Since HIV/AIDS was first recognized in 1981, advances in medicines have helped lower the death rate by 83%. Prior to 1995, when the first anti-retroviral treatment was approved by the FDA, an HIV diagnosis was a death sentence; now, thanks to medicines developed by biopharmaceutical scientists and their research partners, it is a chronic condition with manageable costs and patients are able to reach nearly a full life expectancy.

“HIV/AIDS: THEN AND NOW”

ARTHUR ASHE
Due to the lack of effective medicines, Arthur Ashe succumbed to AIDS-related pneumonia at 50 years old in 1993, just 10 years after he contracted the disease and 5 years after diagnosis.

MAGIC JOHNSON
Despite being diagnosed with HIV/AIDS in 1991, Magic is expected to meet his full life expectancy due to the treatments available at the outset of his diagnosis.

MAGIC/space.liningJOHNSON

“THE BURDEN OF HIV/AIDS”

1987: Patients could only expect to live months before they succumbed to the illness. Absent an effective treatment, the disease was also very costly to the health care system and society as a whole.


THE PROGRESS IN THE FIGHT

1999s: The first protease inhibitors were approved by the FDA, and the HIV/AIDS death rate decreased 67% over a few years.

2006s: Transmission rates between mother and infant dropped below 2%.

2012: U.S. death rate dropped 83%.

THE ROAD AHEAD: NEW HOPE FOR PATIENTS

INCREASED SURVIVAL RATES, DECREASED HOSPITALIZATIONS AND MANAGEABLE HEALTH CARE COSTS

New antiretroviral treatments treatments contributed to the rising survival rates of HIV/AIDS patients across the U.S., as the number of people living with HIV/AIDS increased by 28% between 1996 and 2000.

A 20 year old diagnosed with HIV today can expect to live to the age of 70, near average life expectancy for the population as a whole.

Hospitalization rates fell by 32% between 1995 and today.

As more is discovered about HIV/AIDS, biopharmaceutical research companies are seeking further opportunities to develop a cure.

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