



## AIDS in the United States: A Secret Epidemic

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### The Problem:

The current global campaign on the AIDS pandemic has had the unintended consequence of ignoring AIDS in the United States. AIDS has unfortunately and increasingly become a “secret epidemic” in the U. S. even as it continues to claim lives, compromise and complicate health, and disproportionately affect already marginalized and stigmatized groups.

### Research Evidence:

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) reported that in 2007 over 421,000 people in the United States are living with AIDS. They represent only the known and diagnosed cases, and there are hundreds of thousands more who are living with HIV/AIDS and do not know it. HIV continues to spread in the U.S. with the CDC estimating 40,000 to 55,000 new HIV infections each year.

### Proposed Solutions:

- Increase funding for domestic treatment programs through state-run AIDS Drug Assistance Programs.
- Cease funding for abstinence-only based programs and shift to more fully funded comprehensive and harm reduction programs.
- Continue targeted prevention programming to disproportionately at-risk groups.
- Use new technologies associated with the internet to develop innovative media and education campaigns.  
Create a centralized domestic networking mechanism to provide for information sharing.

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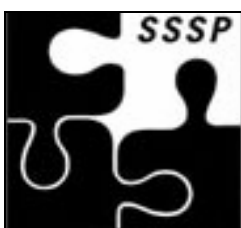
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