

Service Members Diagnosed With HIV-1 Infection in Recent Years Remain Longer in U.S. Armed Forces

The August issue of the Medical Surveillance Monthly Report by the Armed Forces Health Surveillance Center featured an [analysis](#) that found service members diagnosed with HIV-1 in more recent years have tended to remain on active duty longer than those who became infected in the earlier years of the time period between 1990 and 2013.

As the US military started conducting routine screening for antibodies to HIV among all civilian applicants for service and all active and reserve component members of the Services nearly 30 years ago, the US Military HIV Natural History Study (NHS) from the Infectious Disease Clinical Research Program (IDCRP) has been conducting research to address concerns from HIV infected military members, their care providers and commanders. The program addresses goals including improving outcomes through understanding of factors associated with HIV infection and treatment along with complications, understanding the safety and efficacy of non-HIV vaccine strategies important to the HIV-infected military and other relevant populations, and understanding factors associated with HIV co-infections including sexually transmitted infections and bi-directional effects on disease manifestations and progression. In addition to NHS, the program also conducts research on immune reconstitution syndrome, prevalence and predictors of neurocognitive impairment, strategic timing of anti-retroviral treatment, and the natural history of HIV-associated neurocognitive disease to generate evidence to support DoD clinicians and service-specific HIV programs in the care of HIV-infected service members and retirees. IDCRP partners with initiatives from the US Military HIV Research Program and is complementary to other DoD HIV research and surveillance efforts. For more information, please visit <http://www.idcrp.org/research-area/human-immunodeficiency-virus>.