

Top ten things you need to know about current domestic HIV prevention policy

1. The Bush administration continues to propose flat-funding or budget cuts for many essential, life-saving domestic AIDS programs.
2. NIH researchers report that they've been pressured to avoid research proposals that use such terms as "sex workers" or "men who have sex with men" or risk losing funding.
3. After being pressured by conservative Members of Congress, CDC director Julie Gerberding reversed her earlier support for San Francisco's Stop AIDS Project and announced that the CDC would change the process used for community reviews of HIV prevention materials.
4. Under pressure from senior administration officials and Congress, the CDC has decided to redirect funds from scientifically-proven behavioral interventions to programs that emphasize linking testing to treatment, despite no additional funding on the horizon for care or medications.
5. Despite an increasing emphasis on targeting HIV positive people for prevention, the CDC has never held a formal prevention consultation with people with HIV.
6. Many of effective, community-based behavioral interventions presented at this conference will *not* be eligible for direct funding under the CDC's new Prevention Initiative.
7. During repeated requests, CDC officials have repeatedly refused to provide concrete figures regarding redistribution or elimination of National Minority HIV/AIDS Initiative funds.
8. The White House called for nearly two-thirds more funding for unproven abstinence-only until marriage programs. Claude Allen, the former press secretary to Jesse Helms and the number two person at HHS, has promoted an abstinence-only, anti-condom agenda. He has recently been nominated to the federal bench by President Bush.
9. The White House's Office of National AIDS Policy has said that the administration will never even consider lifting the ban on federal funding for needle-exchange programs, despite multiple federal studies proving that they work to reduce HIV transmission without increasing drug use.
10. The Bush Administration has used federal audits to harass and intimidate organizations serving communities of color and gay/bisexual men.

Late-breaking news!

In *Newsday*'s July 28 edition, Laurie Garrett reported: "More than 500 scientists working on AIDS and other infectious diseases learned recently that their federal grants are being reduced so that the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases can meet a White House mandate to come up with a new anthrax vaccine. The move is unprecedented in the 116-year history of the National Institutes of Health, according to Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, as the collection of 27 research institutes has never been ordered to carry out a major applied science program - in this case, making a vaccine. And, Fauci said, the NIH has never been told to come up with funds to pay for a White House-mandated effort in lieu of additional funding."

STOP THEM

WAR ON HIV

PREVENTION