

Cook County Department of Public Health

Cook County Health & Hospitals System

(formerly Cook County Bureau of Health Services)

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Cook County Public Health Officials Release HIV/AIDS Surveillance Report *Prevention, education and early detection are essential*

HIV/AIDS surveillance data from 2006 to 2008 released today by the Cook County Department of Public Health (CCDPH) shows new infections rising substantially among males, African Americans and Latinos, 20-29 year olds and among men who have sex with men.

Overall, between 2000 and 2008, the number of suburban Cook County residents living with HIV at any stage doubled to 3,474. At the present time, one in 700 suburban Cook County residents live with HIV disease and almost all municipalities in suburban Cook County have residents living with HIV.

“Currently, we work with our 16 agency partners to provide prevention, education, HIV testing and treatment referrals to our residents in suburban Cook County,” said CCDPH chief operating officer, Stephen A. Martin, Jr., Ph.D., M.P.H. “Partnering with minority based organizations, youth programs, substance abuse services and other community-based organizations helps us to focus scarce resources on populations where we can prevent the most infections.”

Advances in the care and treatment for those infected with HIV have allowed people to live longer, healthier lives. However, to eliminate the spread of this incurable disease, four goals must be met:

1. Screening -- sufficient screening resources to ensure that infected persons are rapidly identified and linked to antiretroviral treatment and behavioral risk reduction interventions.
2. Treatment -- sufficient care resources to ensure that each newly identified HIV-infected person can access antiretroviral treatment to lower their viral loads and reduce their infectiousness to others.
3. Outreach -- sufficient prevention resources to counsel all HIV-infected persons and high risk populations to adopt and maintain low risk behavior.
4. Education -- universal access to research-proven, effective, age-appropriate, comprehensive sexually transmitted infection (STI) risk reduction education, particularly for youth prior to the onset of sexual activity.

Additional data regarding HIV-related deaths, number of cases by municipality, gender, race/ethnicity and mode of transmission are available in the full report. In addition, the report includes a map with the prevalence of persons living with HIV disease in suburban Cook County.

To view the [report](http://www.cookcountypublichealth.org) in its entirety, visit www.cookcountypublichealth.org or for more information, please contact the Cook County Department of Public Health at 708-492-2000.

