

**Director's Office**

400 R Street, Suite 310  
Sacramento, California 95811-6213  
(916) 326-3600  
Fax (916) 322-2531  
www.oshpd.ca.gov

**PRESS RELEASE**  
**November 30, 2011**

**CONTACT: David Byrnes**  
**(916) 326-3606**

**NEW REPORT FINDS HIV/AIDS DRUG TREATMENTS SIGNIFICANTLY LOWER AIDS-RELATED HOSPITALIZATION AND DEATHS**

SACRAMENTO – While the number of Californians afflicted with the HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus) and AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) has grown, the antiretroviral “drug cocktail” has allowed many HIV-infected individuals to survive longer with the disease and significantly reduced their hospitalization rate, according to a brief released today by the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development (OSHPD). “*Trends in the Hospitalization of Persons Living with HIV Infection and AIDS in California, 1988 to 2008*” assesses trends in the number of people infected with HIV/AIDS and how many were hospitalized over the past two decades.

“The report finds that HIV is not the death sentence it once was as more people on medication live longer, healthier lives,” said Acting OSHPD Director Stephanie Clendenin. “As we observe World AIDS Day on December 1, it is important to note that this epidemic, which started three decades ago, is not over. Individuals should continue to engage in safe practices in order to stop the spread of the disease.”

In California, according to the California Department of Public Health, there have been more than 152,000 AIDS cases reported since the epidemic began in the 1980s, with more than 85,000 deaths resulting from the disease. The number of new cases of HIV infection or AIDS reported annually in California increased steeply until 1992. When antiretroviral drug therapies were introduced, the numbers of new AIDS cases and deaths sharply declined.

Key Findings:

- The hospitalization rate per thousand persons living with HIV/AIDS peaked at 464 in 1992 before declining sharply following the introduction of the antiretroviral drugs, dropping to 221 by 2000 and 129 by 2008.
- In the early years of the epidemic, approximately half of all hospitalizations involved opportunistic infections; however, this dropped to roughly 20% by 2008.
- By 2008, more than half of the hospitalizations for individuals living with HIV infection were for treatment of non-HIV or AIDS conditions.

OSHPD is committed to “Equitable Healthcare Accessibility for California.” OSHPD analyzes and supports the State’s healthcare infrastructure, promoting medical care transparency for Californians. OSHPD also supports a diverse and culturally competent workforce, ensures safety of buildings



used to provide healthcare, insures loans to develop healthcare facilities and facilitates development of a sustained capacity for communities to address their healthcare concerns.

“Trends in the Hospitalization of Persons Living with HIV Infection and AIDS in California, 1988 to 2008” can be accessed at [www.oshpd.ca.gov](http://www.oshpd.ca.gov)