



April 30, 2014

Dear Colleague:

The Division of HIV/AIDS Prevention is pleased to announce a new resource for state and local health departments on the use of HIV surveillance data to support the HIV care continuum. The *Data to Care: A Public Health Strategy Using HIV Surveillance Data to Support the HIV Care Continuum* toolkit can be accessed under the Public Health Strategies section of www.effectiveinterventions.org.

Two key goals of the National HIV/AIDS Strategy are to reduce new HIV infections and to improve access to care and health outcomes for people living with HIV. Central to achieving these goals are identifying persons living with HIV who are not in care and linking – or re-engaging – them to HIV care and treatment services.

Among various strategies that can be used to help identify and link HIV-positive individuals to care is the use of routine HIV surveillance data that are reported to health departments. The *Data to Care* toolkit provides information and tools to assist health departments in developing a program that supports this strategy including discussion of important legal, ethical and procedural issues that should be considered.

The Division of HIV/AIDS Prevention strongly encourages state and local health departments to use HIV case surveillance data to improve the continuum of care in their communities, including the use of individual-level data to offer linkage and re-engagement to care services when appropriate. The *Data to Care* toolkit is one resource to assist programs in moving forward with these activities. The Division of HIV/AIDS Prevention will continue to provide resources and technical assistance to assist you in these efforts.

Sincerely,

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