



FACT SHEET

AIDS Cure Research and Funding

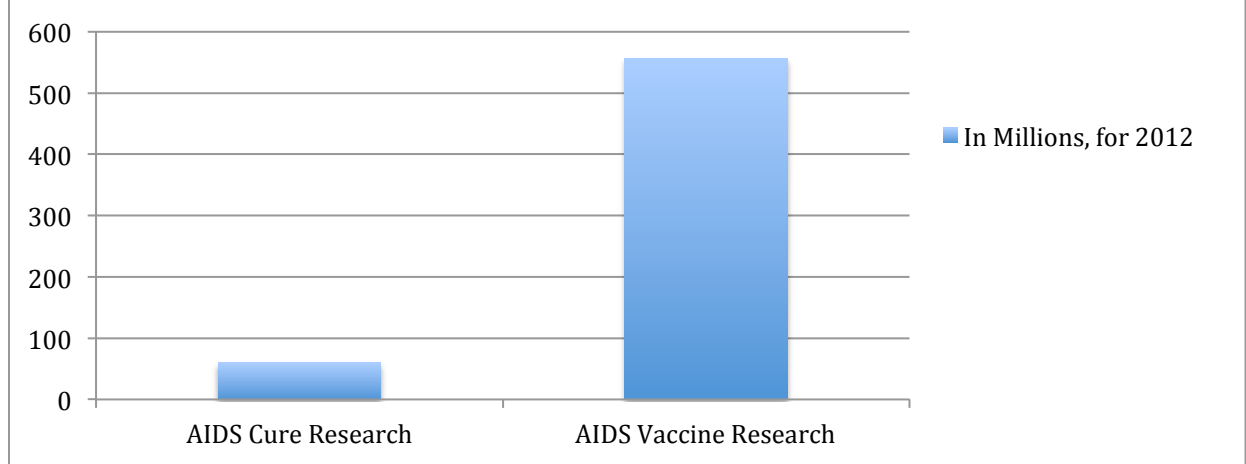
Background: According to UNAIDS, 34 million people are living with HIV/AIDS worldwide; 1.3 million live in the US. Nearly 2 million people die each year of the disease. Led by the United States, foreign governments and foundations spend tens of billions of dollars annually to pay for AIDS treatment and prevention worldwide. Due to the international financial crisis, some governments have cut back, causing drug shortages and deaths in countries such as Uganda. People with HIV/AIDS have to take a costly pill every day for the rest of their lives to survive, yet globally, many live on \$1 per day. The lives of millions of people depend on the political will of countries supplying treatment funding. **A cure for AIDS is a sustainable way to end the AIDS epidemic.**

Philadelphia: There are 30,000 people living with HIV/AIDS in Philadelphia (per the Centers for Disease Control), and rates of new infection remain extremely high. About half of African-American gay men in Philadelphia are living with HIV/AIDS. AIDS is linked to poverty and premature death.

State of AIDS Cure Research: The first person cured of AIDS was Timothy Ray Brown, an American living in Germany, in 2007. Since then, 20 people have been either completely cured or pushed into remission from AIDS (remission means that they don't need drugs to control residual HIV virus in the body and are no longer ill). Research in multiple avenues is progressing very well, including some research that would lead to a cure that would also prevent the patient from being re-infected.

AIDS Cure Research Funding: Funding for all AIDS cure research worldwide is about **\$80 million**, according to the International AIDS Society. The NIH supplies about 2/3 of this. Only \$2.8 million is being spent by charitable foundations. Lack of funding is delaying important research toward a cure.

National Institutes of Health Spending on AIDS Vaccine and Cure Research



The National Institutes of Health (NIH) spent \$557 million into 2012 to develop a preventive vaccine for AIDS in 2012; at the same time it spent only \$60 million to cure the disease.

Overall, the US government spent \$25 *billion* in 2012 on all AIDS programs, foreign and domestic.

According to the NIH, federal budget sequestration cuts mean that over 90% of AIDS research projects applying to the NIH are *not* funded. Many important projects stay on the shelf for years until funding becomes available, if it ever does.

Bottom Line: We are at a pivotal point in curing AIDS. A cure would have enormous global health, economic, and humanitarian implications. Yet AIDS cure funding is drastically underfunded, leading to unnecessary delays (sometimes of several years) in essential research that could lead to a scalable cure. Even relatively small amounts of funding (\$100,000-\$300,000) help researchers do small studies.

Possible vehicles for the philanthropic funding of AIDS cure research:

- A donor-advised fund to which multiple foundations could contribute.
- Individual philanthropists could create a fund for AIDS cure research.
- Foundations could designate a percentage of their medical research funding toward a cure.
- Foundations or individuals could make a contribution toward a specific medical research center.

AIDS Spending by the US Government, 2012, in Millions

