

South Dakota Department of Health

The 24/7 contact number for the South Dakota Department of Health is: 1-800-592-1861

Current and past Alerts/Updates/Information can be viewed at:

<http://www.state.sd.us/doh/Alerts/>

To receive future Alerts/Updates/Information send your e-mail address to:

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The Department of Health is reporting 26 new cases of HIV/AIDS at mid-year, which is a sharp increase over our state baseline of the past 5 years. Nineteen of these cases are residents of the Sioux Falls Region.

Between 1 January and 30 June 2005, 26 newly reported HIV/AIDS cases compares unfavorably to 19 cases during the full year 2004, 25 cases in 2003, 21 cases in 2002, and 22 cases in both 2001 and 2000.

Data from recent years show an increasing percentage of heterosexual exposures, and Native American and Black cases. Qualitative information suggests that more people are being infected while using intravenous drugs, like methamphetamine, and men using internet contacts to locate anonymous partners. The Department of Health is asking physicians to consider HIV testing and counseling individuals who engage in high-risk behavior, such as male-to-male sex, IV drug use, having another sexually transmitted infection, or having sexual contact with someone who uses IV drugs or has male-to-male relations. Confidential HIV/AIDS testing and counseling is also available at Regional Department of Health offices in Sioux Falls (367-5363), Rapid City (394-2289), Watertown (882-5096), Aberdeen (626-2373), Pierre (773-5348), Dupree (365-5164), or call 1-800-592-1861 for information.

South Dakota has historically had one of the lowest AIDS incidence rates in the country. Since the beginning of the HIV/AIDS epidemic 488 cases have been reported in South Dakota and there are currently 285 cases reported to be living in the state.

The mid-year report and other information can be found on the department's HIV/AIDS web site at www.state.sd.us/doh/HIV/ .

CDC HIV and AIDS prevention, diagnosis and treatment information is found at www.cdc.gov/hiv/pubs/guidelines.htm#patient
The national AIDS hotline is 1-800-642-2437.