

The HIV/AIDS Epidemic in King County: A Timeline of Significant Events

Created and maintained by the HIV/AIDS Program of
Public Health – Seattle & King County

1980

- Pre-1980: Gay men in the United States and heterosexuals in Tanzania and Haiti begin showing signs of what will later be called AIDS.
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1981

- First cases of Pneumocystis Carinii Pneumonia (PCP) are reported in young previously healthy gay men in Los Angeles, New York, and San Francisco. The phenomenon initially is referred to as Gay Related Immune Deficiency (GRID).
 - Gay Men's Health Crisis is founded in New York.
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1982

- GRID is renamed AIDS, Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome.
- CDC says that sexual contact or infected blood could transmit AIDS.
- The first transfusion-caused case of AIDS is documented. The government issues a warning that the blood supply may be contaminated.
- C. Everett Koop is appointed Surgeon General of U.S.

Local

- First case of AIDS is reported in King County, WA (Seattle). Second case is a person who returned to Seattle after a diagnosis in Hawaii.
- Future "AIDS poster boy" Bobby Campbell visits Seattle, shows his KS lesions to a group of doctors and volunteers at the Seattle Gay Clinic.
- The Health Department calls together a gay health advisory committee, in response to controversy in APHA Journal about the role of Public Health

STD clinics vs. free-standing gay clinics. The committee includes representatives from the Dorian Group and the Seattle Gay Clinic.

- The first local AIDS forum, sponsored by Seattle Gay Clinic and Seattle Counseling Service for Sexual Minorities, is held at Seattle Central Community College to an overflow crowd of 300.
 - Lymphadenopathy (swollen lymph nodes) study, sponsored by UW and Harborview STD Clinic, has enrolled over 50 male subjects.
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1983

- In the U.S., people who are considered to be in a high risk group for contracting HIV, including gay men and intravenous drug users, are asked to not donate blood.
- First U.S. heterosexual cases of AIDS are reported.
- Some medical providers diagnose patients as having ARC (AIDS Related Condition), primarily persistent generalized lymphadenopathy. The term ARC continues in use for several more years.

Local

- A volunteer from Seattle Gay Clinic begins staffing a Public Health AIDS Hotline part-time (originally sited at Harborview).
- Volunteers from Seattle Gay Clinic organize the Chicken Soup Brigade to provide support services for people with AIDS (meals, chores, transportation).
- Gay Men's Health Group begins, later evolves into the Seattle AIDS Support Group.
- The Dorian Group sponsors a forum called "AIDS: An American Health Crisis." Many health care providers and local politicians attend.
- Hundreds of gays and allies (organized by The Dorian Group, the Greater Seattle Business Association, and Seattle Gay Clinic) march on city hall demanding that the City Council take action on AIDS. Seattle City Council declares AIDS a health emergency and allocates funds (\$40K) to the Public Health Department; the King County Council follows suit with another \$40K.

- Seattle-King County Dept. of Public Health (SKCDPH) creates a full-time paid position to staff the AIDS Hotline (originally staffed by a volunteer), and opens an AIDS Assessment Clinic, staffed by a Nurse Practitioner. This becomes the second locally funded Public Health AIDS program in the U.S. (after San Francisco). No "AIDS test" is available yet; clients are screened for signs and symptoms and referred for care. The hotline and assessment clinic later will become part of the AIDS Prevention Project (APP).
- Northwest Physicians for Human Rights sponsors a meeting of local gay and lesbian health care providers to discuss AIDS.
- The Northwest AIDS Foundation (NWAFF) begins with an all-volunteer Board. Its mission originally includes raising funds for education campaigns and patient services, and advocating for improved care systems.
- "Police AIDS List" controversy causes a media frenzy. A list of names (supposedly people with AIDS) is posted in some Seattle Police Department squad cars. Public Health locates the source of the "leak" (an employee at a local clinical lab, not a Public Health facility; and most names on the list are not PWA's); this leads to the development of an AIDS education program for SPD staff.
- Local volunteers travel to San Francisco to participate in Shanti training. Shanti Director Jim Geary visits Seattle, and volunteers found Shanti Seattle, to provide emotional support for PWA's and families and friends
- Seattle AIDS Action Committee is formed; SAAC sponsors march to Volunteer Park and an AIDS Vigil at Seattle Central Community College. The vigil becomes an annual event for many years.
- Health Information Network lists AIDS services in its STD Resource Directory.

1984

- HTLV-III virus is discovered almost concurrently in the labs of Dr. Luc Montagnier (France) and Dr. Robert Gallo (U.S.) and shows strong promise to be the cause of AIDS (later renamed HIV, human immunodeficiency virus).
- Heterosexual epidemic of AIDS in Africa is reported.
- AZT, originally a failed cancer drug, is first considered for use with AIDS.
- CDC revises case definition for AIDS to include more opportunistic diseases.

Local

- Clients at the Health Department's AIDS Assessment clinic and the Seattle Gay Clinic are offered experimental (blinded) HTLV-III antibody tests.
- Seattle Gay Clinic publishes "Directory of Gay-Sensitive Physicians." Many who are listed in the directory become the core group of health care providers for local PWA's and the worried well.
- AIDS becomes a reportable condition in Washington State.
- Puget Sound Blood Center, in conjunction with Public Health, becomes a leader in developing blood screening policies.
- Harborview Hospital establishes an AIDS Clinic, later called Harborview/Madison Clinic.
- The Health Department, the STD Training Program, and a coalition of community groups organize a major NIAID-sponsored conference at the Seattle Sheraton Hotel. Dr. Luc Montagnier is the keynote speaker. Other specialist, including medical, dental and law enforcement/corrections experts, are brought in from San Francisco and New York to participate.
- Seattle AIDS Network, facilitated by a social worker from Harborview, begins holding regular gatherings. The "Seattle AIDS case management model" evolves out of these gatherings.
- Seattle Dental Providers Study Group on AIDS is formed (Gay and lesbian dentists, dental hygienists and dental assistants).
- KCTS-TV produces documentary program "Diagnosis: AIDS."

1985

- Antibody testing for HTLV-III (later renamed HIV) is approved by the FDA.
- First annual International AIDS Conference is held in Atlanta, GA.
- Most blood banks begin voluntary testing for HIV in donated blood.
- Rock Hudson admits to the public that he has AIDS.
- Ryan White, 14 year old who has AIDS, is barred from attending his public

school in Indiana.

- CDC expands the AIDS case definition to include several new indicator diseases in cases where a patient has a positive test for HTLV-III; this change adds about 2% to case counts.

Local

- Seattle-King County Public Health receives a major grant from the federal Centers for Disease Control (CDC); becomes one of the first AIDS Prevention Demonstration Projects in the US, along with Denver, New York, Dallas and Long Beach. A manager is hired to assemble the Seattle program team.
- Group Health Cooperative sponsors a training for its providers: "AIDS: Myths and Realities." Staff from Public Health and volunteers from Seattle Gay Clinic participate as presenters.
- AIDS Sentinel Physicians group is formed (later called HIV/AIDS Sentinel Health Providers).
- The CDC awards an AIDS Surveillance grant to Seattle-King County Public Health; recruiting begins for a full-time AIDS epidemiologist.

1986

- HTLV-III officially is renamed HIV.
- In West Africa, a second type of HIV, HIV-2 is discovered.
- Second International AIDS Conference is held in Paris.
- Condom use is shown to be effective in preventing the sexual transmission of HIV.
- Surgeon General C. Everett Koop releases his report calling for AIDS education for children of all ages, and urges widespread use of condoms.
- AIDS rate among African Americans is three times that of whites.

Local

- The Public Health AIDS program hires an AIDS Control Officer, Epidemiologist, Health Educator, HIV Test Counselors, a second Nurse Practitioner, and support staff. Moves operations to Summit Avenue and Seneca Street, and becomes the AIDS Prevention Project (APP).
- AIDS Advisory Task Force is formed by SKCDPH to advise on program policies and community coordination efforts. Helps define the "Seattle continuum of care."
- First pediatric case of AIDS is diagnosed in King County.
- AIDS Prevention Project develops model school curricula and HIV/AIDS training modules for workplace AIDS Education. Develops Speakers Bureau to respond to high demand for educational presentations from schools, businesses and community groups.
- AIDS Prevention Project begins the "Be a Star" study, as part of the CDC AIDS Demonstration Project. Develops an innovative method for enrolling subjects in a longitudinal study, and recalling them for periodic interviews and HIV testing without using real names.
- AIDS Prevention Project and Northwest AIDS Foundation partner to produce "Please Be Safe" and "Rules of the Road" media campaigns, with CDC Demonstration Project and U.S. Conference of Mayors funding.
- Bartenders Against AIDS organizes in Seattle.
- Lesbians organize Blood Sisters in Seattle, in response to the policy barring gay men from donating blood to blood centers and blood banks.
- KING-TV produces documentary: "Understanding AIDS"
- Some Seattle-area TV stations refuse to show the Northwest AIDS Foundation's "Please Be Safe" public service announcements. KING and KOMO agree to air the PSA.
- University of Washington develops an AIDS Treatment Evaluation Research Unit with a grant from NIH, and collaborates with PHSKC and Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center.
- Seattle Mayor's AIDS Task Force defines continuum-of-care; recommends case management model; the continuum of care is used as the basis for an application to the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation for funding for a care coordination demonstration project.
- Seattle-King County Public Health Department (one of 9 metropolitan areas

in U.S.) receives a major Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJ) grant to support provision and coordination of AIDS services.

- The RWJ grant includes funding for a long-term-care feasibility study. Public Health hires consultants to perform this study. The effort eventually leads to the creation of AIDS Housing of Washington.
- University of Washington School of Social Work creates AIDS Mental Health Project (and curriculum "The Psychosocial Aspects of AIDS") under a grant from NIMH.
- Northwest AIDS Foundation hires its first full-time Executive Director.

1987

- CDC AIDS case definition expanded to include HIV dementia, HIV wasting syndrome, and presumptive diagnoses of PCP and KS.
- CDC issues guidelines on universal precautions for health care workers.
- AZT becomes the first antiviral drug approved for treating AIDS.
- Presidential Commission on HIV is appointed.
- Liberace dies of *Pneumocystis carinii*, a type of pneumonia which is triggered by AIDS.
- ACT UP (AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power) is founded.
- The American Medical Association rules that doctors are obligated to provide treatment for people with AIDS.
- Randy Shilts publishes "And the Band Played On".
- The U.S. bans HIV-infected persons (immigrants and travelers) from entering the country.
- President Ronald Reagan makes his first speech mentioning AIDS, at 3rd International AIDS Conference in Washington DC.

Local

- 500 cumulative cases of AIDS have been diagnosed in King County.

- 92% of AIDS cases are in men who have sex with men (MSM).
- PHSKC decides to make HIV with symptoms reportable. Implemented at state level.
- People of Color Against AIDS Network (POCAAN) is founded, out of efforts initiated by the American Friends Services Committee.
- Northwest AIDS Foundation sponsors its first AIDS Walk fundraiser.
- Northwest AIDS Foundation hires its first case manager. Collaboration with case manager at Harborview leads to developing the concept of "Lead Agency." i.e. NWAFF will provide case management for private sector patients; HMC will provide case management for public sector patients. The lead agency concept will be used in other activity areas to reduce duplication of services.
- AIDS Prevention Project begins "Train the Trainer" program for public speakers on AIDS.
- AIDS Prevention Project, with UW Alcohol and Drug Abuse Institute (ADAI) gets a grant from NIDA to study HIV risks and behaviors of injection drug users, and possible prevention interventions.
- Washington State Governor Booth Gardner appoints the Governor's Advisory Council on HIV AIDS (GACHA), which includes PHSKC's AIDS Disease Control Officer.
- Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, Seattle Chapter, is founded, and gets involved in HIV/AIDS education efforts.
- Rainbow Coalition for the Deaf forms Deaf-Gay AIDS Task Force; many members are affiliated with Seattle Central Community College's ASL program.
- AIDS Prevention Project begins HIV testing in the King County jail.
- University of Washington designates a UW AIDS Advisory Committee to coordinate the university's response to AIDS.
- Battelle Research Institute sponsors "Regional Forum on AIDS and Chemical Dependency."
- Rosehedge House (AIDS residence) opens in Seattle.
- Volunteer massage therapists form In Touch to provide free massages for people with AIDS.

- Seattle-King County Public Health offers HIV antibody counseling/testing in all district offices, with an anonymous option.
 - AIDS Prevention Project collaborates with King County Medical Society on the first major local training for community medical providers, "AIDS and the Small Clinic."
 - Health Resources Services Administration (HRSA) awards grant to SKCDPH to complement the support for care services funded by the RWJ grant.
 - AIDS Prevention Project (with CDC Demo funding) supports the UW School of Social Work's evaluation of relapse prevention models for in-person and anonymous telephone group interventions (Project ARIES).
 - AIDS Prevention Project (with CDC Demo funding) supports the UW Alcohol and Drug Abuse Institute's ethnographic studies of injection drug users (IDUs) in Seattle.
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1988

- U.S. mails copies of "Understanding AIDS", a booklet approved by Surgeon General Koop, to all households.
- U.S. bans discrimination against federal workers with HIV.
- The World Health Organization declares December 1st World AIDS Day.
- Nationally, 75% of heterosexually transmitted AIDS cases so far are among African Americans.
- 75% of pediatric AIDS cases so far are among African Americans.
- Fourth International AIDS Conference is held in Stockholm.

Local

- Washington State AIDS Omnibus bill passes by one vote; first significant state dollars are provided for AIDS education; amount is increased significantly over the next 2-3 years.
- 90% of local AIDS cases are in MSM.
- Bleach distribution and outreach to injection drug users begins in Seattle (Bleach 'n Teach; later called Lifesavers), after receiving approval of City

and County Councils.

- First needle exchange program in the U.S. is started in Tacoma by a community activist-volunteer.
- Chicken Soup Brigade moves from Seattle Gay Clinic sponsorship to become its own non-profit entity.
- STEP (Seattle Treatment Education Project) is established, a volunteer organization inspired by California's Project Inform, intended to empower PWA's to actively seek information about treatment options and emerging HIV/AIDS-related medical research.
- Local chapter of ACT-UP forms in Seattle.
- SKCDPH begins CDC-funded "Family of Seroprevalence Surveys." Sites monitored include sentinel hospitals, STD, TB and women's clinics, and drug treatment centers.
- National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) awards grant to SKCDPH targeting IDUs; APP funds POCAAN and Group Health to compare community health outreach worker (CHOW) vs. community organizing models of interventions targeting IDUs and sex partners.
- HRSA pediatric AIDS Demonstration grant awarded to SKCDPH Seattle Division; provides case management for infected women, children, and adolescents. This activity becomes the Northwest Family Center.
- Multifaith Works is founded to help coordinate efforts of faith communities to support services and housing for people with AIDS.

1989

- After two years of ACT-UP protests over the price of AZT, Burroughs Wellcome lowers AZT's price by 20 percent.
- Aerosolized Pentamidine approved to treat PCP.
- The first IV treatment for CMV retinitis receives FDA approval.
- A federal study indicates that AZT slows the progression of HIV infection in those who are asymptomatic or who have few symptoms.
- Fifth international AIDS Conference held in Montreal.

Local

- 1000 cumulative cases of AIDS have been diagnosed in King County. 93% of AIDS cases are in MSM.
- AIDS Prevention Project pilots early-intervention care model with seropositive clients. Later this will be referred to as the "One on One" program.
- NWAf sponsors "Be Well Equipped" media campaign, focusing on condom use.
- AIDS Prevention Project awarded a 5-year grant by the CDC (Demo-2) to target hard-to-reach populations (street youth, sex industry workers, MSM-nsi).
- Center for AIDS Research is founded at the University of Washington.
- ACT-UP Seattle begins needle exchange; SKCDPH assumes operational responsibility for the program two months later.
- HIV-positive women start meeting together for support and the BABES Network begins.
- Human papillomavirus (HPV) study begins at APP.
- APP pilots "store-front" HIV counseling and testing at POCAAN and Street Outreach Services (SOS) sites, targeting injection drug users.
- Bureau of Health Care Delivery Administration (BHCDA) grant is awarded to SKCDPH for integrated primary care and drug treatment services targeting IDUs.
- RWJ grant ("MOD Project") awarded to SKCDPH, targeting non-IDU alcohol/substance users.
- SKCDPH AIDS Prevention Project divides into two parts: AIDS Prevention Unit (APU), which remains at the Summit and Seneca First Hill site, and the Community AIDS Services Unit (CASU) which is established at the 400 Yesler Building. Concurrently, the HIV/AIDS Epidemiology Unit moves from First Hill to the 400 Yesler Building.
- SKCDPH Epidemiology Unit receives CDC funding to begin Adult Spectrum of Disease (ASD) studies; known later as the Medical Monitoring Project (MMP).

- Volunteer Attorneys for People with AIDS (VAPWA) is founded to provide free/low cost legal advice for PWA's.
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1990

- The federal Ryan White Comprehensive AIDS Resources Emergency (CARE) Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act pass into law.
- Ryan White dies from AIDS in Kokomo, Indiana.
- First published account of possible health care worker-to-multiple-patient HIV transmission (dentist).
- Sixth International AIDS Conference held in San Francisco.

Local

- PH begins an epidemiology project to better measure the spectrum of disease among people with AIDS.
- 1500 cumulative cases of AIDS have been diagnosed in King County.
- Dr. James Curran, Director of CDC, visits the Public Health AIDS Prevention Project for a briefing on progress of AIDS Demonstration Project work.
- National Commission on AIDS comes to Seattle to learn about the continuum-of-care model.
- Washington State creates HIV Intervention Program (H.I.P) to help support costs of medications and services for low-income people with HIV.
- SKCDPH establishes Northwest Family Center, providing medical and social services to women, children and families affected by HIV (originally funded by HRSA pediatric AIDS grant in 1989).
- Harborview AIDS Clinic moves to 1001 Broadway, becomes the Madison Clinic, co-locating with the UW AIDS Education and Training Center, Northwest Family Center, STD Training Center, UW Center for AIDS Research (CFAR) and the UW AIDS Clinical Trails Unit.
- Northwest AIDS Foundation debuts its "Keep It Up, Seattle!" media campaign, one of the first projects in the nation to address relapses in unsafe behaviors among gay/bisexual men.

1991

- The CDC reports that 1 million Americans are infected with HIV.
- The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that nearly 10 million people are infected with HIV throughout the world.
- Seventh International AIDS Conference is held in Florence.
- Magic Johnson, basketball star, announces that he is HIV positive.
- CDC proposes third revision of AIDS case definition; would include HIV+ persons with CD4 counts of less than 200 (immunologic AIDS).
- Kimberly Bergalis, who allegedly got HIV in a dental setting, asks the U.S. Congress to force health care workers to be tested for HIV.
- The FDA approves a second anti-AIDS drug called ddI.

Local

- 2,000 cumulative cases of AIDS have been diagnosed in King County. 90% of AIDS cases are in MSM.
- AIDS Prevention Unit moves from First Hill to 4th and Blanchard.
- The AIDS Prevention Unit launches CDC Demo-2 activities to develop and evaluate street-based interventions targeting three hard-to-reach populations: street youth (Project SKATE with YouthCare); women in the sex industry (Girlfriends Talking, with POCAAN) and non-self-identified MSM (Shiftin' Gears, sponsored by APU).
- HIV/AIDS agencies in King and Snohomish counties (HIV Adolescent Planning Group) collaborate to present a conference, "Adolescents and AIDS: Strategies that Work."
- Brother to Brother and Entre Hermanos begin HIV prevention education for MSM of color.
- GACHA recommends Washington schools distribute condoms.
- AIDS Care Assistance Program (ACAP) starts.
- Street Outreach Services is established to provide outreach to Injection Drug Users.

- Pilot study of behaviors of injection users (later called RAVEN) begins at Jails and Needle Exchange.
 - SHAS project (Supplement to HIV/AIDS Surveillance) begins at SKCDPH EPI Unit (CDC funded); complements routine HIV surveillance by collecting more detailed information on socioeconomic status, use of illicit drugs, and associated risk behaviors).
 - Northwest AIDS Foundation offers workplace trainings to businesses throughout King County to inform them of how to more humanely address the issue of HIV in the workplace.
 - Northwest AIDS Foundation raises a record \$1.5 million in its 5th annual AIDS Walk.
 - Northwest AIDS Foundation begins its women's program: HIV information and risk-reduction skills-building workshops for women at risk.
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1992

- Arthur Ashe, tennis player, confirms that he has AIDS.
- Eighth International AIDS Conference is held in Amsterdam.
- First study shows combination of antivirals has stronger suppression of virus.
- FDA starts "accelerated approval" to get promising drugs to dying patients faster.
- Nucleoside reverse-transcriptase inhibitor is approved by the FDA– the first drug approved under the accelerated approval policy.

Local

- 89% of local AIDS cases are in MSM.
- Bailey-Boushay House opens in Seattle; pioneering skilled-nursing facility for people with AIDS, created through a partnership between AIDS Housing of Washington and Virginia Mason Medical Center. This is a major result of the planning that began with the long-term care feasibility study begun with PHSKC-RWJ grant funds in 1986. Initially the Madison Valley site was considered controversial, but gradually the facility garnered

considerable neighborhood support.

- AIDS Prevention Unit participates in recruitment of volunteers for vaccine trials.
- WA State Supreme Court unanimously endorses needle exchanges as a valid and legal public health measure. Unfunded alternative needle exchange program called CHAOS (Community HIV/AIDS Outreach Services) is established in the University District.
- SKCDPH's Community AIDS Services Unit begins community-wide planning process for allocation of prevention and care resources. The models used to guide decision-making around funding are called "RAM" (Resource Allocation Model) and "PAM" (Priority Activities Model). These efforts lead to the establishment of the local HIV/AIDS Planning Council, and the HIV/AIDS Advisory Committee is disbanded.
- Northwest AIDS Foundation expands its outreach programs to include outreach workers in bathhouses, public parks, bars, clubs and late night venues.

1993

- Arthur Ashe, 49, world famous tennis player dies of AIDS-related pneumonia in New York.
- Concorde study reports limited benefit from AZT alone.
- CDC AIDS case definition expanded to include CD4 counts under 200. This causes a large 1-time increase in the number of cases, especially among females and minorities.
- The FDA approves the use and sale of the "Reality" condom.

Local

- 88% of local AIDS cases are in MSM.
- SKCDPH receives funding from NIDA & CDC to conduct a comprehensive epidemiologic evaluation of needle exchange outcomes (Raven Study) – the first such study to be conducted in the U.S.
- AIDS Prevention Unit launches "Stella Seattle" comic strip as an

outreach/education tool targeting gay and bisexual men.

- Needle exchange annual volume exceeds 500,000 syringes. Van-based needle exchange begins in the Rainier Valley.
- MSM Task Force organizes to provide an inter-agency advocacy body to address needs of men who have sex with men.
- The Health Department receives its first Ryan White Title I grant from HRSA, after the Seattle metropolitan area records 5,000 cumulative cases of AIDS.
- Seattle Eligible Metropolitan Area's Title I Planning Council is formed.

1994

- Jocelyn Elders, Surgeon General for the U.S., and an advocate for major AIDS education, is forced to resign, after recommending adolescents be taught that masturbation is safe.
- Tom Hanks wins an Oscar for playing a gay man with AIDS in the movie Philadelphia.
- AZT is shown to substantially reduce HIV transmission from mother to child.
- OraSure oral fluids testing kits are approved by the FDA.
- Viral load testing begins.
- First protease inhibitor, Saquinavir, is approved for use in HIV treatment.
- First treatment for CMV retinitis is introduced.
- The FDA approves d4T and 3TC.

Local

- SKCDPH launches NEON (Needle and Sex Education Outreach Network), a peer-based community-level intervention targeting MSM methamphetamine injectors.
- SKCDPH Epidemiology section leases store-front space in the Prefontaine

building at 3rd and Yesler to make room for rapidly-expanding EPI field-study activities. The site often is referred to as the RAVEN office.

- AIDS Resource Center Library is enhanced by a grant from the National Library of Medicine.
 - MSM Task Force becomes GayMap: Gay Men's AIDS Prevention Task Force.
 - PHSKC convenes a major community summit, "Reinventing HIV Prevention for Gay Men." Dr. James Curran of the CDC and Dr. Walt Odets, psychotherapist from SF Bay area, give presentations.
 - PHSKC Disease Control Officer is appointed to CDC AIDS/STD Advisory Committee.
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1995

- AIDS becomes the leading cause of death among all Americans age 25–44.
- Olympic diver Greg Louganis, winner of four gold medals, reveals that he has HIV.
- Scientists George Shaw and David Ho show that HIV replication continues from the time of infection.
- HIV NET domestic and international vaccine preparedness research begins.

Local

- AIDS is now the leading cause of death in men and women age 25–44 in King County.
- AIDS Prevention Project begins the "Condom Campaign" with distribution of advertising materials and condom vending machines; its aim is to increase condom knowledge and use among sexually active youth.
- Gay City Health Project is formed, focusing on community building among MSM as a means of promoting health.
- The Health Department's Ryan White program, in collaboration with the HIV/AIDS Planning Council, conducts its first comprehensive needs assessment of consumer and provider HIV-related service utilization, priorities, and gaps.

1996

- Time magazine's 1996 Man of the Year is AIDS researcher Dr. David Ho.
- Vancouver International AIDS Conference focuses on Highly Active Anti-Retroviral (HAART) treatment regimens. Use of multiple anti-HIV drugs, show promise; popularly referred to as "AIDS cocktails."
- The FDA approved two new protease inhibitors-ritonavir and indinavir-for the treatment of HIV infection in adults.
- Researchers identify the virus responsible for KS as a new type of herpes virus, HHV-8.
- FDA approves test to measure HIV viral load in the blood.
- Nevirapine is approved for use in the U.S.. This is the first anti-HIV drug in the class called non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors.

Local

- Needle Exchange annual volume exceeds one million syringes.
 - RAP study begins at Juvenile Detention Center.
 - Washington AIDS NETS (AIDS Service Networks) propose that HIV becomes reportable by name.
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1997

- Annual AIDS deaths decline 45% from 1996.
- HIV Prevalence rates for urban MSM are estimated to be 17%, 29% for African American MSM and 40% for MSM-IDUs.
- The CDC urges all states to require reporting of HIV positive individuals. So far only 26 states require it.
- Donna Shalala endorses needle exchange programs, says they can be an effective component in the fight against HIV.

- NY University conducts a major study to determine the effects of condom distribution in schools. The conclusion is that the distribution of condoms does not promote sex.
- President Clinton apologizes for the Tuskegee study in which African American men were withheld treatment for syphilis.
- New England Journal of Medicine endorses the use of medical marijuana.
- President Clinton announces the creation of a vaccine research center within the National Institutes of Health.
- NY hospitals begin mandatory testing all newborn infants for HIV.

Local

- STD rates increase among MSM in King County (after a marked reduction in STD rates during the first years of the epidemic.)
- Needle Exchange moves from sidewalk tables to a storefront in the 2nd & Pike building and expands services.
- AIDS Prevention Unit (APU) reunites organizationally with Community AIDS Services Unit (CASU) and the AIDS Epidemiology Unit. The name is changed to the HIV/AIDS Program.
- CDC Funds Young Men's Study (YMS) at Public Health.

1998

- The term "barebacking" is coined to denote unprotected sex among MSM.
- Pharmaceutical companies sue the South African government for allowing purchase of brand-name medications at reduced rates.
- 64% of all new female HIV infections are estimated to be among African Americans.
- Surge in STD rates among MSM on the West Coast.
- One half of all new male HIV infections are estimated to be among African Americans.
- With HIV+ people living longer, some people declare the end of the "AIDS

Crisis”.

- FDA approves Ziagen, a nucleoside analogue reverse transcriptase inhibitor taken in combination with other antiviral HIV medications.

Local

- KIWI Study begins at SKCDPH, (CDC-funded) to monitor HIV and Hepatitis C prevalence in recently-incarcerated IDUs.
- Egret Study begins at SKCDPH (NIDA-funded) to evaluate the impact of a mobile methadone program on drug treatment entry and retention, and on changes in HIV risk behavior.
- HIVIS Study begins at SKCDPH (CDC funded). Uses less sensitive LS-EIA methodology (blinded retrospective tests) to assess HIV incidence among different HIV prevention target groups.

1999

- DHHS awards \$3.9 m in planning grants to increase HIV/ AIDS care to African Americans and people in rural areas.
- Treatment vs. profits for big pharmaceutical companies: Brazil and India continue to produce generic antiviral medicines.
- 13th International AIDS Conference in South Africa highlights the needs and scope of the AIDS epidemic in the third world.
- Report: Some gay men revert to high-risk sex. Advances in treatment may make HIV/AIDS seem less frightening than in earlier years.
- Questions raised about long-term treatment with HAART.
- Use of nevirapine by mother and baby reduces rate by half compared to AZT.
- FDA has granted accelerated approval to amprenavir.
- FDA approves Panretin for the topical treatment of cutaneous lesions in patients with AIDS-related KS.
- Use of methadone with nevirapine causes dosing problems.
- 1 in 50 African-American men are HIV+, compared to 1 in 250 white men.

1 in 160 African-American women are HIV+, compared to 1 in 3,000 white women.

Local

- HIV case reporting begins in Washington State. It uses a unique system that combines initial named reporting with later conversion to an anonymous code.
 - DUIT Study begins at SKCDPH. EPI Unit receives CDC funding for a project to assess behaviors of young and new injection drug users; the project includes testing for hepatitis A, B, and C.
 - Grackle Study begins at SKCDPH: EPI unit receives NIDA and ASPH funding to establish a cohort study monitoring incidence of hepatitis C infection in IDUs.
 - HATS study begins at SKCDPH – CDC funded effort to assess counseling and testing preferences of persons at risk for HIV infection in King County.
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2000

- Latinos in the U.S. are disproportionately affected by HIV accounting for 18% of total AIDS cases while just 14% of the U.S. population. 47% of AIDS cases among Latino men were in MSM, 30% in injection drug use, and 21% in sex with women.
- Young Men's Study in five U.S. cities (1994-2000) shows alarming rise in risk behaviors and new infections in young MSM, particularly in young MSM of color, similar to early epidemic numbers.

Local

- Wound and Abscess clinic opened at Downtown Needle exchange in collaboration with Health Care for the Homeless Network and HMC Pioneer Square Clinic. Services include wound and abscess care, hepatitis and TB screening, and hepatitis vaccinations.
- Second community summit addressing HIV and STDs in MSM is held.
- SAMS Study begins at SKCDPH (CDC–Survey of incident HIV infection in MSM).
- SPIN Study begins at SKCDPH (NIDA–Etiology and prevention of blood-borne pathogens among IDUs.)

2001

- Drug companies begin offering AIDS drugs to poor countries at a discount.
- UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan launches his call to action, including the creation of a global fund on AIDS and health.
- Federal health officials change treatment guidelines and now recommend waiting to start anti-HIV treatments.
- Over 51% of total AIDS cases in U.S. have been in MSM.

Local

- HIV prevalence studies show that between 2.5% and 36% of MSM test HIV positive. Higher prevalence rates are generally found in older MSM compared to younger MSM, in MSM with STDs, and in MSM/IDU.
- Lifelong AIDS Alliance formed through the merger of Chicken Soup Brigade and Northwest AIDS Foundation.
- HIV/AIDS program launches a collaborative initiative targeting pharmacists to increase access to new syringes and promote safe disposal of used syringes.
- Project Unite begins at SKCDPH. This is a CDC-funded program to assess peer-driven and incented referral relative to standard partner notification, to identify undiagnosed cases of STD and HIV.
- HITS-API Study begins; SKCDPH receives CDC grant to assess attitudes toward HIV testing among Asian-Pacific Islanders in King County.
- SKCDPH receives CDC funding to conduct surveillance for resistant and atypical strains of HIV (a grant/activity later known as ARVDRT and VARHS).
- SKCDPH receives CDC funds for a project to develop population-based incidence estimates for HIV infection.

2002

- T-20, the first of a new class of drugs called fusion inhibitors, is available to patients.

Local

- PHSKC spearheads effort to change Washington State law to allow all persons over age 18 to purchase and possess sterile syringes and needles.
 - STRIVE Study begins at SKCDPH (NIDA-funded study to assess the efficacy of a behavioral intervention to reduce injection and sexual risk behavior among young and new IDUs.)
 - U of W Center for AIDS Research (CFAR) and U of W Global Health Program create I-TECH (International Training and Education Center for Health). Most of the program's international activities are part of PEPFAR, the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief. I-TECH also receives funding from HRSA, USAID, CDC and the Department of Defense.
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2003

Local

- U of W Center for AIDS Research adds a unit called the Socio-behavioral Prevention Research Core (SPRC), funded by an NIH grant, intended to assemble a team of social scientists and behavioral scientists to work on HIV and STD prevention issues.
 - PHSKC conducts the RARE Project (Rapid Assessment, Response, and Evaluation), an assessment of issues and barriers to HIV prevention within local African-American communities.
 - PHSKC issues a report assessing the impact of HIV on African Immigrant communities within King County.
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2004

Local

- Seattle Gay Clinic dissolves as a non-profit entity, transfers its assets and its HIV/STD testing program to Gay City. PHSKC transfers its funding support for HIV counseling and testing to Gay City.
- MSM HIV/STD Prevention Task Force, a community mobilizing effort facilitated by PHSKC, issues "The Sex Manifesto" challenging gay men and gay service organizations to promote health and well-being in gay communities.

- In collaboration with Gay Men-DUH (Drug Use & HIV), a working group of the MSM HIV/STD Prevention Task Force, PHSKC publishes "Deconstructing Tina," a compendium guide to crystal meth use among gay and bisexual men in King County, and hosts a community forum on this issue.
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2005

Local

- Public Health begins the first of several National HIV/AIDS Behavioral (NHBS) survey cycles (IDU in 2005, Heterosexuals-at-risk in 2006, MSM in 2007, IDU in 2008, MSM in 2009, Heterosexuals-at-risk in 2010).
 - In partnership with African American community leaders, PHSKC launches the Black Leadership Council on HIV (BLC), a community mobilizing effort to prevent further spread of HIV in local African-American communities.
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2006

CDC issues new guidelines promoting routine opt-out voluntary HIV screening for all persons 13-64 in health care settings, not based on risk, with at least annual repeat testing in persons at known risk.

Local

- Washington changes its Name-To-Code HIV reporting system to Name-only.
 - Verbena lesbian health clinic co-locates with Gay City Health Project.
 - PHSKC EPI's RAVEN storefront site in the Prefontaine Building closes, and remaining staff re-join other EPI staff in the 400 Yesler Building.
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2007

- PHSKC partners with Country Doctor and Carolyn Downs community health centers to offer routine HIV screening to all patients, using rapid HIV test. Seattle Human Services Department provides funding for test kits for a 2-year pilot project during 2008 and 2009.
 - King County Board of Health adopts 7-year Strategic and Operational Plan for Prevention of HIV in King County.
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2008

- PHSKC HIV/AIDS Program develops the "Little Prick" media campaign to promote more frequent HIV testing among Seattle MSM. The campaign includes mobile and fixed billboards, posters and cards, and sidewalk chalk drawings in front of gay establishments.
 - City and County Councils provide \$300K supplemental funding for HIV/AIDS
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2009

- PHSKC's Needle Exchange Program moves from 2nd and Pike to occupy a renovated space on the first floor of the Downtown Public Health Center at 4th and Blanchard, and is named the Robert Clewis Center. NHBS staff are able to benefit from proximity to Needle Exchange clients by setting up a site for performing behavioral interviews of IDU's on the 4th floor of the same building.
 - HHS issues new guidelines recommending earlier initiation of antiviral treatment for people living with HIV.
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2010

- PHSKC's HIV/AIDS and STD Programs combine into a single integrated program, with a single HIV/STD Disease Control Officer, and partial-position Deputy Medical Director designations for Community Activities, Clinical Activities and Adolescent Health Activities.

This timeline has been compiled and periodically updated by the HIV/AIDS Program of Public Health- Seattle & King County. Readers who have suggestions for adding items to this document, or for modifying text to make the document more accurate and/or comprehensive may submit suggestions to Tim Burak at tim.burak@kingcounty.gov