

A Journey Through The Native HIV/AIDS Timeline

1990

- **Keith Haring**, renowned artist and HIV activist, dies of AIDS-related illness.
- **Ryan White**, a teenager and AIDS activist, dies at the age of 19 due to AIDS-related illness.
- **Halston**, an American fashion designer, dies of AIDS-related illness.
- Protest occurs against the U.S.'s immigration policy at the 6th International AIDS Conference in San Francisco.
- President Ronald Reagan apologizes for his neglect of the epidemic.
- Congress enacts the Ryan White **Comprehensive AIDS Resources Emergency (CARE)** Act.
- The largest federal government program is founded to address the unmet health needs of **People Living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA)**.
- Hawai'i Governor **John Waihe'e** signs into law Act 280, enabling the Department of Health to establish a two-year pilot syringe exchange program. Hawai'i syringe access law becomes the first statewide syringe and needle exchange program in the U.S.

160,969 cases of AIDS reported in the U.S.

120,453 deaths.

1991

- Congress enacts the **Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS (HOPWA)** Act.
- Anti-HIV medications, **DDL** (dideoxyinosine), nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitor is approved by the FDA.
- The **Visual AIDS Artists Caucus** launches the "**Red Ribbon**" Project.
- **Magic Johnson** tells the world he is living with HIV.
- **Freddie Mercury**, lead singer of the rock band Queen, dies of AIDS.
- The **Ahalaya Native Care Center** (formally the Ahalaya Project) is established in Oklahoma City under the leadership of **Gloria Bellmule-Zuniga** (Southern Cheyenne/Arapaho). Ahalaya, which is a Choctaw word for "to care for deeply," provides HIV case management services to American Indians living with HIV and AIDS.
- The **National Native American AIDS Prevention Center (NNAAPC)** receives a Federal Grant Award from the **Health Resources & Service Agency's (HRSA) Special Projects**

of National Significance (SPNS) program. NNAAPC along with **Gloria Bellmule-Zuniga**, RN (Southern Cheyenne/Arapaho), **Betty E.S. Duran**, MSW/MPH (Pojoaque Pueblo) and **David Barny** PhD, begin developing an innovative **Native Care HIV/AIDS Integrated Service Network** model to help treat Native Americans living with HIV.

- Actress **Elizabeth Taylor** and co-founder of the **Foundation for AIDS Research (amfAR)** establish the **Elizabeth Taylor AIDS Foundation (ETAF)**.
- The U.S. Office of Minority Health convenes the first regional HIV Conference focused on American Indians and Alaska Natives at the Oneida Nation of Wisconsin.

206,563 cases of AIDS reported in the U.S.

156,143 deaths.

1992

- A whisper of AIDS at the Republican National Convention by a former aide to President Gerald Ford, Mary Fisher: "AIDS is not a political creature but an ever-present threat to be battled with courage, sound policy, and most of all compassion"
- The International AIDS Conference moves from Boston in the U.S. to Amsterdam, Netherlands due to U.S. immigration policy on People Living with HIV (PLWH).
- Following the two-year pilot period, the State of Hawai'i Legislature creates the **Needle Exchange Program in Act 152**. The Hawai'i State Department of Health through the Research Corporation of the University of Hawai'i began funding the Community Health Outreach Work Project (CHOW) and began operating the **Syringe Exchange Program**.
- **Lisa Tiger**, a member of the Muscogee Nation, has been living with HIV since the late 1980s. Lisa is the recipient of the Woman of Courage award from the National Organization for Women as well as honors from amfAR, the Foundation for AIDS Research.
- FDA licenses **SUDS HIV-1**, a 10-minute diagnostic EIA test kit.
- **Robert Reed**, the actor who played Mike Brady on the TV "The Brady Bunch," dies.

AIDS becomes the leading cause of death in the U.S. with men age 25 to 44.

254,147 cases of AIDS reported in the U.S.

194,476 deaths.

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1993

- President Bill Clinton establishes the National Office of AIDS Policy to coordinate the domestic efforts to implement the President's National HIV/AIDS Strategy.
- The CDC revises its definition of AIDS to include opportunistic infections (OIs).
- The first female condom is approved by the FDA.
- The FDA refuses to allow testing for anal sex as "sodomy" is illegal in too many states.
- Tennis legend **Arthur Ashe** dies.
- The **Native Care HIV/AIDS Integrated Service Network** expands across the country, creating a Native Care HIV/AIDS Integrated Services Network:
 - **Ahalya HIV Case Management Program**, Oklahoma
 - **Navajo AIDS Network**, Arizona
 - **Papa Ola Lokahi/Life Foundation**, Hawai'i
 - **Maui AIDS Foundation**, Hawai'i
 - **Indigenous Peoples Task Force**, Minneapolis
 - **Native American Community House**, New York
- Hawaii's Legislature names the Hawai'i Community Health Outreach Project (CHOW) as the coordinating agency for the statewide Syringe Exchange Program.
- Actor **Tom Hanks** wins an Oscar for his role as a gay man with AIDS in the film "Philadelphia."

36,909 cases of AIDS reported in the U.S.
234,225 deaths.

1994

- Benetton advertisement depicts President Ronald Reagan with Kaposi's sarcoma lesions for Colors magazine's June issue.
- **Elizabeth Glaser**, whose activism raised awareness about pediatric AIDS, dies from AIDS complications.
- The U.S. Public Health Service recommends AZT to prevent mother-to-child transmission.
- CPG - **Community Planning Groups** are the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) National Initiative to form partnerships between health departments and communities to facilitate a participatory process for HIV programs.
- 64 health department grantees from all states, several cities, the District of Columbia, and the U.S. Territories that receive HIV prevention funding from the CDC establishes a Community Planning Groups (CPG).

- FDA approves the first oral HIV test.
- CPlot (**Community Planning Leadership & Training**) is a platform developed by the National Native American AIDS Prevention Center (NNAAPC) in partnership with the National Minority AIDS Council (NMAC) and funded by CDC.
- The Hawai'i Community Health Outreach Work (CHOW) project extends the Syringe Exchange Program services beyond O'ahu to the islands of Kaua'i, Maui, and Hawai'i island.

AIDS becomes the leading cause of death for all Americans age 25 to 44.
441,528 cases of AIDS reported in the U.S.
270,870 deaths

1995

- **HAART**: The first anti-HIV drug in the protease inhibitor class is approved as well as 3TC followed by an immediate decline in AIDS-related deaths and hospitalizations.
- The U.S. credits the French and not the Americans for discovering the virus which causes AIDS.
- Carol LaFavor becomes the first American Indian to serve on the President's Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS which was formed during President Bill Clinton's administration.
- Olympic Gold Medalist and world class diver **Greg Louganis** (Samoan) reveals that he is HIV+.
- The 1st Native HIV/AIDS Conference, "**Sharing the Vision**," is held in Portland, Oregon. During the conference, news breaks that the Ahalya SPNS program is going to lose funding. Ahalya partner agencies "hit the Hill" to stop the funding cut. They meet with **Senator Ted Kennedy** and **Senator Daniel Inouye** who campaign for the cause and save the funding for five more years.
- During the "Sharing the Vision" Conference, word gets out that the Native Care HIV/AIDS Integrated Service Network funded through HRSA's Special Projects of National Significance program (SPNS) is going to be defunded.
- Ron Rowell, ED of NNAAPC and network partners, Gloria Bellymule-Zuniga (Director of Oklahoma's Ahalya program, Sharon Day, ED of Indigenous People's Tasks Force, Melvin Harrison, ED of Navajo AIDS Network and Pua Aiu, from Papa Ola Lokahi head to Washington, DC, to save the funding. Conference attendees campaign in support by faxing their signatures to their Congressional representatives.

HISstory, HERstory, THEIRstory, OURstory

1990s
(early)

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AIDS becomes the leading cause of death among all Americans ages 25 to 44.

Between 1991 and 1995, the number of American women diagnosed with AIDS increases by more than 63%.

513,486 cases of AIDS reported in the U.S.
AIDS deaths in the U.S. reach an all-time high:
319,849 deaths