



June 28, 2007

Dear Colleague:

The purpose of this letter is to let you know that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has revised the 2005 HIV/AIDS Surveillance Report (released in November 2006). This report contains data on cases of HIV infection and AIDS diagnosed through December 2005. The revised report corrects an error in the estimation of AIDS cases for the period 2001-2005, which CDC detected while preparing for the 2006 Surveillance Report calculations. The error was in the computer code used to adjust for reporting delays in AIDS cases and led to an over estimation of cases, primarily for 2005. The overestimation of AIDS cases was 2% for the entire time period and 8% for 2005.

The identified error does not affect data on reported cases of HIV or AIDS. Funding for major AIDS assistance and treatment programs administered by the Health Resources and Services Administration and the Department of Housing and Urban Development is not affected because they rely only on reported cases to make resource allocations. These programs include the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Treatment Modernization Act and the Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS Program.

CDC has corrected the error and has published a revised 2005 Surveillance Report. We have also updated all CDC materials in the public domain that used the 2005 estimates, such as fact sheets, topic pages and slide sets. The 2005 HIV/AIDS Surveillance Report (Vol. 17, Revised) and other materials are available on our Web site at <http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/datarevision.htm>. We have also enclosed a fact sheet with more information on the error and the corrected estimates.

CDC is committed to providing accurate HIV/AIDS surveillance data. In addition to correcting the error and issuing revised estimates, CDC has completed a review of procedures for initial coding and validity checks in our estimation procedures. With assistance from the National Center for Health Statistics, we have implemented necessary steps to ensure that procedures are sound and to avoid any such errors in the future.

Thank you for your continued commitment to and support of HIV/AIDS prevention.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert S. Janssen".

Robert S. Janssen, M.D.
Director
Division of HIV/AIDS Prevention,
National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and
TB Prevention