



Adolescent HIV Infection

WHEREAS: Adolescents are among the highest risk group for acquiring HIV through unsafe behaviors in the United States today; and,

WHEREAS: At least 50 new cases of behaviorally acquired HIV among adolescents occurs each day nationally, resulting in nearly 20,000 new cases of HIV infection among adolescents each year; and

WHEREAS: More than 1 in 4 persons with HIV are not aware of their HIV-positive status and contribute to most of the new cases (>70%) of HIV each year; and,

WHEREAS: The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has recommended that HIV testing be a routine component of health care for all 13-64 years olds to identify, treat and prevent HIV infection; and

WHEREAS: the combination of delay in diagnosis and adolescents' belief in their invulnerability are the main reasons for our failure to combat the disease among this highly vulnerable population, therefore be it

RESOLVED: that Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago support program and policy initiatives to reduce behaviorally acquired HIV infection among adolescents; and be it further

RESOLVED: that Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago pursue aggressive clinical and community -based efforts to identify, treat and prevent HIV among adolescents to reverse the increased epidemic of HIV infection among adolescent youth.