



Timeline of Events in U.S. Global HIV/AIDS Policy

Name _____

Date _____

Directions:

1. Briefly review the timeline of events in U.S. global HIV/AIDS policy below.
2. In your small groups discuss the following questions:
 - Describe the U.S. government's response to the AIDS crisis between 1980 and 1986.
 - In 1987 the U.S. takes several actions to address the HIV/AIDS issue. Would you say these policies create a contradictory policy?
 - Describe the chain of events in 1991 and again in 1992.
 - By 1997, who seems to be developing the most effective actions in the fight against HIV/AIDS, the scientific community or the government? Explain your answer.
 - Review the time period between 2001 and 2005. What seems to turn around the government's policy toward supporting funding for treating HIV/AIDS?
3. Now look at the chart, "Ranking Key Events" at the end of this handout. Working in your group, rank the order of the five most significant U.S. government policy events that address the HIV/AIDS epidemic by placing the number of the event with a brief description in the appropriate box. In the case of a sub-event, place the number and the letter (i.e., "7a" or "9c") in the box.
4. Be prepared to explain the reasons for your ranking of each event.

Timeline:

1. 1981-2 U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report first rare cases of pneumonia in young gay men. The CDC later names the disease AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome).
2. Early 1980's – Gay activist groups such as the Gay Men's Health Crisis, National Association of People with AIDS, Project Inform, American Foundation for AIDS Research lobby the government, pushing for more research money and access to more drugs more quickly.
3. 1982-3 – U.S. government reacts to the AIDS crisis with formal tracking of all AIDS cases, Congressional hearings, and U.S. public health service prevention recommendations.
4. 1980's – Scientific community identifies the virus Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) in 1984, develops a test in 1985, and even the first anti-retroviral drug, AZT, in 1987.
5. 1985 – The Pentagon announces that it will begin testing all new military recruits for HIV infection and will reject those who are positive.
6. 1986 – President Reagan mentions AIDS in a letter to Congress making AIDS a priority.
7. 1986 – C. Everett Koop (U.S. Surgeon General) issues Surgeon General's Report on AIDS; and in 1988 issues an 8-page pamphlet on HIV/AIDS prevention.

- a. National Academy of Science issues a report critical of the U.S. response to "national health crisis;" calls for a \$2 billion investment.
8. 1986 – President Yoweri Museveni of Uganda establishes a vigorous sex education program upon taking power.
9. 1987 – FDA strengthens regulation of condom manufacturing and provides guidance on labeling of condoms for the prevention of AIDS.
 - a. U.S. adds HIV as a “dangerous contagious disease” to its immigration exclusion list and issues mandatory testing of all immigrant applicants.
 - b. Congress approves \$30 million in emergency funding to states for AZT and adopts the Helms Amendment banning funds for any AIDS education materials that “promote or encourage, directly or indirectly, homosexual activities.”
 - c. President Reagan establishes the Presidential Commission on HIV (the Watkins Commission) which recommended anti-bias laws for HIV positive people, on-demand treatment for drug addicts, and accelerated AIDS research.
10. 1988 – The U.S. Health Omnibus Programs Extension (HOPE) Act of 1988 authorizes the use of federal funds for AIDS prevention, education, and testing.
11. 1989 – Congress creates the National Commission on AIDS.
12. 1990 – Ryan White dies at the age of 18. The Ryan White Comprehensive AIDS Resources Emergency (CARE) Act of 1990 is enacted by the U.S. Congress. The Act provides federal funds for community-based care and treatment services.
 - a. Congress enacts the Americans with Disabilities Act, prohibiting discrimination against individuals with disabilities, including people living with HIV/AIDS.
 - b. American AIDS deaths pass the 100,000 mark.
13. 1991 – Uganda added condom promotion to its anti-AIDS arsenal. President Museveni’s comprehensive prevention message becomes known as “ABC.”
 - a. New York City Board of Education approves an HIV/AIDS initiative, which includes condom availability in high schools.
14. 1992 – 8th International AIDS Conference ("A World United Against AIDS"), Amsterdam; would have taken place in Boston, but was moved due to U.S. immigration ban.
 - a. A federal court strikes down "offensiveness" restrictions on AIDS education materials proposed by Senator Jesse Helms.
 - b. AIDS becomes number one cause of death for U.S. men ages 25 to 44.
15. 1995 – President Clinton establishes the first Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS and hosts the first White House Summit on AIDS.
 - a. AIDS becomes the leading cause of death for all Americans ages 25-44.
16. 1996 – The first anti-retroviral drugs become available, ARVS; combination of the three medicines – the drug cocktail – reduces AIDS from a certain killer to a disease people could live with. Expense for drugs are very high \$12-14 thousand/year

- a. U.S. Congress reauthorizes the Ryan White CARE Act amid efforts by Senator Jesse Helms to block funding.
17. 1997 – AIDS-related deaths in the U.S. decline by more than 40 percent compared to the prior year, largely due to advancements in medication.
18. 2001 – President Bush takes office. U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell states that HIV/AIDS is a threat to national security.
19. 2002 – Bush administration begins promoting abstinence only HIV prevention programs and targets programs that do otherwise for audits. The Bush administration also removes condom fact sheets from HHS AIDS prevention materials.
20. 2002 – Senators Bill Frist and Jesse Helms establish the first mother to child HIV/AIDS prevention initiative. With good AIDS treatment available the whole tenor of the Christian Right begins to shift as a religious duty to treat people with the disease through medication.
21. 2003 – President Bush announces the President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief during State of Union Address, pledging a five-year, \$15 billion initiative to address HIV, tuberculosis, and malaria in hard hit countries.
22. 2005 – The U.S. Food and Drug Administration grants "Tentative Approval to Generic AIDS Drug Regimen for Potential Purchase Under the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief." Aspen Pharmacare of South Africa, becomes the first non-U.S.-based generic pharmaceutical company to manufacture the drug.

Ranking Key Events

Directions:

After reviewing the “Timeline of Events in U.S. Global HIV/AIDS Policy” and discussing the questions with members of your group, rank the order of the five most significant U.S. government policy events that address the HIV/AIDS epidemic by placing the number and a brief description of the event in the appropriate box. Be prepared to explain the reason for your ranking of each event.

Ranking <i>Most significant (1)</i> <i>Least significant (5)</i>	Event	Reason for Ranking
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		