



Chapter 1

HIV in Prisons and Jails, 1996

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Key Findings

HIV-positive State and Federal prison inmates

Year	Number	Percent of custody population
1991	17,551	2.2%
1992	20,651	2.5
1993	21,475	2.4
1994	22,747	2.4
1995	24,256	2.3
1996	24,881	2.3

- At year-end 1996, 3.5 percent of all female State prison inmates were HIV positive, compared to 2.3 percent of male State prisoners.

HIV-positive prison inmates

Jurisdiction	Number	Percent of custody population
New York	9,500	13.6%
Florida	2,152	3.4
Texas	1,876	1.4
California	1,136	.8

Based on jurisdictions with more than 1,000 HIV-positive inmates.

- New York held more than a third of all inmates (9,500 inmates) known to be HIV positive at year-end 1996.
- Of all HIV-positive prison inmates, 24 percent were confirmed AIDS cases. In State prisons, 23 percent of HIV-positive inmates had AIDS; in Federal prisons, 37 percent.

- The overall rate of confirmed AIDS among the Nation's prison population (0.54 percent) was about six times the rate in the U.S. population (0.09 percent).
- Inmates in State prisons and local jails who have been tested for HIV self-report similar HIV-infection rates:

Percent HIV positive among—

	Jail inmates	Prison inmates
All inmates	2.2%	2.2%
Male	2.1%	2.2%
Female	2.4	3.4
White	1.4%	1.4%
Black	2.6	2.8
Hispanic	3.2	2.5
Age 24 or younger	.7%	.5%
25-34	2.1	2.3
35-44	3.8	3.1
45 or older	3.0	2.7

From the 1996 Survey of Inmates in Local Jails and the 1997 Survey of Inmates in State Correctional Facilities.

- Jail officials in the last national Census of Jails (conducted in 1993) reported that 6,711 inmates were known to be HIV positive and 1,888 had confirmed AIDS. The infection rate was highest in the largest jail jurisdictions.

At year-end 1996, 2.3 percent of all State and Federal prison inmates were known to be infected with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). A total of 24,881 prison inmates were HIV positive (947 Federal and 23,934 State). HIV-positive inmates made up 1.0 percent of Federal prison inmates and 2.4 percent of State prison inmates. Of

those known to be HIV positive in all U.S. prisons, 5,874 were confirmed AIDS cases, while the remaining 17,656 either showed symptoms of HIV infection or were asymptomatic.

In 1996, there were a total of 907 AIDS-related deaths in State prisons, down from 1,010 in 1995. For every 100,000 State prison inmates in 1996, 90 died of AIDS-related causes. Between 1991 and 1996, about 1 in 3 State prison inmate deaths were attributed to AIDS-related causes.

Data based on personal interviews from the 1997 Survey of Inmates in State Correctional Facilities show that 75 percent of State inmates were ever tested for HIV. Of those who were ever tested and reported results, 2.2 percent were HIV positive—2.2 percent of males and 3.4 percent of females. As reported level of involvement in prior drug use increased, so did the percent of HIV-positive inmates—2.3 percent of those who said they had ever used drugs, 2.7 percent of those who used drugs in the month before the current offense, 4.6 percent of those who injected drugs, and 7.7 percent of those who ever shared a needle were HIV positive.

Data on HIV/AIDS in jails have been collected in the 1993 Census of Jails and the 1996 Survey of Inmates in Local Jails. According to the 1993 Census of Jails, 1.8 percent of local jail inmates were known to be HIV positive. The larger the size of the jail jurisdiction, the greater the percentage of inmates with HIV/AIDS.

Based on personal interviews conducted from October 1995 through March 1996 in the Survey of Inmates in Local Jails, almost 6 in 10 inmates reported ever being tested for HIV. Of those who were tested and reported results, 2.2 percent reported being HIV positive. Among female inmates, 2.4 percent said they were HIV positive; among male inmates, 2.1 percent. An estimated 2.3 percent of tested jail inmates who said they had ever used drugs were HIV positive, as were 2.9 percent who used drugs in the month before arrest, 4.0 percent who used a needle to inject drugs, and 6.3 percent who ever shared needles.

Trends in HIV Infection in U.S. Prisons

At year-end 1996, 24,881 inmates in State and Federal prisons were known to be infected with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), up from 24,256 at year-end 1995 (table 2). In State prisons, 23,934 inmates were known to be HIV positive, and in Federal prisons, 947 inmates were HIV positive. Although the number of HIV cases increased after 1991, the percent of the total custody population with HIV remained relatively stable. Between 1991 and 1996 the number of HIV-positive inmates grew

at about the same rate as the overall prison population (both increased by about 42 percent).

HIV-positive inmates comprised 2.3 percent of the State prison population in 1991 and 2.4 percent in 1996. In Federal prisons, HIV-positive inmates comprised 1.0 percent in 1996, unchanged from 1991.

Year	Percent of custody population known to be HIV positive	
	State	Federal
1991	2.3%	1.0%
1992	2.6	1.2
1993	2.6	1.2
1994	2.5	1.1
1995	2.4	0.9
1996	2.4	1.0

Source: BJS, National Prisoner Statistics.

HIV-infected inmates were concentrated in a small number of States. New York and Florida housed the largest number of HIV-positive inmates (9,500 and 2,152, respectively). In 1996, these two States housed nearly half of all HIV-infected inmates in State prisons.

More than half of the State prison inmates known to be HIV positive were found in the Northeast. Within the Northeast, 7.5 percent of the prison population were HIV positive, followed by 2.0 percent in the South, 1.1 percent in the Midwest, and 0.8 percent in the West. New York had the highest percentage of inmates known to be HIV positive (13.6 percent), followed by Connecticut (4.6 percent), and Rhode Island (3.9 percent). These three States had the highest percentage of HIV-positive inmates after 1994.

Of the 48 States that reported information on the number of HIV-positive inmates in 1996, each reported having at least one. Eight States (Alaska, Maine, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Vermont, West Virginia, and Wyoming) reported 10 or fewer cases of HIV-positive inmates in their prisons. Eleven States reported that fewer than 0.5 percent of their inmate population were HIV positive. Between 1995 and 1996 the largest growth of HIV-positive inmates was reported in Virginia—383 in 1996, up from 134 in 1995. Other notable increases during 1996 were reported in Michigan (up 149) and Maryland (up 108).

Table 2. Inmates in custody of State or Federal prison authorities and known to be positive for the human immunodeficiency virus, 1994-96

Jurisdiction	Total known to be HIV positive			HIV/AIDS cases as a percent of total custody population ^a		
	1994	1995	1996	1994	1995	1996
U.S. total^b	22,747	24,256	24,881	2.4%	2.3%	2.3%
Federal	964	822	947	1.1	0.9	1.0
State	21,783	23,434	23,934	2.5	2.4	2.4
Northeast	11,001	12,262	12,090	7.4%	7.8%	7.5%
Connecticut	940	755	690	6.6	5.1	4.6
Maine	8	4	4	0.5	0.3	0.3
Massachusetts	388	409	393	3.4	3.9	3.6
New Hampshire	26	31	18	1.3	1.5	0.9
New Jersey	770	847	705	3.6	3.7	3.0
New York	8,295	9,500	9,500	12.4	13.9	13.6
Pennsylvania	461	590	652	1.6	1.8	1.9
Rhode Island	113	126	125	3.8	4.4	3.9
Vermont	0	0	3	0	0	0.3
Midwest	1,750	1,667	1,874	1.1%	0.9%	1.0%
Illinois	600	583	634	1.6	1.5	1.6
Indiana	--	--	--	--	--	--
Iowa	25	20	24	0.5	0.3	0.4
Kansas	20	24	16	0.3	0.3	0.2
Michigan	384	379	528	0.9	0.9	1.2
Minnesota	35	46	24	0.8	1.0	0.5
Missouri	146	173	190	0.8	0.9	0.9
Nebraska	16	19	17	0.6	0.6	0.5
North Dakota	3	2	3	0.5	0.3	0.4
Ohio	454	346	343	1.1	0.8	0.7
South Dakota	2	3	4	0.1	0.2	0.2
Wisconsin	65	72	91	0.6	0.6	0.7
South	7,440	7,870	8,162	2.0%	1.9%	1.9%
Alabama	210	222	234	1.1	1.1	1.1
Arkansas	81	83	77	1.0	1.0	0.9
Delaware	34	122	--	0.8	2.5	--
District of Columbia	--	--	--	--	--	--
Florida	1,986	2,193	2,152	3.5	3.4	3.4
Georgia	884	858	814	2.6	2.5	2.3
Kentucky	44	41	55	0.5	0.4	0.5
Louisiana	285	314	347	1.8	1.8	2.0
Maryland	774	724	832	3.7	3.4	3.8
Mississippi	119	138	135	1.2	1.4	1.3
North Carolina	521	526	589	2.2	1.9	2.0
Oklahoma	102	115	108	0.8	0.8	0.7
South Carolina	434	380	422	2.5	2.0	2.1
Tennessee	89	120	131	0.7	0.9	1.0
Texas	1,584	1,890	1,876	1.6	1.5	1.4
Virginia	285	134	383	1.4	0.6	1.5
West Virginia	8	10	7	0.4	0.4	0.3
West	1,592	1,635	1,808	0.8%	0.8%	0.8%
Alaska	--	5	10	--	0.2	0.3
Arizona	143	140	205	0.7	0.7	0.9
California	1,055	1,042	1,136	0.8	0.8	0.8
Colorado	79	93	94	0.9	1.0	0.9
Hawaii	14	12	23	0.5	0.4	0.7
Idaho	20	11	17	0.8	0.4	0.5
Montana	7	4	6	0.4	0.2	0.4
Nevada	122	147	133	1.8	1.9	1.6
New Mexico	19	24	11	0.5	0.6	0.2
Oregon	24	29	39	0.3	0.4	0.5
Utah	48	31	31	1.5	0.8	0.7
Washington	55	92	99	0.5	0.8	0.8
Wyoming	6	5	4	0.6	0.4	0.3

--Not reported.

^aThe custody population includes only those inmates housed in a jurisdiction's facilities.

^bTotals exclude those inmates in jurisdictions that did not report data on HIV/AIDS.

Counts may differ from previous reports. Percentages for all years are based on year-end custody counts.

Source: BJS, National Prisoner Statistics.

Table 3. Inmates in custody of State or Federal prison authorities, by type of HIV infection or confirmed AIDS, year-end 1996

Jurisdiction	Cases of HIV or confirmed AIDS				Confirmed AIDS cases as a percent of –	
	Total ^a	Asymptomatic ^b	Symptomatic ^c	Confirmed AIDS	Total HIV cases	Custody population
U.S. total	24,881	15,697	1,959	5,874	23.6%	0.5%
Federal	947	549	45	353	37.3	0.4
State	23,934	15,148	1,914	5,521	23.1	0.6
Northeast	12,090	9,109	846	2,135	17.7%	1.3%
Connecticut	690	199	252	239	34.6	1.6
Maine	4	4	0	0	**	0
Massachusetts	393	79	148	166	42.2	1.5
New Hampshire	18	0	18	0	0	0
New Jersey	705	445	--	260	36.9	1.1
New York	9,500	8,005	287	1,208	12.7	1.7
Pennsylvania	652	318	112	222	34	0.6
Rhode Island	125	56	29	40	32	1.2
Vermont	3	3	0	0	**	0
Midwest	1,874	1,017	83	584	31.2%	0.3%
Illinois	634	394	42	198	31.2	0.5
Indiana	--	--	--	--	--	--
Iowa	24	16	--	8	33.3	0.1
Kansas	16	9	--	7	43.8	0.1
Michigan	528	255	--	273	51.7	0.6
Minnesota	24	9	7	8	33.3	0.2
Missouri	190	--	--	--	--	--
Nebraska	17	9	4	4	23.5	0.1
North Dakota	3	3	0	0	**	0
Ohio	343	279	--	64	18.7	0.1
South Dakota	4	0	0	4	**	0.2
Wisconsin	91	43	30	18	19.8	0.1
South	8,162	3,960	820	2,221	27.2%	0.5%
Alabama	234	176	0	58	24.8	0.3
Arkansas	77	20	37	20	26	0.2
Delaware	--	--	--	--	--	--
District of Columbia	--	--	--	--	--	--
Florida	2,152	1,279	--	873	40.6	1.4
Georgia	814	--	--	--	--	--
Kentucky	55	36	13	6	10.9	0.1
Louisiana	347	--	--	--	--	--
Maryland	832	521	37	274	32.9	1.3
Mississippi	135	111	--	24	17.8	0.2
North Carolina	589	--	390	199	33.8	0.7
Oklahoma	108	99	--	9	8.3	0.1
South Carolina	422	309	--	113	26.8	0.6
Tennessee	131	--	94	37	28.2	0.3
Texas	1,876	1,128	249	499	26.6	0.4
Virginia	383	275	0	108	28.2	0.4
West Virginia	7	6	0	1	**	‡
West	1,808	1,062	165	581	32.1%	0.3%
Alaska	10	4	6	--	**	--
Arizona	205	171	--	34	16.6	0.2
California	1,136	585	122	429	37.8	0.3
Colorado	94	77	--	17	18.1	0.2
Hawaii	23	17	4	2	8.7	0.1
Idaho	17	13	0	4	23.5	0.1
Montana	6	2	0	4	**	0.3
Nevada	133	94	--	39	29.3	0.5
New Mexico	11	9	0	2	18.2	‡
Oregon	39	23	12	4	10.3	‡
Utah	31	17	0	14	45.2	0.3
Washington	99	46	21	32	32.3	0.3
Wyoming	4	4	0	0	**	0

Note: Totals and percentages exclude inmates in jurisdictions that did not report data on type of HIV/AIDS infection. The custody population includes only inmates housed at the end of 1996.

**Not calculated for 10 or fewer cases.

--Not reported.

‡Less than .05%.

^aGeorgia, Louisiana, and Missouri reported the total of HIV-positive cases but not the type of HIV.

^bIncludes all inmates who had tested positive for the HIV antibody but had no HIV-related symptoms.

^cIncludes inmates with symptoms of HIV infection but without a confirmed AIDS diagnosis.

Source: BJS, National Prisoner Statistics.

Confirmed AIDS Cases in U.S. Prisons

At the end of 1996, 5,874 inmates in U.S. prisons had confirmed AIDS: 5,521 were State inmates and 353 were Federal inmates (table 3). Of the remaining HIV-positive inmates, 1,959 showed symptoms of AIDS (symptomatic), while 15,697 were HIV positive but showed no symptoms of AIDS (asymptomatic).

Confirmed AIDS cases made up 0.5 percent of all inmates in State and Federal prisons. Of those inmates known to be HIV positive, nearly a quarter had confirmed AIDS.

During 1996 the number of confirmed AIDS cases increased by 748. Overall, after 1991 the number of confirmed AIDS cases increased by 4,165—an average annual increase of 28.3 percent. The number of inmates with lesser or no symptoms of HIV infection actually decreased in 1996, and the number was below the numbers reported in every year from 1992 to 1995.

Year	HIV-positive State and Federal inmates	
	Confirmed AIDS cases	Other than confirmed AIDS cases
1991	1,682	15,797
1992	2,644	18,087
1993	3,765	17,773
1994	4,849	17,864
1995	5,099	18,165
1996	5,847	17,656

Note: Care should be exercised when comparing the number of reported cases over time. In January 1993 the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention revised the HIV classification system and expanded the surveillance case definition for AIDS to include specific CD4+ T-lymphocyte criteria and three additional clinical conditions—pulmonary tuberculosis, recurrent pneumonia, and invasive cervical cancer. This expansion resulted in a substantial increase in the number of reported AIDS cases during 1993. See *Methodology*, pp. 17-19.

The States with the largest number of confirmed AIDS cases were New York (1,208), Florida (873), Texas (499), and California (429). Combined, these States made up 55 percent of all confirmed AIDS cases in State prisons. Eighteen States reported having fewer than 10 confirmed AIDS cases in their prisons.

The highest percentage of the State prison population having confirmed AIDS was in New York (1.7 percent), followed by Connecticut (1.6 percent), Massachusetts (1.5 percent), Florida (1.4 percent), and Maryland (1.3 percent). In 17 States confirmed AIDS cases comprised 0.1 percent or fewer of State inmates.

Comparison to the U.S. Resident Population

At the end of 1996, the rate of confirmed AIDS in State and Federal prisons was six times higher than in the total U.S. population. About 54 in 10,000 prison inmates had confirmed AIDS, compared to 9 in 10,000 persons in the U.S. population.

In every year from 1991 to 1996, the rate of confirmed AIDS was higher among prison inmates than in the general population. In 1992 the rate of AIDS was 11 times higher for prisoners than the general population. In 1993, following a revision of the HIV classification system and an expansion of the case definition for AIDS, the rate of confirmed AIDS increased 1½ times among prisoners and doubled in the general population. After the adoption of these new measures, the incidence of AIDS grew somewhat faster in the general population. At year-end 1996 the rate of confirmed AIDS was six times higher in prisons than in the general population.

Year	Percent of population with confirmed AIDS	
	U.S. general population	Inmates in State and Federal prisons
1991	0.03%	0.21%
1992	0.03	0.33
1993	0.06	0.50
1994	0.07	0.52
1995	0.08	0.51
1996	0.09	0.54

Note: The percent of the general population with confirmed AIDS in each year may be overestimated due to delays in death reports. Care should be exercised when comparing percents over time, because of changes in the case definition for AIDS. See *Methodology*, pp. 17-19.

Table 4. State prison inmates known to be positive for the human immunodeficiency virus, by sex, year-end 1996

Jurisdiction	Male HIV cases		Female HIV cases	
	Number	Percent of population	Number	Percent of population
Total	21,799	2.3%	2,135	3.5%
Northeast	10,985	7.2%	1,105	13.0%
Connecticut	581	4.2	109	9.7
Maine	4	0.3	0	0
Massachusetts	327	3.2	66	9.1
New Hampshire	15	0.8	3	2.1
New Jersey	614	2.8	91	9.0
New York	8,736	13.2	764	20.5
Pennsylvania	605	1.8	47	3.2
Rhode Island	100	3.3	25	11.7
Vermont	3	0.3	0	0
Midwest	1,741	1.0%	133	1.3%
Illinois	583	1.6	51	2.3
Indiana	--	--	--	--
Iowa	21	0.4	3	0.6
Kansas	15	0.2	1	0.2
Michigan	498	1.2	30	1.6
Minnesota	23	0.5	1	0.4
Missouri	178	0.9	12	0.8
Nebraska	17	0.6	0	0
North Dakota	2	0.3	1	1.8
Ohio	317	0.7	26	0.9
South Dakota	4	0.2	0	0
Wisconsin	83	0.7	8	1.3
South	7,375	1.8%	787	3.0%
Alabama	217	1.1	17	1.3
Arkansas	72	0.9	5	0.9
Delaware	--	--	--	--
District of Columbia	--	--	--	--
Florida	1,929	3.2	223	6.8
Georgia	734	2.2	80	3.6
Kentucky	52	0.5	3	0.6
Louisiana	329	1.9	18	2.3
Maryland	763	3.7	69	6.6
Mississippi	130	1.4	5	0.7
North Carolina	517	1.9	72	4.0
Oklahoma	98	0.7	10	0.8
South Carolina	398	2.1	24	2.1
Tennessee	129	1.0	2	0.5
Texas	1,645	1.3	231	2.3
Virginia	355	1.5	28	2.1
West Virginia	7	0.3	0	0
West	1,698	0.8%	110	0.7%
Alaska	8	0.3	2	1.1
Arizona	200	1.0	5	0.3
California	1,096	0.8	40	0.4
Colorado	86	0.9	8	1.0
Hawaii	23	0.8	0	0
Idaho	15	0.5	2	0.9
Montana	6	0.4	0	0
Nevada	103	1.4	30	5.2
New Mexico	10	0.2	1	0.3
Oregon	35	0.4	4	0.7
Utah	28	0.7	3	1.1
Washington	85	0.7	14	1.5
Wyoming	3	0.2	1	1.1

--Not reported.

Source: BJS, National Prisoner Statistics.

HIV Infection of Male and Female State Prison Inmates

At year-end 1996 there were 21,799 male inmates and 2,135 female inmates known to be HIV positive (table 4). Overall, 2.3 percent of male inmates and 3.5 percent of all female inmates were known to be HIV positive. The rate of HIV infection in females was higher than male infection rates in all regions except the West and in most States.

Between 1995 and 1996 the number of infected female inmates decreased 2.2 percent from 2,182 to 2,135; the number of infected male inmates increased 5.4 percent from 20,690 in 1995 to 21,799 in 1996. Overall, among State prisoners, the number of males infected with HIV increased 35 percent, and the number of females infected increased 84 percent between 1991 and 1996.

Year	State prison inmates	
	Number of HIV-positive inmates	Percent HIV positive in custody population of reporting States
Males		
1991	16,150	2.2%
1992	18,266	2.6
1993	18,218	2.5
1994	19,762	2.4
1995	20,690	2.3
1996	21,799	2.3
Average annual change, 1991-96*	6.2%	
Females		
1991	1,159	3.0%
1992	1,598	4.0
1993	1,796	4.2
1994	1,953	3.9
1995	2,182	4.0
1996	2,135	3.5
Average annual change, 1991-96*	13.0%	

*In 1991 North Carolina, South Dakota, and the District of Columbia did not report data by gender. In 1995 Delaware, Indiana, South Carolina, and the District of Columbia did not report data by gender.

Source: BJS, National Prisoner Statistics.

States in the Northeast reported the largest number of HIV-positive male and female inmates (10,985 and 1,105, respectively). In eight States, more than 5 percent of all female inmates were known to be HIV positive. In two States over 10 percent of all female inmates were known to be HIV positive—New York (20.5 percent) and Rhode Island (11.7 percent). New York (13.2 percent) was the only State in which more than 10 percent of all male inmates were HIV positive.

Among all States, New York reported the largest number of male and female HIV-positive inmates (8,736 and 764, respectively). The second largest number of HIV-positive male inmates were in Florida (1,929), followed by Texas (1,645). The second largest number of HIV-positive female inmates were in Texas (231), followed by Florida (223). Seven States reported no female HIV-positive inmates, and every State reported at least one male HIV-positive inmate.

AIDS-Related Deaths in State Prisons

The number of State inmates who died of *Pneumocystis carinii* pneumonia, Kaposi's sarcoma, or other AIDS-related diseases decreased from 1,010 in 1995 to 907 in 1996 (table 5). These AIDS deaths accounted for 29 percent of all deaths among State prisoners, down from 34 percent in 1995. Beginning in 1991 AIDS-related causes were the second leading cause of death in State prisons, behind natural causes other than AIDS.

In 1996, for every 100,000 inmates, 90 died from AIDS-related causes. Between 1991 and 1995, the number of AIDS-related deaths in State prisons increased 94 percent; however, in 1996 the number decreased 10 percent from 1995. With the introduction of protease inhibitors and combination antiretroviral therapies, there was appreciable improvement in the effectiveness of HIV/AIDS care.

The rate of death because of AIDS is about three times higher in the prison population than in the total U.S. population age 15–54. Between 1991 and 1996, about 1 in every 3 prisoner deaths were attributable to AIDS-related causes, compared to about 1 in 10 deaths in the general population.

AIDS-related deaths accounted for more than half of all inmate deaths in Connecticut (65 percent), New York (55 percent), New Jersey (52 percent), and Florida (50 percent) (table 6). Seventeen States reported having no AIDS-related deaths, and five States reported one AIDS-related death.

Year	AIDS-related deaths as a percent of all deaths	
	U.S. general population age 15–54*	State prison inmates
1991	10.4%	28.0%
1992	11.7	35.2
1993	11.9	33.2
1994	12.7	35.1
1995	12.4	34.2
1996	--	29.3

-- Not available.

* See *Methodology*, p. 18, for source of data.

Table 5. Number of inmate deaths in State prisons, by cause, 1994–96

Cause of death	1994		1995		1996	
	Number	Rate of death per 100,000 inmates	Number	Rate of death per 100,000 inmates	Number	Rate of death per 100,000 inmates
Total	2,878	314	3,133	311	3,095	308
Natural causes other than AIDS	1,393	152	1,569	156	1,715	170
AIDS	955	104	1,010	100	907	90
Suicide	155	17	160	16	154	15
Accident	33	4	48	5	43	4
Execution	30	3	56	6	45	4
By another person	68	7	86	9	65	6
Other/unspecified	244	27	204	20	166	16

Note: In 1994 some States did not report complete data on cause of death. To calculate the rate of death, the number of inmates under State jurisdiction on June 30 of each year was used as an approximation of the average population exposed to the risk of death during the year. Inmates in States that did not report data on inmate deaths were excluded in 1994. All States reported data on inmate deaths in 1995 and 1996.

Source: BJS, National Prisoner Statistics.

Table 6. AIDS-related deaths of sentenced prisoners under State jurisdiction, 1996

Jurisdiction	Deaths from all causes in State prisons		AIDS-related deaths		
	Total	Rate per 100,000 inmates ^a	Total	Rate per 100,000 inmates ^a	As a percent of all deaths ^b
Total	3,095	308	907	90	29.3%
Northeast	691	437	329	208	47.6%
Connecticut	49	327	32	213	65.3
Maine	3	206	0	0	**
Massachusetts	30	262	7	61	23.3
New Hampshire	2	97	0	0	**
New Jersey	142	554	74	289	52.1
New York	330	482	182	266	55.2
Pennsylvania	128	429	33	111	25.8
Rhode Island	7	223	1	32	**
Vermont	0	0	0	0	**
Midwest	480	252	61	41	12.7%
Illinois	96	254	32	85	33.3
Indiana	39	248	2	13	5.1
Iowa	10	176	0	0	**
Kansas	20	289	2	29	10.0
Michigan	125	302	--	--	--
Minnesota	10	210	1	21	**
Missouri	37	195	0	0	0
Nebraska	8	286	0	0	**
North Dakota	0	0	0	0	**
Ohio	117	269	20	46	17.1
South Dakota	4	220	0	0	**
Wisconsin	14	132	4	38	28.6
South	1,461	327	447	109	30.6%
Alabama	89	443	13	65	14.6
Arkansas	23	253	2	22	8.7
Delaware	20	430	0	0	0
District of Columbia	29	277	--	--	--
Florida	247	398	124	200	50.2
Georgia	114	334	48	141	42.1
Kentucky	30	251	1	8	3.3
Louisiana	86	346	20	81	23.3
Maryland	48	224	16	75	33.3
Mississippi	32	257	5	40	15.6
North Carolina	74	276	26	97	35.1
Oklahoma	66	375	4	23	6.1
South Carolina	76	390	27	139	35.5
Tennessee	60	402	8	54	13.3
Texas	377	297	122	96	32.4
Virginia	84	308	31	114	36.9
West Virginia	6	246	0	0	**
West	463	220	70	33	15.1%
Alaska	3	93	0	0	**
Arizona	61	292	0	0	0
California	253	192	49	37	19.4
Colorado	22	205	0	0	0
Hawaii	4	112	0	0	**
Idaho	3	93	1	31	**
Montana	5	264	0	0	**
Nevada	35	467	8	107	22.9
New Mexico	4	97	0	0	**
Oregon	25	333	2	27	8.0
Utah	7	214	1	31	**
Washington	33	289	9	79	27.3
Wyoming	8	612	0	0	**

--Not reported.

**Not calculated for 10 or fewer deaths.

^aBased on the number of inmates under State jurisdiction on June 30, 1996.

^bNational and regional totals exclude inmates in jurisdictions that did not report data on cause of death.

Source: BJS, National Prisoner Statistics.

HIV Prevalence Rates and Testing Policies

Data on HIV prevalence rates are reported in the National Prisoners Statistics series (NPS) by prison officials. The quality of the information reported varied by the testing policies that a particular State implemented. Testing policies ranged from testing all inmates to testing only upon inmate request. Although 19 States tested either all inmates in custody or a random selection, and 27 test targeted groups (high-risk individuals or upon indication or incidence), 5 tested solely upon inmate request. Official data represent the minimum number of individuals known to be HIV positive within a prison facility.

Testing policy	Number of jurisdictions
All inmates (incoming or in custody)	16
Random	3
High-risk groups/upon incident/ indication of need	27
Inmate request only	5

Note: Categories are mutually exclusive; therefore total adds to 51. Delaware did not report data on testing policies. See chapter 5 for more detailed data on testing policies. Source: BJS, National Prisoner Statistics.

Blinded or “unlinked” studies have been conducted as another means of determining the HIV prevalence in State prisons. These studies are blinded in that the identity of the inmate is not linked to the result of the HIV test. An inmate’s blood that has been drawn during a routine physical examination upon entering a facility is tested for HIV. The sample is sent to a lab with no information regarding the inmate.

Blinded studies may not accurately account for the prevalence rate of HIV in prisons. Often these studies are conducted in only a few facilities, and are snapshots, examined over one period solely on admission cohorts. Because of this, blinded studies are limited in that they may not be generalized to the overall prison population. Discrepancies are apparent between HIV prevalence rates reported in official records and those produced from blinded studies.

Data from a blinded study conducted in Massachusetts in 1995 suggest that 6.8 percent of incoming inmates are HIV positive, while official data from 1995 indicate 3.9 percent of all inmates in custody were HIV positive. Similarly, data from blinded studies conducted in Maryland (1991), California (1994), Illinois (1991), and New Jersey (1991)

suggest that official data underestimate the HIV prevalence rate.

Official data from New York in 1994 and 1995, however, revealed higher HIV prevalence rates than data from a 1994-1995 blinded study. The blinded study showed that 10 percent of all incoming inmates were HIV positive, while official data showed that of all inmates in custody, 12.4 percent in 1994 and 13.9 percent in 1995 were HIV positive. Similarly, National Prisoner Statistics (NPS) data from Arkansas (1992) and Washington (1991) suggest a higher prevalence rate among inmates than data from blinded studies (0.9 percent compared to 0.6 percent, and 0.5 percent compared to 0.2 percent).

States	Percent HIV positive	
	NPS	Blinded studies ^a
Massachusetts (1995)	3.9%	6.8%
Maryland (1991)	2.5	8.5
California (1994)	0.8	2.5
Illinois (1991)	1.0	4.9
New Jersey (1991)	4.0	9.5
New York (1994-95) ^b	13.2	10.0
Arkansas (1992)	0.9	0.6
Washington (1991) ^c	0.5	0.2

^aData from Illinois, New Jersey, Arkansas, and Washington came from the 1994 Update: HIV/AIDS and STDs in Correctional Facilities. Data for Massachusetts, Maryland, California, and New York came from other sources. (See *Methodology*, p. 19, for further detail.)

^bThe New York blinded study covered both 1994 and 1995. The NPS rate for New York represents an average of the reporting years.

^cNo women were tested in the blinded study.

HIV/AIDS Reported in Personal Interviews

Additional information on the prevalence of HIV/AIDS may also be obtained through personal interviews of prisoners. Though some inmates may be reluctant to report that they are HIV positive and others may not know, surveys provide a means to track HIV infection among demographic and “high-risk” groups not identified in official records or blinded studies.

The 1997 Surveys of State and Federal Correctional Facilities asked inmates if they had ever been tested, if they had been tested since admission, and whether they were HIV positive. Similar questions were asked in the 1996 Survey of Inmates in Local Jails. (See *Methodology* for further detail.)

Table 7. Inmates ever tested or tested since admission for the human immunodeficiency virus and test results

Characteristic	Percent of inmates		
	Local jails	State prisons	Federal prisons
All inmates			
HIV positive	1.2%	1.7%	0.5%
Ever tested	57.2%	74.6%	79.6%
HIV positive	2.2	2.2	0.6
Tested since admission	17.7%	59.1%	69.7%
HIV positive	3.9	2.6	0.7

Note: Data are from the 1996 Survey of Inmates in Local Jails and the 1997 Surveys of Inmates in State and Federal Correctional Facilities.

In 1997, 17,674 (1.7 percent) State prison inmates and 428 (0.5 percent) Federal prison inmates were known to be HIV positive (table 7). Of those inmates who reported being tested since admission to State prison, or to Federal prison, 2.6 percent and 0.7 percent, respectively, reported being HIV positive.

Among State prisoners, female inmates (3.4 percent) were more likely than male inmates (2.2 percent) to be HIV positive (table 8). Black non-Hispanic inmates (2.8 percent) were twice as likely as white non-Hispanic inmates (1.4 percent) to report being HIV positive.

Among male inmates, blacks (2.7 percent) were nearly twice as likely as whites to be HIV positive. The rates of

Table 8. Inmates ever tested for the human immunodeficiency virus and results, by selected characteristics

Characteristic	Inmates ever tested					
	Local jails		State prisons		Federal prisons	
	Number	Percent HIV positive	Number	Percent HIV positive	Number	Percent HIV positive
All inmates	289,991	2.2%	790,128	2.2%	70,902	0.6%
Sex						
Male	258,019	2.1%	734,327	2.2%	65,723	0.6%
Female	31,972	2.4	55,800	3.4	5,179	0.6
Race/Hispanic origin						
White non-Hispanic	110,023	1.4%	257,919	1.4%	21,128	0.3%
Male	98,745	1.3	239,687	1.4	19,565	0.3
Female	11,278	2.1	18,232	2.3	1,563	0.3
Black non-Hispanic	125,259	2.6	384,870	2.8	28,178	0.8
Male	110,453	2.5	357,736	2.7	26,387	0.8
Female	14,806	3.2	27,135	3.9	1,791	1.3
Hispanic	45,759	3.2	123,725	2.5	18,466	0.7
Male	40,985	3.5	115,344	2.4	16,892	0.7
Female	4,774	1.3	8,382	4.2	1,573	0
Age						
17-24	81,228	0.7%	154,181	0.5%	5,528	0.1%
25-34	116,532	2.1	310,161	2.3	26,262	0.5
35-44	70,776	3.8	232,835	3.1	22,228	0.4
45 or older	21,455	3.0	92,168	2.7	16,884	1.2
Marital status						
Married	45,890	1.4%	128,834	1.7%	21,545	0.5%
Widowed/divorced	48,695	3.0	161,468	2.0	16,331	0.4
Separated	25,929	2.1	45,435	2.9	3,884	0
Never married	169,270	2.1	453,664	2.4	29,045	0.8
Education						
Less than high school	121,589	2.3%	302,437	2.7%	17,226	0.8%
GED	45,431	1.3	231,714	1.4	16,389	0.6
High school or more	122,597	2.3	254,975	2.4	37,237	0.5

Note: Data are from the 1996 Survey of Inmates in Local Jails and the 1997 Surveys of Inmates in State and Federal Correctional Facilities.

Table 9. Inmates ever tested for the human immunodeficiency virus and results, by offense and prior drug use

Characteristic	Inmates ever tested					
	Local jails		State prisons		Federal prisons	
	Number	Percent HIV positive	Number	Percent HIV positive	Number	Percent HIV positive
Current offense						
Violent	72,846	1.5%	360,370	1.9%	10,681	1.0%
Property	79,936	2.2	178,601	2.4	4,660	1.0
Drug	65,780	3.3	164,256	2.9	43,815	0.4
Public-order	64,820	1.7	77,049	1.9	10,029	1.0
Prior drug use						
Never	42,242	1.6%	123,049	1.7%	18,917	0.3%
Ever	247,233	2.3	665,977	2.3	51,847	0.7
In the month before offense	106,907	2.9	460,685	2.7	32,113	0.3
Used needle to inject drugs	61,862	4.0	168,446	4.6	9,443	1.3
Ever shared a needle	25,476	6.3	74,393	7.7	4,022	2.1

Note: Data are from the 1996 Survey of Inmates in Local Jails and the 1997 Surveys of Inmates in State and Federal Correctional Facilities.

HIV infection among female inmates were not significantly different among whites (2.3 percent), blacks (3.9 percent), and Hispanics (4.2 percent).

In Federal prisons 0.6 percent of males and of females reported HIV infection. Non-Hispanic white inmates reported the lowest HIV-positive rates (0.3 percent). In both State and Federal prisons, inmates age 17 to 24 reported the lowest rate of being HIV positive (0.5 percent and 0.1 percent, respectively). In State prisons, inmates age 35 to 44 reported the highest HIV-positive rate (3.1 percent). Those State inmates in each age category over 24 were more likely to be HIV positive than those who were 24 or younger. In Federal prisons, inmates age 45 or older reported the highest rate of HIV infection (1.2 percent).

HIV-Positive Prison Inmates, by Offense and Prior Drug Use

Those inmates being held on a drug offense in State prisons reported the highest HIV positive rate (2.9 percent) (table 9). Of property offenders, 2.4 percent reported being HIV positive. Violent and public-order offenders reported slightly lower rates (1.9 percent each). Among Federal prison inmates, 1.0 percent of violent offenders, property offenders, and public-order offenders reported being HIV positive as did 0.4 percent of drug offenders.

The percentage of State and Federal prison inmates reporting that they were HIV positive varied by level of prior drug use. By type of drug use practice, the following percentages of State prison inmates reported being HIV positive: never using drugs, 1.7 percent HIV positive; ever used drugs, 2.3 percent; used drugs in the month before their current offense, 2.7 percent; used a needle to inject drugs, 4.6 percent; and shared a needle, 7.7 percent HIV positive. Like State inmates, Federal inmates who used a needle and shared a needle had a higher rate of HIV infection than those inmates who reported ever using drugs or using drugs in the month before their current offense (1.3 percent and 2.1 percent compared to 0.7 percent and 0.3 percent). Unlike State inmates, Federal inmates using drugs in the month prior to their current offense reported a lower rate of HIV infection (0.3 percent) than inmates who reported ever using drugs (0.7 percent).

HIV Infection of Local Jail Inmates

At midyear 1993, when the last national census of local jails was conducted, 1.8 percent of the inmates were known to be HIV positive. Among jails reporting data, a total of 6,711 inmates were HIV positive, and 1,888 had confirmed AIDS. The infection rate was highest in the largest jail jurisdictions. Almost 3 percent of the inmates in the Nation's largest jurisdictions were reported HIV positive. Among the remaining jurisdictions, the larger the size, the greater the percentage of inmates with HIV/AIDS. In jurisdictions with 500 or more inmates, 1.6 percent of the inmates were infected; in jurisdictions with 250 to 499 inmates, 1.2 percent; and in jurisdictions holding fewer than 250 inmates, 1 percent or less.

Size of jurisdiction ^a	1993 Census of Jails	
	Number HIV positive ^b	HIV/AIDS as a percent of jail inmates
Total	6,711	1.8%
50 largest	3,926	2.9
500 or more	1,374	1.6
250-499	490	1.2
100-249	470	1.0
Fewer than 100	451	0.8

^aBased on the average daily population between July 1, 1992, and June 30, 1993.

^bExcludes inmates in facilities that did not report data.

Source: *HIV in Prisons and Jails, 1993*.

HIV Test Results for Local Jail Inmates, by Inmate Characteristic

Detailed data, based on interviews of a national sample of inmates in local jails, are available from the 1996 Survey of Inmates in Local Jails. Conducted between October 1995 and March 1996, the survey provides national estimates of the number of jail inmates tested for HIV/AIDS and the percent HIV positive.

In 1996, 6,289 local jail inmates (1.2 percent of all inmates) were known to be HIV positive (table 7). An estimated 57 percent of all respondents in the survey said they had ever been tested for HIV. Of those who had been tested for HIV, 2.2 percent said they were HIV positive. Since admission, about 18 percent of inmates had been tested for HIV, and 3.9 percent reported HIV positive results.

Among jail inmates, 2.1 percent of males and 2.4 percent of females said they were HIV positive (table 8). An estimated 2.6 percent of black inmates, compared to 1.4 percent of white inmates, said they tested HIV positive. Among male inmates, blacks (2.5 percent) were nearly twice as likely as whites (1.3 percent) to report being HIV positive. Hispanic males had the highest HIV-positive rate (3.5 percent). Among female inmates, although the percentage who reported they were HIV positive was higher among blacks (3.2 percent) than whites (2.1 percent) and Hispanics (1.3 percent,) the differences were not statistically significant.

Inmates age 24 or younger had the lowest HIV-positive rates (0.7 percent), while those 35 to 44 had the highest rates (3.8 percent). Inmates 25-34 and 45 or older fell in the middle (2.1 percent and 3.0 percent, respectively). Inmates who had completed high school were as likely as those who had not completed high school to say they tested HIV positive (2.3 percent).

Percent HIV Positive among Jail Inmates, by Offense and Prior Drug Use

Among jail inmates who said they had been tested for HIV/AIDS, those held for drug offenses were the most likely to be HIV positive (3.3 percent) (table 9). Drug offenders were twice as likely as violent offenders (1.5 percent) to report that they tested positive for HIV. Property and public-order offenders reported somewhat lower rates—2.2 percent and 1.7 percent, respectively.

The percent of jail inmates reporting that they were HIV positive varied by level of prior drug use. An estimated 2.3 percent of inmates who had ever used drugs, 2.9 percent of inmates who used drugs in the month before their current offense, 4.0 percent of inmates who said they had used needles to inject drugs, and 6.3 percent of those who had shared a needle with someone else reported being HIV positive.

Methodology

National Prisoner Statistics

The National Prisoner Statistics series (NPS) includes an annual year-end count of prisoners by jurisdiction, sex, race, Hispanic origin, and admissions and releases during the year. The series consists of yearly reports to the Bureau of Justice Statistics from the departments of corrections of the 50 States and the District of Columbia and from the Federal Bureau of Prisons.

Since 1991 respondents have been asked to indicate their policies for testing for HIV and to provide the number of HIV-infected inmates in their custody on the last day of the calendar year.

Surveys of Inmates in State and Federal Correctional Facilities, 1997

The 1997 Surveys of Inmates in State and Federal Correctional Facilities were conducted for the Bureau of Justice Statistics by the U.S. Bureau of the Census. The Federal Bureau of Prisons co-sponsored the Survey of Inmates in Federal Correctional Facilities. Personal interviews were conducted from June 1997 through October 1997. Information was collected about individual characteristics of prison inmates, current and prior offenses and sentences, criminal histories, characteristics of the current offense, family background, prior drug and alcohol use and treatment, and conditions of confinement.

The sample for the Federal inmates survey was selected from a universe of 135 Federal prisons holding sentenced inmates. For State inmates the sample came from 1,453 State prisons counted in the 1995 Census of State Correctional Facilities performed on June 30, 1995, with prisons opening between the census and June 30, 1996, added. The overall response rate in the State survey was 92.5 percent. Similar surveys of State prison inmates were conducted in 1974, 1979, 1986, and 1991. The first survey of Federal inmates was done in 1991.

Census of Jails, 1993

The 1993 Census of Jails included all locally administered confinement facilities (3,287) that held inmates beyond arraignment and were staffed by municipal or county employees. The census also included 17 jails that were privately operated under contract for local governments.

Excluded from the census were temporary holding facilities, such as drunk tanks and police lockups, that do not hold persons after being formally charged in court (usually within 72 hours of arrest). Also excluded were State-operated facilities in Alaska, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Rhode Island, and Vermont, which have combined jail-prison systems.

Survey of Inmates in Local Jails, 1996

The 1996 Survey of Inmates in Local Jails was conducted for BJS by the U.S. Bureau of the Census. Through personal interviews conducted from October 1995 through March 1996, data were collected on individual characteristics of jail inmates, current offenses, sentences and time served, criminal histories, jail activities, conditions and programs, prior drug and alcohol use and treatment, and health care services provided while in jail. The sample for the 1996 survey was selected from a universe of 3,328 jails that were enumerated from the 1993 Census of Jails. The total nonresponse was 13.7 percent. Similar surveys of jail inmates were conducted in 1972, 1978, 1983, and 1989.

Accuracy of the Survey Estimates

The accuracy of the estimates from the 1996 Survey of Inmates in Local Jails and the 1997 Surveys of Inmates in State and Federal Correctional Facilities depends on two types of error: sampling and nonsampling. Sampling error is variation that may occur by chance because a sample rather than a complete enumeration of the population was conducted. Nonsampling error can be attributed to many sources, such as nonresponse, differences in the interpretation of questions among inmates, recall difficulties, and processing errors. In any survey the full extent of the nonsampling error is never known.

The sampling error, as measured by an estimated standard error, varies by the size of the estimate and the size of the base population. Estimates for the percentage of inmates ever tested for HIV and the percentage who tested HIV positive have been calculated (see table 10). These standard errors may be used to construct confidence intervals around percentages. For example, the 95-percent confidence interval around the percentage of males in local jails who were HIV positive is approximately 2.1 percent plus or minus 1.96 times 0.33 percent (or 1.5 percent to 2.7 percent).

These standard errors may also be used to test the statistical significance of the difference between two sample estimates by pooling the standard errors of the estimates (that is, by taking the square root of the sum of the squared standard errors for each sample estimate). All comparisons discussed in this report were statistically significant at the 95-percent confidence level.

AIDS in the U.S. Resident Population

The number of persons with confirmed AIDS in the U.S. general population (age 13 and over) was derived from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), *HIV/AIDS Surveillance Report*, year-end editions 1991–1996. For each year the number of active AIDS cases in the United States was calculated by subtracting the number of cumulative AIDS deaths for people age 15 and older at year-end from the cumulative number of total AIDS cases for people age 13 and older at year-end as listed in the *HIV/AIDS Surveillance Report*.

The data for the U.S. general population, excluding persons under age 13, from 1991 to 1996 were taken from the U.S. Population Estimates, by Age, Sex, Race, and Hispanic Origin: 1990 to 1995, PPL-41, and the update for 1996.

The rate of confirmed AIDS cases in the U.S. resident population was calculated by dividing the annual totals for individuals with AIDS by the population estimates for the U.S. resident population of individuals 13 and older.

The classification system for HIV infection and the case definition for AIDS were expanded in 1993. This expansion improved estimates of the number and the characteristics of persons with HIV disease, but complicated interpretation of AIDS trends. The increase in reported AIDS cases in 1993 was largely the consequence of the added surveillance criteria. (See CDC, *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, Vol. 43, No. 45, November 18, 1994.)

AIDS-Related Deaths in the United States

The number of AIDS-related deaths for persons age 15–54 was derived from the CDC, *HIV/AIDS Surveillance Report*, year-end editions. Deaths in the U.S. population for persons age 15–54 were taken from the CDC, *Monthly Vital Statistics Report*, Vol. 42, No. 2(S); Vol. 43, No. 12; Vol. 43, No. 6(S); Vol. 45, No. 3(S); and Vol. 45, No. 11(S).

Table 10. Standard error estimates for the 1996 Survey of Inmates in Local Jails and the 1997 Surveys of State and Federal Correctional Facilities

Characteristics	Local jails	State prisons	Federal prisons
Sex			
Male	0.33%	0.20%	0.19%
Female	0.44	0.44	0.35
Race/Hispanic origin			
White non-Hispanic	0.38%	0.29%	0.31%
Male	0.41	0.31	0.33
Female	0.68	0.80	0.63
Black non-Hispanic	0.47	0.37	0.48
Male	0.53	0.38	0.51
Female	0.74	0.72	1.15
Hispanic	0.98	0.58	0.52
Male	1.09	0.61	0.56
Female	0.76	1.67	0.00
Age			
Under 24	0.30%	0.20%	0.27%
25–34	0.42	0.30	0.27
35–44	0.85	0.40	0.26
45 or older	1.13	0.60	0.52
Marital Status			
Married	0.58%	0.40%	0.30%
Widowed/divorced	0.88	0.39	0.31
Separated	0.97	0.88	0.00
Never married	0.38	0.25	0.33
Education			
Less than high school	0.47%	0.33%	0.42%
GED	0.46	0.27	0.38
High school graduate or more	0.49	0.34	0.23
Current Offense			
Violent	0.49%	0.25%	0.60%
Property	0.52	0.40	0.91
Drug	0.79	0.46	0.19
Public-order	0.66	0.55	0.62
Prior drug use			
Never used	0.62%	0.41%	0.25%
Ever used	0.33	0.21	0.23
Used month before offense	0.58	0.27	0.19
Used needle to inject drugs	0.85	0.57	0.73
Shared a needle	1.71	1.09	1.41

AIDS-related deaths as a percentage of all deaths in the U.S. population were calculated by dividing the national estimate of AIDS deaths of persons age 15–54 by the national mortality estimates of persons age 15–54 in a given year.

HIV Prevalence Rates from Blinded Studies

Data from blinded studies on HIV prevalence rates in Massachusetts, Maryland, California, and New York were gathered from several sources:

B. Werner et al., "Drop in HIV Seroprevalence among Men and Women Entering Massachusetts Prisons," Abstract No. 115, presented at the Third Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections, Washington, D.C., January 28–February 1, 1996.

C. Behrendt et al., "Voluntary Testing for HIV in a Prison Population with a High Prevalence of HIV." *American Journal of Epidemiology*, 139 (1994) pp. 918-26.

J. Ruiz and J. Mikanda, *Seroprevalence of HIV, Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C, and Risk Behaviors among Inmates Entering the California Correctional System* (Sacramento: California Department of Health Services, Office of AIDS, HIV/AIDS Epidemiology Branch, March 1996).

J. Mikl et al., "Trends in HIV Infection Rates among New York State Prison Inmates, 1987–1997," Poster abstract Number 23516, presented at the 12th World Congress on AIDS, Geneva, June 30, 1997.