

[Home](#)
[News](#)

Main Categories

[Top News](#)
[Nation](#)
[States](#)
[Campaigns & Elections](#)
[Washington](#)
[World](#)
[Editorial/Opinion](#)
[Health & Science](#)
[Census](#)
[Offbeat](#)
More News
[Columnists](#)
[Lotteries](#)
[City Guides](#)
[Government Guide](#)
[Talk Today](#)
[Special reports](#)
[Money](#)
[Sports](#)
[Life](#)
[Tech](#)
[Weather](#)



Newspaper stories

Page 22A

Prevention programs don't curb HIV/AIDS

USA TODAY's article, "Top Democrats say Bush policy will weaken HIV prevention programs," fails to mention a key fact about the policies and programs aimed at preventing HIV and AIDS: They are abject failures (A better life, Life, Sept. 15).

As a congressman and a physician who has treated HIV/AIDS patients, I'm very concerned when misinformed senior legislators claim that the "process that's now in place has worked well for over a decade." Really?

Let's look at the facts. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, as many as 900,000 Americans are infected with HIV or AIDS; in addition, more people are living with AIDS in the United States than ever before. The CDC also estimates that approximately 40,000 new HIV infections occur each year.

Recent news reports stated that despite \$20 million in HIV prevention spending in 2001 in San Francisco, the city experienced a 100% increase in the rate of new HIV infections. Also in San Francisco, the number of new syphilis cases among gay men, which foreshadows serious increases in HIV infection, grew from a low of 26 in 1998 to 139 in 2001 and was expected to have reached more than 250 cases in 2002.

Furthermore, in 2002 the CDC and San Francisco's Department of Public Health released a report estimating that there likely would be 700 to 800 new HIV infections in San Francisco that year, numbers that rival those from the early years of the AIDS epidemic.

Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson is only right to demand better results from the billions of dollars spent. The claims of Democratic leaders -- Reps. Henry Waxman, D-Calif., Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., and Steny Hoyer, D-Md. -- don't appear to be supported by the facts.

Rep. Dave Weldon, R-Fla.

Washington

Do w
 want
 do.



Fin

USATODAY.com partners: [USA Weekend](#) • [Sports Weekly](#) • [Education](#) • [Space.com](#)

[Home](#) • [News](#) • [Money](#) • [Sports](#) • [Life](#) • [Tech](#) • [Weather](#) • [Travel](#) • [Job Center](#)

Resources: [Mobile News](#) • [Site Map](#) • [FAQ](#) • [Feedback](#)
[Email News](#) • [Jobs with Us](#) • [Terms of service](#) • [Privacy Policy](#) • [Media Kit](#)

[Add USATODAY.com headlines to your website](#)

© Copyright 2003 USA TODAY, a division of [Gannett Co. Inc.](#)