



COVID-19: CDC Museum Closed to the Public

Due to ongoing concerns about the novel coronavirus (COVID-19), the David J. Sencer CDC Museum is closed to the public and will remain closed as we continue to assess and monitor developments. All CDC Museum tours are canceled until further notice.

This decision is being made out of an abundance of caution and based upon the guidance of the CDC regarding social distancing and the elimination of large gatherings.

Please continue to check our website and social media accounts for additional updates.



Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
CDC 24/7: Saving Lives, Protecting People™

David J. Sencer CDC Museum: In Association with the Smithsonian Institution

CDC Timeline 1980s

Take a minute to review many of CDC's momentous contributions to public health since it was organized in 1946 as the Communicable Disease Center.

[2020s](#) | [2010s](#) | [2000s](#) | [1990s](#) | [1980s](#) | [1970s](#) | [1960s](#) | [1950s](#) | [1940s](#)

1980s



1989


- CDC reports every 6 to 10 killings involve guns, making firearms the 8th leading cause of death, after diabetes, but ahead of liver disease
- The 100,000th AIDS case is reported
- The 25th Surgeon General's report on the health consequences of smoking is issued
- A World Health Organization Collaborating Center for disaster preparedness is established at CDC
- To improve laboratory training programs and communication among participants, the National [Laboratory Training](#) Network is established with the Association of State and Territorial Public Health Laboratory Directors in seven sites

AMERICA RESPONDS TO AIDS

1987

- The [National Center for Health Statistics](#) becomes an organizational component of CDC
- CDC publishes guidelines on preventing HIV transmission in healthcare settings, on HIV counseling, and on antibody testing
- NIOSH establishes the [Sentinel Event Notification System for Occupational Risk \(SENSOR\)](#) program
- The national health information campaign "America Responds to AIDS" launches

1988

- Worldwide [Polio Eradication Initiative](#) launches: a public-private partnership led by national governments and spearheaded by the World Health Organization (WHO), Rotary International, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
- [Understanding AIDS](#) , an informational pamphlet created to increase awareness and concern about AIDS, is sent to every household in America
- Disabilities Prevention Program is developed to provide a national focus for the prevention of disabilities
- CDC establishes the [Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion](#) to target chronic diseases such as heart disease, cancer, and diabetes
- CDC appoints its first [Assistant Director for Minority Health](#)



1986

- CDC establishes the [Division of Injury Epidemiology and Control](#)
- Department of Health and Human Services Office on Smoking and Health was transferred to CDC and joined with CDC's programs to produce the first of these reports, [Smoking and Health: A National Status Report](#)
- CDC cosponsors the first [National Conference on Chronic Disease Prevention and Control](#)

1985

- CDC cosponsors the first International Conference on AIDS
- Evidence mounts of multidrug-resistance in the bacterium that causes TB
- Study finds that a new polysaccharide vaccine is a cost-effective means to protect children who were at risk for developing *Haemophilus influenzae type b*.
- Heat-treated, blood-based clotting factor products used by people with hemophilia are introduced and shown to eliminate the transmission of HIV through infusion of clotting factor products
- CDC provides international disaster relief assistance to Mexico after a major earthquake in its capital, Mexico City, and to Puerto Rico and Colombia following devastating mudslides in these areas

1984

- CDC study supported by Congress and funded by the U.S. Veterans Administration shows that male Vietnam veterans are at no higher risk than other men for fathering babies with birth defects, and produces the first of many publications on risk factors for birth defects
- The Interagency Committee on Smoking and Health (ICSH) was established
- Public health department and laboratory staff are trained by CDC to perform a new test for antibodies to the virus that causes AIDS (the test is licensed in 1985)
- Reports show declining incidence of *Reye syndrome* in the U.S.



1983

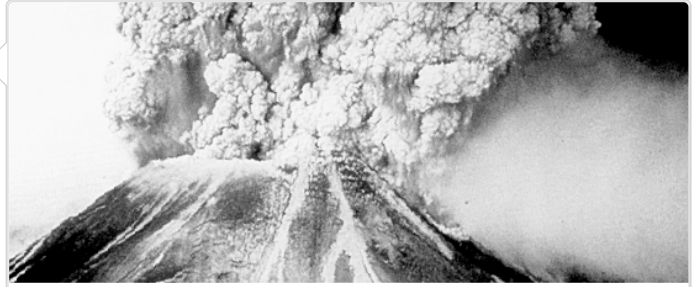
- NIOSH publishes a list of *Ten Leading Work-Related Disease and Injuries*
- Persons at increased risk of contracting AIDS are advised to refrain from donating blood
- CDC receives funding for HIV risk reduction services for people with hemophilia and others using blood products
- CDC establishes the National AIDS Hotline to handle the growing number of calls concerning the AIDS virus
- CDC established the Violence Epidemiology Branch

1982

- CDC begins an international campaign to gather support for elimination of *dracunculiasis*, Guinea worm disease
- Epidemiologists discover that foodborne *E. coli* 0157 is the cause of two outbreaks of hemorrhagic colitis
- A report of 1,714 *measles* cases (an all-time low) indicates a 99% reduction from the annual average of 500,000 in the pre-vaccine era
- National surveillance for *Lyme disease*, a *tick-borne* disease begins
- CDC receives first reports of AIDS in persons with hemophilia, other transfusion recipients, and in infants born to mothers with AIDS
- Infection control recommendation for AIDS for clinical and laboratory staff are published

1981

- *MMWR (Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report)* publishes a report of five cases of *Pneumocystis carinii* pneumonia (PCP) among previously healthy young men in Los Angeles. Local clinicians and the Epidemic Intelligence Service (EIS) Officer stationed at the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health prepares the report and submits it to *MMWR*. CDC develops an investigative team to identify risk factors and to develop a case definition for national surveillance
- CDC establishes the [International Health Program Office](#)
- The Department of Health and Human Services assigns implementation of the Superfund Act to CDC
- To prevent Reye syndrome, the Surgeon General's advisory against the use of [salicylates](#) (aspirin) for children with influenza or chickenpox is published



1980

- *MMWR (Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report)* publishes the first report on a newly-recognized illness associated with tampon use: [toxic shock syndrome](#); CDC organizes a task force to study the illness
- Reports in the *MMWR* indicate association of Reye syndrome with aspirin use
- CDC assists in the study of health effects related to Mount St. Helen's volcanic eruption and establishes the [National Center for Environmental Health](#)
- CDC establishes the first international Field Epidemiology Training Program in Thailand and initiates the Global EIS Program
- Congress creates the [Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry](#), as a "sister agency" to CDC
- The World Health Organization declares global eradication of smallpox in May