

A Journey Through The Native HIV/AIDS Timeline

1996

- More anti-HIV drugs are approved: **Viramune, Norvir, and Crixivan.**
- University of California San Francisco researchers discover **Kaposi sarcoma (KS)** is caused by Kaposi sarcoma associated herpesvirus (KSHV), also known as **human herpesvirus 8 (HHV8).**
- Time magazine 1996 Man of the Year is AIDS Researcher **Dr. David Ho.**
- The **Montana Two Spirit Society** formed through a joint effort by Pride Inc. (Montana's LGBT advocacy organization) and the Montana Gay Men's Task Force to conduct an annual Two Spirit Gathering.
- Between 1992 and 1996, the number of mother-to-infant HIV transmissions in the U.S. dropped by two-thirds, primarily as a result of treatment of HIV-infected mothers and their newborns with AZT.

Number of new AIDS cases decreases for the first time by 23% from the previous year.

581,429 cases of AIDS reported in the US.

362,004 deaths.

1997

- President Clinton called for the development of the AIDS vaccine by 2007.
- New anti-HIV therapies are working. AIDS deaths in the U.S. decline by 42% but the number of new infections remains constant at about 40,000 annually since 1982.
- FDA approves a single daily tablet called **Combivir.**
- CDC reports first decline of AIDS-related deaths as a result of new highly active antiretroviral therapy.
- The **National Minority AIDS Council (NMAC)** is founded. Leaders of prominent minority AIDS organizations nationwide – including **Paul Kawata, Gil Gerald, Calu Lester, Don Edwards, Timm Offutt, Norm Nickens, Craig Harris, Carl Bean, Suki Ports, Marie St.-Cyr** and **Sandra McDonald** – started NMAC in response to the American Public Health Association's (APHA) decision to not invite anyone of color to participate on the panel of its first ever AIDS workshop during its 1986 association meeting. Harris, an African American gay man living with AIDS, announces the formation of NMAC during that panel discussion after he rushes the stage shouting "I WILL BE HEARD" and takes the microphone away

from Dr. Merv Silverman, then the San Francisco Health Commissioner.

- Gregory House on the island of Oahu receives **Housing Opportunities for People With AIDS (HOPWA)** funding.
- United Nations AIDS reports 30 million people are infected by HIV worldwide and 16,000 new cases per day.

641,086 cases of AIDS reported in the U.S.

390,692 deaths.

1998

- The **Congressional Black Caucus (CBC)** a Minority HIV/AIDS Initiative concentrating on those areas hardest hit by the epidemic, focuses on prevention and treatment seeking to redirect and/or increase funding levels based on a detailed review of the implementation of the initiative. In addition, the CBC recognizes the devastating impact of HIV/AIDS on the global workforce, specifically in Africa, and on the allocation of resources of developing countries. CBC also supports a comprehensive global policy aimed at ending the scourge of HIV/AIDS around the globe.
- **"Sharing the Vision"** is the Native HIV/AIDS Conference in Minnesota on the tribal lands of the Shakopee Mdewakanton Nation. NNAAPC introduces four policy priorities for 1999 and 2000:
 - 1) Improve disease surveillance in Indian Country.
 - 2) Ensure availability of and access to drug treatment for Natives living with HIV/AIDS.
 - 3) Ensure Natives are covered in the reauthorization of the Ryan White CARE Act.
 - 4) Education of Tribal Officials concerning the cost of HIV/AIDS treatment.
- The National Native American AIDS Prevention Center enters into a cooperative agreement with CDC as a Capacity Building Provider for Native Communities:
 - Priority Area 1:** Organizational infrastructure and
 - Priority Area 4:** Community Planning Groups & health departments.
- Originating in San Francisco, California, the **Gay Polynesians Alliance/California (GPAC)**, changes their name to the **United Territories of Pacific Islanders' Alliance (UTOPIA)**. UTOPIA becomes the support organization for LGBTQ Native Hawaiians/Pacific Islanders and allies. Today there are UTOPIA chapters in Alaska, Hawai'i, Washington, Las Vegas, Los Angeles, Montana, New York City, Portland, San Diego and Seattle.

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- The National Skills Building Conference gets a name change to The United States Conference on AIDS.
- The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' **Health Resources and Services Administration** (HRSA) determines that needle exchange programs are an effective prevention method of HIV but Congress still prohibits the use of federal funds to support exchange programs (SEP).

688,200 cases of AIDS reported in the U.S.
410,800 deaths.

AIDS deaths in the U.S. decline by 21%. CDC reports first decline of AIDS-related deaths as a result of new highly active antiretroviral therapy.

1999

- Researchers announce a theory of the virus's origins from a subspecies of chimpanzee which was hunted for meat may have been the source of the virus through infected blood.
- First Annual Circle of Harmony HIV/AIDS Wellness Conference is held in Albuquerque, New Mexico.
- **Bay Area American Indian Two-Spirits** (BAAITS) is established.
- Hawai'i Community Health Outreach Work Project (CHOW) begins operating independently as a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization.
- **Jack C. Jackson**, a member of the Navajo Nation, is appointed to President Clinton's Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS (PACHA).
- Women now account for 23% of AIDS cases in the U.S. as opposed to only 7% in 1985.

733,374 cases of AIDS reported in the U.S.
429,825 deaths.