THE BASICS

WHAT IS THE RED RIBBON?
The Red Ribbon is the international symbol of HIV and AIDS awareness. It stands for:

CARE AND CONCERN
It is being worn by increasing numbers of people around the world to demonstrate their care and concern about HIV and AIDS - for those who are living with HIV, for those who are ill, for those who have died and for those who care for and support those directly affected.

HOPE
The Red Ribbon is intended to be a symbol of hope - that the search for a vaccine and cure to halt the suffering is successful and the quality of life improves for those living with the virus.

SUPPORT
The Red Ribbon offers symbolic support for those living with HIV, for the continuing education of those not infected, for maximum efforts to find effective treatments, cures or vaccines, and for those who have lost friends, family members or loved ones to AIDS.

The first cases of AIDS were reported in the United States in June of 1981. Since that time almost 1.5 million people in the U.S. have been infected with HIV, including more than 500,000 who have already died and another 850,000-950,000 who are estimated to be living with HIV/AIDS.
Transmission
HIV is spread most commonly by sexual contact with an infected partner. The virus can enter the body through the lining of the vagina, vulva, penis, rectum or mouth during sex.

HIV also is spread through contact with infected blood and by the sharing of needles or syringes.

Prevention
Since no vaccine for HIV is available, the only way to prevent infection by the virus is to avoid behaviors that put a person at risk of infection, such as sharing needles and having unprotected sex. CDC recommends that people either abstain from sex or protect themselves by using male latex condoms whenever having oral, anal or vaginal sex. Only male condoms made of latex should be used, and water-based lubricants should be used with latex condoms.

An estimated 20,000 Americans are infected through sexual transmission each year.
CHILDREN

Nearly six million children have been killed by AIDS. That number is more than every child in every grade school and high school in New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, Washington, Miami and Atlanta combined.

More than 14 million children worldwide have been orphaned because of AIDS. That's the equivalent of every child under five in America with no one to watch over them.

THE UNITED STATES & THE WORLD

An estimated 650,000 to 900,000 people in the U.S. are living with HIV.
Five people worldwide die of AIDS every minute of every day.

HIV has infected more than 42 million men, women and children, 5 million of them last year alone.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that there were over 886,000 cases of AIDS diagnosed in the U.S. through 2002, including 42,136 diagnosed in 2002 alone.

An estimated 501,669 deaths among people with AIDS had occurred by the end of 2002.

Each year, an estimated 40,000 new HIV infections occur in the U.S.
"I cannot rest until I am certain that the global response is sufficient to turn the tide of the epidemic,"

"History will surely judge us harshly if we do not respond with all the energy and resources that we can bring to bear in the fight against HIV/AIDS."

Nelson Mandela
## CUMULATIVE REPORTED AIDS CASES
### (1981–2002)

<table>
<thead>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>New York</td>
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<tr>
<td>California</td>
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<td>Florida</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maryland</td>
<td>25,358</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subtotal</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.S. Total</td>
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College & College-Bound Youth

College age youth (18-24) have one of the fastest growing rates of infections in the United States.

The Centers for Disease Control estimates that one out of every two hundred college students is HIV positive.

More than 6,000 young people worldwide aged 15-24 become infected with HIV every day - that is, about four every minute.

In the U.S., it is estimated that 2 adolescents are infected with HIV each hour.
US TEENS LACK INFORMATION ON AVOIDING HIV

NEW YORK (Reuters Health) - Nearly two thirds of American teenagers say they need clear, reliable information on how to protect themselves from HIV, the virus that causes AIDS according to a new report.

African-American and Latino teens--who comprise 84% of new infections among young people--"are even more likely to say they are concerned about becoming infected."

According to US government statistics, half of new HIV infections in the US occur in people under the age of 25.
MORE INFORMATION

www.mtv.com/onair/ffyr/protect

www.cdc.gov/hiv/dhap.htm

www.unaids.org

www.knowhivaid.org

www.worldaidsday.org

www.apathyislethal.org
YOU CAN HELP

www.stlefa.org

www.aidstl.org

DECEMBER 1st
ESTIMATED DEATHS FROM HIV/AIDS IN 2003

- North America: 15,000
- Caribbean: 40,000
- Latin America: 59,500
- Western Europe: 3,000
- Eastern Europe & Central Asia: 30,000
- North Africa & Middle East: 42,500
- Sub Saharan Africa: 2,300,000
- South & Southeast Asia: 460,000
- East Asia & Pacific: 45,000
- Australia & New Zealand: 100

2004 United Nations Foundation
Estimated Number Living With HIV/AIDS in 2003

- North America: 995,000
- Caribbean: 470,000
- Latin America: 1,600,000
- Eastern Europe & Central Asia: 1,500,000
- Western Europe: 600,000
- North Africa & Middle East: 600,000
- Sub Saharan Africa: 26,600,000
- South & Southeast Asia: 6,400,000
- East Asia & Pacific: 1,000,000
- Australia & New Zealand: 15,000

2004 United Nations Foundation
NOTE:
PLEASE POST ONE OF THE FOLLOWING LOGOS ON THE BULLETIN BOARD

Rainbow Alliance
Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Students & Allies

www.slu.edu/organizations/rainbow

SAFEZONE
Show your colors.

safezone.slu.edu