So, what's the big deal? We rarely hear about HIV anymore. In the five calendar years from January 2020 to December 2023, the State of Alaska, Section of Epidemiology received reports of 124 new HIV cases in the state – about 31 new cases per year. 658 Alaskans died in 21 months with COVID - Jan. 2020-Sept 2021. (Epi Bulletin #22, 12/1/2021).

Looking back, the numbers have not changed much in 10 years. Since we know how to prevent HIV, this is a problem. Getting to zero new infections not only prevents the misery inherent in a lifelong, if manageable, disease; but it also stops the expense of HIV treatment for a new generation. There might be some weird pushback from the pharmaceutical companies that make billions of dollars selling HIV medications, but the increasing use of PrEP to prevent transmission should keep them sated for a while, until there is an end to the HIV epidemic. Ironically, a federal program called: EHE – End the HIV Epidemic – was started by Trump in his first term and ended abruptly by him in his second.



## Recommendations

1. Routinely discuss sexual and risk histories during HIV, hepatitis, and STI testing or treatment encounters. This includes reviewing types of sex, barrier use, substance and needle use, and known partner histories, including their sexual partners and substance use.
2. Provide post exposure prophylaxis (PEP) and PrEP education and counseling during routine care visits, and re-counsel during HIV, hepatitis, and STI testing or treatment encounters.
3. Prescribe PrEP to persons at increased risk of HIV infection, and to those who request it, regardless of disclosed risk factors.
4. Test persons at increased risk for HIV infection, including PWID and their partners, at least annually. Test persons with increased risk every 3–6 months, with ongoing PrEP counseling.
5. Conduct testing during healthcare visits, including emergency departments and correctional centers.
6. Test all pregnant women early in every pregnancy, and retest during the third trimester if they are at increased risk of HIV.
7. Report confirmed and suspected cases of HIV to SOE within 2 working days via fax (907) 561-4239 or phone (907) 269-8057.

[HIV Update — Alaska, 2020–2024](#)

**For help starting PrEP or for more information, call IAA at 907)452-4222 ext. 100; call or text Ryan Pennington at (907)313-4013; or email us at [info@interioraids.org](mailto:info@interioraids.org).**



[Preventing HIV with PrEP | HIV | CDC](#)

**For more information on HIV and PrEP, see the following resources or search for HIV PrEP**

1 - Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Monitoring selected national HIV prevention and care objectives by using HIV surveillance data—United States and 6 territories and freely associated states, 2022. *HIV Surveillance Supplemental Report* 2024; 29(No. 2). Accessed August 4, 2025. <https://www.cdc.gov/hiv-data/nhss/national-hiv-prevention-and-care-outcomes.html>

2 - Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Estimated HIV incidence and prevalence in the United States, 2018-2022. *HIV Surveillance Supplemental Report* 2024; 29(No. 1). Accessed August 1, 2025. <https://www.cdc.gov/hiv/data-research/facts-stats/index.html>

- Check out Chicago's new, teen-focused PrEP campaign [www.PrEP4Teens.com](http://www.PrEP4Teens.com)

If you think PrEP might be right for you, or you want to learn more, visit CDC's Preventing HIV with PrEP page. The information page at HIV.gov is still there too.

[Preventing HIV with PrEP | HIV | CDC](https://www.cdc.gov/hiv/prevention/prep.html) <https://www.cdc.gov/hiv/prevention/prep.html>

**Just so you know, this is the statement posted on the CDC webpages regarding HIV testing, prevention, treatment, living with HIV and stigma:**

Per a court order, HHS is required to restore this website as of 11:59PM ET, February 14, 2025. Any information on this page promoting gender ideology is extremely inaccurate and disconnected from the immutable biological reality that there are two sexes, male and female. The Trump Administration rejects gender ideology and condemns the harms it causes to children, by promoting their chemical and surgical mutilation, and to women, by depriving them of their dignity, safety, well-being, and opportunities. This page does not reflect biological reality and therefore the Administration and this Department rejects it.

**We encourage you to contact your elected representatives to express your feedback about this statement.** The Congressional Switchboard phone number is **212-224-3121**.

[Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis | HIV.gov](https://www.hiv.gov/hiv-basics/hiv-prevention/using-hiv-medication-to-reduce-risk/pre-exposure-prophylaxis) <https://www.hiv.gov/hiv-basics/hiv-prevention/using-hiv-medication-to-reduce-risk/pre-exposure-prophylaxis>

---

## Connecting patients with PrEP resources

---

PrEP is more accessible than ever. The US Preventive Services Task Force issued a [Grade A recommendation](#) for PrEP. This means most private insurance and Medicaid programs are required to cover PrEP services without cost sharing, like copays or deductibles. Prior authorization may be required.

Additionally, some states have their own PrEP assistance programs. Some cover medication, some cover clinical visit and lab costs, and some cover both. To learn more, consult [NASTAD's list of state PrEP assistance programs](#).

The Gilead Sciences [Advancing Access](#) program offers eligible patients assistance with medication costs for oral PrEP.

[ViiVConnect](#) offers a medication assistance program to help patients pay for CAB injections.

## Resources

---

Expert Consultation Services: [HIV Hotlines and Warmlines](#)

### [Share the Night, Not HIV \(Poster\)](#)

This waiting room poster highlights that PrEP can protect patients against HIV, even if their partner...

Apr. 22, 2024

### [Now's the Time to Find Out About PrEP and PEP \(Brochure\)](#)

This brochure for patients describes how PrEP and PEP can help protect them against HIV, even if the...

Apr. 16, 2024

### [PrEP Medication Guide: Reduce Your Risk of Getting HIV \(Brochure\)](#)

This patient brochure reviews important information on PrEP, including how PrEP works to prevent HIV...

Apr. 22, 2024

### [PrEP Is for Women \(Brochure\)](#)

This patient brochure reviews important information on how women and other people who have receptive...

Apr. 22, 2024