

# HIV/AIDS: Progress and concerns three decades later

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(Medical Xpress) -- When Michael Jonas learned he was HIV positive, he returned from Florida to his home in Jackson, Mich., to die.

A decade later Jonas, 47, lives with [HIV](#) as one would any chronic disease: he takes his [antiviral drugs](#) and plans his future—a future Jonas expects to be long and productive, including earning his degree in social work and counseling other HIV patients.

Such is the case for many HIV patients now. This month marks 30 years since the disease was discovered, and science has reduced HIV/AIDS from a death sentence to a chronic disease, but there's still no cure.

Eve Mokotoff, adjunct lecturer at the University of Michigan School of Public Health remembers reading the first report on the strange, lithe virus reported in a handful of gay men the West Coast.

Mokotoff knew that she was witnessing the birth of a deadly, long-term assault on the public's health. But Mokotoff, the HIV epidemiology manager for the Michigan Department of Community Health, couldn't have predicted that today HIV/AIDS would infect approximately 33 million worldwide, and literally change our ideas about sex and public health.

Globally, the HIV/AIDS problem has reached epidemic proportions. Rachel Snow, associate professor at the U-M School of Public [Health](#), is working hard to understand and prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS in

African countries, which were hit hardest by the virus.

In the video, Jonas explains how he regained hope after an HIV-positive diagnosis and how the [public](#) perception of people infected with HIV/AIDS has evolved over the past three decades. Mokotoff and Snow address where the focus of HIV/AIDS research and prevention should be domestically and globally, and discuss the greatest successes and failures in the 30-year war on HIV/[AIDS](#).

Provided by University of Michigan

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