HIV Incidence Estimates

- **Value:** 469 new HIV infections
- **Community Target:** 352 new HIV infections
- **Measurement Period:** 2008
- **Location:** County: San Francisco
- **Categories:** Health / Immunizations & Infectious Diseases

### What is this Indicator?
This indicator provides an estimate of the number of new HIV infections in San Francisco each year.

### Why this is important:
In August 2008, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) published the first national HIV incidence (new infections) estimates using new technology and methodology that more directly measure the number of new HIV infections in the United States. The first analysis, published in the August 6, 2008 issue of the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA), showed that in 2006, an estimated 56,300 new HIV infections occurred nationally— a number that is substantially higher than the previous estimate of 40,000 annual new infections (http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/topics/surveillance/incidence.htm). San Francisco is conducting HIV incidence surveillance locally and uses the CDC methodology to estimate the number of new HIV infections each year in San Francisco. This information can then be used to monitor the HIV epidemic and to help target prevention resources and interventions in populations at risk for HIV infection.


### Progress in the last year:
In the 2008, the estimated number of HIV incident infections was 469. Estimates for 2009 are forthcoming.

### What is the current status?
Using a statistical methodology created by the CDC, the SFDPH HIV Epidemiology section calculates yearly estimates of HIV incidence for San Francisco. HIV incidence is calculated using a laboratory assay (BED), which distinguishes recent from longer-standing infection among new HIV diagnoses and a statistical adjustment for frequency of HIV testing. Data from people tested and diagnosed with HIV each year in San Francisco are extrapolated to the population of San Francisco to estimate a population-based estimate of all new HIV incidences in San Francisco (Scheer, AIDS, 2009).

### What is needed to “move the needle”?
In collaboration with the HIV Prevention Planning Council, a community-based advisory group, SFDPH developed the 2010 HIV Prevention Plan, which is the roadmap for moving forward to achieve our goal of reducing HIV incidence by 50% by 2017. The strategies include:

- Increasing HIV testing rates for high-risk populations (men who have sex with men, transfemales, and injection drug users).
- Increasing routine HIV screening in medical settings.
- Enhancing linkage and engagement in care for persons living with HIV.
- Increasing access to medications and reducing community viral load.
- Intervening on proximal drivers of the HIV epidemic, including substance use.

The SFDPH strategy is in alignment with the National HIV/AIDS Strategy, which has 3 goals: 1) decrease HIV incidence; 2) increase access to care; 3) reduce HIV-related disparities. At a population-based level, our goal is to reduce Community Viral Load, an indicator of the success of treatment and prevention (Das, PLoS One, 2009). Research by UCSF has concluded that increasing testing and treatment rates in San Francisco could reduce HIV incidence by as much as 81% by 2029. For the SFDPH HIV Prevention Plan, please visit www.sfhiv.org.

### Who are the Community Partners on this Indicator?
Stop AIDS
San Francisco AIDS Foundation
API Wellness
SFDPH STD Prevention & Control
Bay Area Perinatal AIDS Center
AGUILAS
Instituto Familiar de la Raza
SFDPH Community Oriented Primary Care
SF General Hospital
Jail Health Services
San Francisco Community Clinic Consortium
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)