



Connecticut AIDS Resource Coalition

AIDS LIFE CAMPAIGN 2011 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Maintain AIDS Funding in the DSS and DPH Budgets for Housing, Prevention and Care.

- These dollars fund HIV prevention interventions that are **cost-effective and evidence-based**.
- DPH estimates that approximately **13,385 people are infected** in Connecticut.
- Teens and young adults under the age of 25 continue to be at risk for HIV and most young people are infected through unprotected sex.ⁱ **African Americans** are disproportionately affected by HIV infection; accounting for **55% of all HIV infections reported among persons aged 13–24**.ⁱⁱ The lifetime per person HIV care cost is now \$618,900.ⁱⁱⁱ

Maintain Funding for Syringe Exchange in the DPH budget.

- In 2002, 45% of HIV/AIDS cases were attributable to injecting drug use. In 2009, that figure dropped to 12%.
- Syringe exchange has been scientifically proven to prevent the spread of HIV and Hepatitis C.
- From 1996 to 2009, Connecticut's SEPs **collected 1.5 million syringes**, assisted **6,880** people into treatment and provided over **30,000 HIV prevention and risk reduction** sessions.
- These programs are an integral part of HIV prevention.

Amend Legislation to Provide nPEP to Sexual Assault Victims at No Cost

- Non-occupational Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (nPEP) is a 28-day course of HIV medications within 72 hours after exposure.
- nPEP is recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for victims of sexual assault who may have been exposed to HIV during the assault.
- Ten years ago, \$50,000 was placed in the Office of Victim's Services budget for this purpose with a directive to develop protocols, yet no protocol has ever been developed.

Increase \$1.5 million in AIDS Housing Bond Funds.

- Since 1990, the state has invested approximately \$9 million in bond funds to 16 AIDS housing programs.
- Many of these homes are in disrepair requiring a host of health, safety and energy efficient improvements.
- These programs include over **200 slots of housing** and provide supportive services to over 400 individuals each year.

Support HB 6240 An Act Concerning Immunity for Reporting a Drug Overdose

Support HB 6063 An Act Concerning the Prevention of Deaths from Drug Overdose

- Both bills will encourage persons to call for assistance on behalf of persons suffering from a drug overdose.
- There have been over 2,400 unintentional deaths associated with opiates in 148 of 169 Connecticut towns from 1997 – 2009. (Office Chief Medical Examiners)
- Trends over time suggested increases in total opioid-related deaths with the number related to heroin remaining constant and those related to pharmaceutical opioids increasing. Methadone, oxycodone and fentanyl, the most frequently cited prescription opioids, exhibited a significant trend of increasing involvement in opioid deaths in Connecticut. (Office Chief Medical Examiners)

ⁱ Slide Set: HIV/AIDS Surveillance in Adolescents and Young Adults (through 2005).

ⁱⁱ CDC. [HIV Prevention in the Third Decade](#). Atlanta: US Department of Health and Human Services, CDC; 2005.

ⁱⁱⁱ Schackman, B. *Medical Care*, November 2006; vol 44: pp 990-997. News release, Weill Medical College of Cornell University. Bruce R. Schackman, PhD, chief, division of health policy, Weill Cornell Medical College.

The AIDS LIFE Campaign is a committee of the sponsoring organization: CT AIDS Resource Coalition (CARC)

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