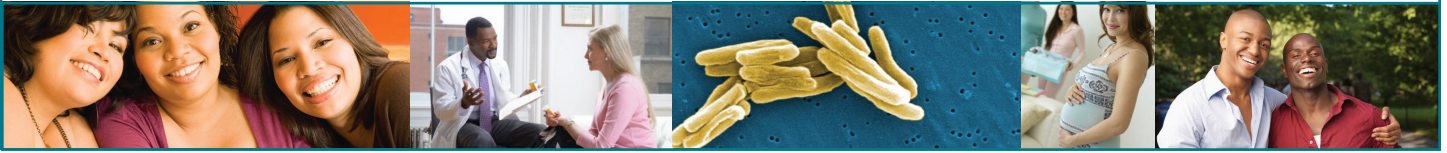


# CONNECTIONS

A Bimonthly e-Newsletter



## Director's Update

November - December 2010



**Dr. Kevin Fenton**  
Director, NCHHSTP

In September, CDC allocated **\$30 million of the**

**[Affordable Care Act's Prevention and Public Health Fund](#)** to expand HIV prevention efforts under the **[National HIV/AIDS Strategy](#)** (NHAS). The funding includes nearly \$22 million in grants for state and local health departments and will give a critical boost to our HIV/AIDS prevention efforts by focusing on communities and geographic areas that have been hardest hit by this disease.

This funding will allow us to support innovative, evidence-based, and high-impact prevention efforts in line with recommendations from the NHAS. It is providing us with the opportunity to make critical investments that will make a real impact on prevention efforts, allowing us to reach further into those communities that are at highest risk.

These new resources will assist CDC to expand upon existing efforts, fill knowledge gaps, and create pathways for prioritizing and scaling-up the most effective interventions. The NHAS called for bold new directions for HIV prevention in the United States, and the activities funded under this initiative will greatly enhance our prevention efforts and health impact.

## Social Determinants of Health White Paper

*Social determinants of health (SDH)* refers to the complex, integrated, and overlapping social structures and economic systems that include social and physical environments and health services. Addressing such factors are critical to the success of public health programs; to that end, last month, NCHHSTP published a [white paper](#) on the importance of addressing social determinants of health in our work.

The purpose of the white paper is to advance a holistic approach to the design of our public health programs to improve the health of communities and increase their opportunities for healthy living. It includes recommendations for promoting health equity and addressing social determinants in six critical public health functions and recommendations for partners interested in incorporating this approach locally. NCHHSTP is committed to promoting awareness, engagement, and action on the many factors that can affect the health of all of us; to addressing these factors in our policy, practice, and research activities; and to expanding effective partnerships to address SDH.

## World AIDS Day and CDC's Vital Signs

December 1 marks the 22<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of World AIDS Day, a time to reflect on how HIV and AIDS affect people worldwide and to build on the success of HIV prevention and treatment programs. It also serves as a reminder that we all must do more—as individuals, communities, and as world citizens—to fight the spread of HIV and AIDS. World AIDS Day Web tools and additional resources are available on <http://www.aids.gov/world-aids-day/>.

This year, just before World AIDS Day, CDC will be releasing the CDC [Vital Signs](#) report related to HIV testing. *Vital Signs* is an important new program at CDC that serves as a call to action each month, concerning a single, important public health topic. This is a valuable tool, so please visit [CDC.gov](http://CDC.gov) for the HIV testing *Vital Signs* series in late November.

## New from CDC

- [Lifetime Risk for HIV Among Hispanics/Latinos](#)
- [Prevalence of HIV Among MSM TB in the U.S., 2009](#)
- [Hepatitis B and Sexual Health](#)
- [Viral Hepatitis Action Coalition](#)
- [Redesigned STD Web site](#)

## Upcoming Events

- November 6–10, 2010**  
[American Public Health Association Annual Meeting](#)
- November 17–19, 2010**  
[National Summit on HIV Diagnosis, Prevention, and Access to Care](#)
- November 14–20, 2010**  
[Hunger and Homelessness Awareness](#)
- December 1, 2010**  
[World AIDS Day](#)

## On the Web

[CDC's updated online resource for gay and bisexual men's health](#)

