

## AIDSVu June 2014 Update – Talking Points

### AIDSVu's Mission & Background

- AIDSVu provides the most detailed publicly available view of HIV prevalence in the United States, offering a compilation of interactive online maps that display data at the national, state and local levels and by different demographics, including age, race and sex.
- The National HIV/AIDS Strategy emphasizes the importance of intensifying our efforts in the areas where HIV is most heavily concentrated. AIDSVu helps researchers, public health officials, and community members identify those areas most impacted by the HIV epidemic.
- AIDSVu's interactive maps illustrate how the HIV epidemic affects communities differently.
- Information about HIV prevalence at the local level – as shown on AIDSVu – can help individuals understand the impact of HIV in their communities, and the AIDSVu testing locator helps users find a place in their community to get tested for HIV.
- This update of AIDSVu is being launched on National HIV Testing Day on June 27. Currently, more than 1.1 million Americans are living with HIV, and an estimated one in six people with HIV do not know their status.
- AIDSVu was developed by Emory University's Rollins School of Public Health in partnership with Gilead Sciences, Inc.
  - The project is guided by an Advisory Committee, a Technical Advisory Group and a Prevention and Treatment Advisory Committee, with representatives from federal agencies, state health departments and non-governmental organizations working in HIV prevention, care and research.

### New Data Available on AIDSVu

- This year, AIDSVu offers maps for 33 U.S. cities, including
  - 11 new cities – Baton Rouge, LA; Boston, MA; Bridgeport-Stamford-Norwalk, CT; Columbia, SC; Jackson, MS; Jacksonville, FL; Milwaukee-Waukesha-West Allis, WI; Newark, NJ; New Haven-Milford, CT; Oakland, CA; and Richmond, VA.
  - 22 updated cities – Atlanta, GA; Charlotte, NC; Chicago, IL; Dallas, TX; Denver, CO; Detroit, MI; Ft. Lauderdale, FL; Hampton Roads, VA; Houston, TX; Los Angeles County, ; Memphis, TN; Miami, FL; New Orleans, LA; New York City; Orlando, FL; Palm Beach, FL; Philadelphia, PA; San Diego, CA; San Francisco, CA; San Juan, PR; Tampa, FL; and Washington, D.C.
  - New census tract maps for Chicago, and updated census tract maps for Philadelphia and Washington, D.C.
- These 33 cities make up 57 percent of the nation's HIV epidemic, demonstrating where the needs for prevention, testing and treatment services are the most urgent.
- AIDSVu also has city profile pages for 27 U.S. cities, including 10 new cities, updated to reflect 2011 data. City profile pages use graphics and text to summarize the impact of HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases on the city as a whole.
- The state- and county-level maps will be updated this fall when CDC releases the new data. Currently they show 2010 data.

### **AIDSVu Features**

- The data on AIDSVu's maps can be viewed by race/ethnicity. AIDSVu shows that HIV disproportionately affects black and Hispanic/Latino Americans, and that these disparities exist in both major metropolitan areas and rural areas.
- HIV prevalence maps are available alongside social determinants of health – poverty, median household income, and education – and highlight correlations.
- AIDSVu also provides local information about HIV testing and treatment site locations, state AIDS Drug Assistance Programs, and NIH-funded HIV prevention, vaccine and treatment trials locations.
- Slide sets of the various map views are available for download to help those who work in HIV prevention and treatment educate others about the U.S. epidemic.

### **Background on Census Tracts**

- The census tract level data on AIDSVu was provided directly by state or city health departments, depending on the entity responsible for HIV surveillance.
- Census tracts are small, relatively permanent statistical subdivisions of a county.
- Census tracts usually have between 2,500 and 8,000 persons and, when first delineated, were designed to be homogeneous with respect to the population characteristics, economic status, and living conditions.
- Census tract boundaries are delineated with the intention of being maintained over a long time so that statistical comparisons can be made from census to census. However, physical changes in street patterns caused by highway construction, new development, etc., may require occasional revisions; census tracts occasionally are split due to large population growth, or combined as a result of substantial population decline.

### **Background on ZIP codes**

- The ZIP code-level data on AIDSVu was provided directly by state, county and city health departments, depending on the entity responsible for HIV surveillance. Each health department defined the geographic area (e.g., ZIP codes) in their jurisdiction for which they desired to display data on AIDSVu.
- The ZIP code-level data is not directly comparable to the state- and county-level HIV prevalence data also displayed on AIDSVu because the data sets originate from different sources.

### **Data Sources**

- The state- and county-level data displayed on AIDSVu were obtained from the CDC and compiled by researchers at the Rollins School of Public Health at Emory University.
- ZIP code and census tract data were provided directly by state, county and city health departments, depending on the entity responsible for HIV surveillance, and were also compiled by Rollins researchers.