THE AIDS INSTITUTE ALARMED BY 21% ONE YEAR INCREASE IN HEPATITIS C CASES

New CDC Data Demonstrates Need for Increased Resources

Washington, DC – Today the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released new data showing continued increases in new cases of hepatitis C (HCV) across the country. In 2016, there were an estimated 41,200 new cases of HCV, an increase of more than 21 percent over 2015. Injection drug use, mainly associated with the opioid epidemic, is a driving factor in these increases. Since 2010, new cases of HCV increased by 350%. The surveillance data also shows continued elevated rates of new hepatitis B (HBV) cases.

"Today's report demonstrates that viral hepatitis is a significant public health issue in the United States," said Carl Schmid, deputy executive director of The AIDS Institute. "Despite these dramatic increases, Congress has yet to commit the necessary resources that states and community organizations need to combat hepatitis and the infectious disease consequences of the opioid crisis."

The CDC's viral hepatitis activities are currently funded at only $39 million. While much more is needed, The AIDS Institute has been advocating for at least $134 million so the CDC and its grantees can adequately fund viral hepatitis education, prevention, testing, and surveillance activities across the country.

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The AIDS Institute is a national nonprofit organization that promotes action for social change through public policy, research, advocacy and education.

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