



AIDS RESOURCE CENTER OF WISCONSIN

Excellence in HIV Health Care

For Immediate Release

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Statement by ARCW President and CEO on annual HIV/AIDS surveillance report

Milwaukee... AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin President and Chief Executive Officer Mike Gifford issued the following statement regarding the release of the state's annual HIV/AIDS Surveillance Annual Report:

“The news that Wisconsin had 400 new HIV patients in need of health care in 2012 should serve as a clear reminder that even with all the advancements in medical care and medications, and even with promising trends related to the reductions in the rates of HIV infections among some of our most vulnerable groups, we are far from realizing the dream of an AIDS-free generation. At the end of last year, the total number of people confirmed to be living with HIV in Wisconsin was 6,549 - a figure that does not include the more than 1,500 people who have HIV but do not know their status.

“In order to achieve victory in the fight against AIDS, we must make sure that each of these patients has access to high-quality, comprehensive health care that addresses all of their needs. This is critical to linking them to and retaining them in care. These steps, combined with continued emphasis on effective HIV prevention programs, must remain a priority for our public health system.

“HIV continues to disproportionately impact young people, people of color, gay men and low-income individuals. We must direct HIV prevention resources to help these communities, especially young people under the age of 25 who now make-up 24% of new HIV infections in our state.”

About ARCW:

The AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin is home to the ARCW Medical Center - Wisconsin's largest and fastest growing HIV health care system. Through its integrated medical, dental and mental health clinics along with its pharmacy and dedicated social services that include food pantries, a legal program, and social work case management, more than 3,000 HIV patients in Wisconsin gain the health care and social services they need for long-term survival with HIV disease from ARCW.

ARCW is also a leading provider of innovative and aggressive prevention services to help at-risk individuals stay free of HIV.

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