

World AIDS Day — December 1, 2018

World AIDS Day, observed each year on December 1, draws attention to the status of the human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS) epidemic worldwide. Today, approximately 36.9 million persons worldwide are living with HIV infection, including 1.8 million persons newly infected during 2017 (1). An estimated 940,000 persons worldwide died from AIDS-related illnesses in 2017 (1).

In 2015, an estimated 1.1 million persons in the United States were living with HIV infection, and 86% were aware of their infection (2).

Through global efforts, including the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, for which CDC is an implementing agency, 21.7 million persons worldwide received antiretroviral therapy for HIV infection in 2017, an increase of 2.3 million persons since the end of 2016 (1). A report in this issue of *MMWR* (3) describes activities to implement the Treat All policy in India, which involves offering antiretroviral therapy to all persons with HIV infection.

References

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3. Mitruka K, Bamrotiya M, Agarwal R, et al. Implementation of the Treat All policy among persons living with HIV infection enrolled in care but not on antiretroviral therapy—India, May 2017–June 2018. *MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep* 2018;67:1305–9.

Implementation of the Treat All Policy Among Persons with HIV Infection Enrolled in Care But Not on Antiretroviral Therapy — India, May 2017–June 2018

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Since September 2015, the World Health Organization has recommended antiretroviral therapy (ART) for all persons with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection, regardless of clinical stage or CD4 count (1). This Treat All policy was based on evidence that ART initiation early in HIV infection as opposed to waiting for the CD4 count to decline to certain levels (e.g., <500 cells/mm³, per previous guidelines), was associated with reduced morbidity, mortality, and HIV

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