

## *HIV is Preventable*

***19,537*** Virginians were living with HIV as of ***March 31, 2008.***<sup>1</sup>  
***20,593*** ***March 31, 2009***

*2 in 3 are African American*  
*1 in 4 are women or girls*

*1 in 3 live in the eastern region*  
*1 in 12 live in the southwest region*

***HIV is an expensive disease to treat***

### ***Lifetime Cost to Treat HIV - \$618,900<sup>2</sup>:***

The costs of treating HIV are HIGHER when treatment begins late.

***The total cost of care for the Virginians living with HIV could be over \$11 Billion.***

One recent study shows that when treatment begins late – when the person is unaware that they have HIV until their immune system collapses – the average monthly costs of treatment will be more than double the costs for a person infected who is diagnosed early.<sup>3</sup>

With early diagnosis and treatment, the average monthly cost over the lifetime is \$2,100, 75% of that cost being the medications that will provide an additional 24 years of life, on average.

***Yet with early diagnosis and treatment, persons with HIV can remain contributing citizens.***

Today, the benefits of treatment on improved daily function, and on decreasing the likelihood of passing on the virus, is significant and must be available to everyone with HIV.

### ***The Virginian Living with HIV pays ...***

***Who pays?***

*\* Out-of-pocket for fees and co-pays, and for insurance premiums*

### ***You and I pay, too ...***

*\* Higher private insurance premiums that compensate for the uninsured costs of some Virginians living with HIV*

*\* Federal taxes to support treatment programs such as Medicare and Ryan White C.A.R.E. Act funding*

*\* In Virginia, to a much lesser extent, state taxes that support Medicaid*

***A better response – PREVENTION***

*Virginia's prevention programs are small, scattered, inconsistently available, and constantly struggling to maintain funding – even though the methods used to teach prevention are proven effective.*

***Please, learn about the HIV Prevention programs in your district. And please, support Virginia funding for HIV-Prevention programs.***

***Our mission is to end HIV and AIDS in Virginia. Will you join us?***

<sup>1</sup> VDH Office of Epidemiology – Division of Disease Prevention, Quarterly Surveillance Report, 1st Quarter 2008 & 2009 Tables 1, 2 and 3.

<sup>2</sup> Schackman, B. *Medical Care*, November 2006; vol 44: pp 990-997. News release, Weill Medical College of Cornell University. Bruce R. Schackman, PhD, chief, division of health policy, Weill Cornell Medical College. Posted on WebMD, 2006.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.