

A Dangerous Precedent: Tennessee Rejects Federal Funds for HIV Prevention

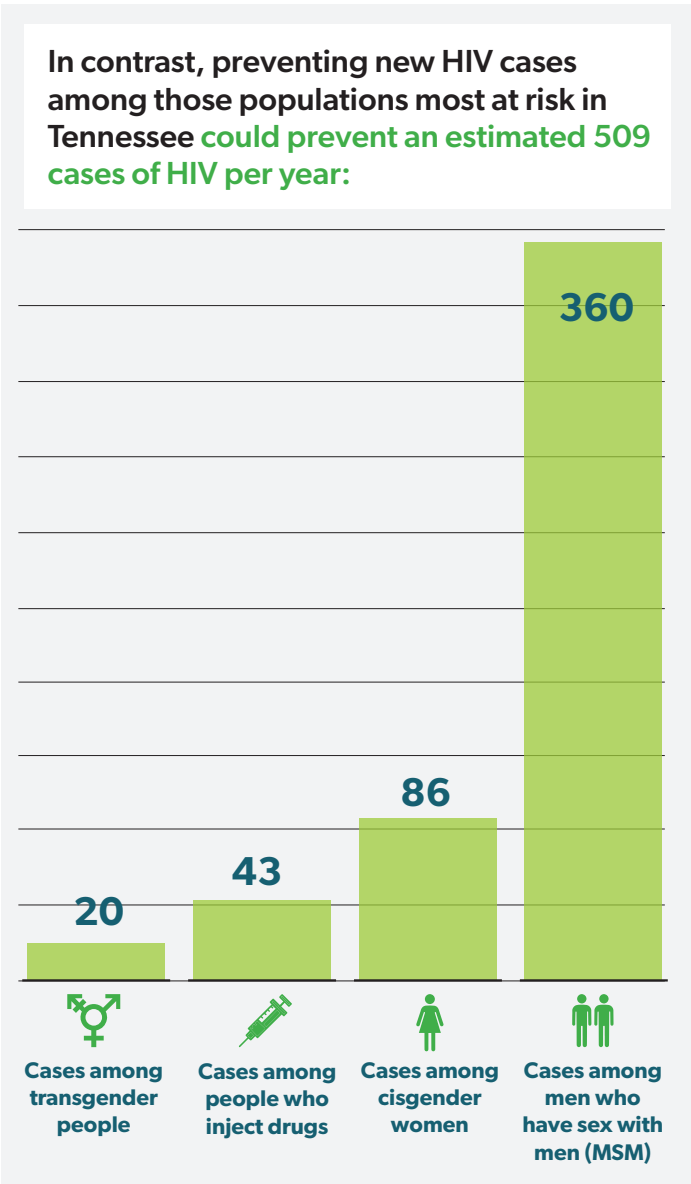
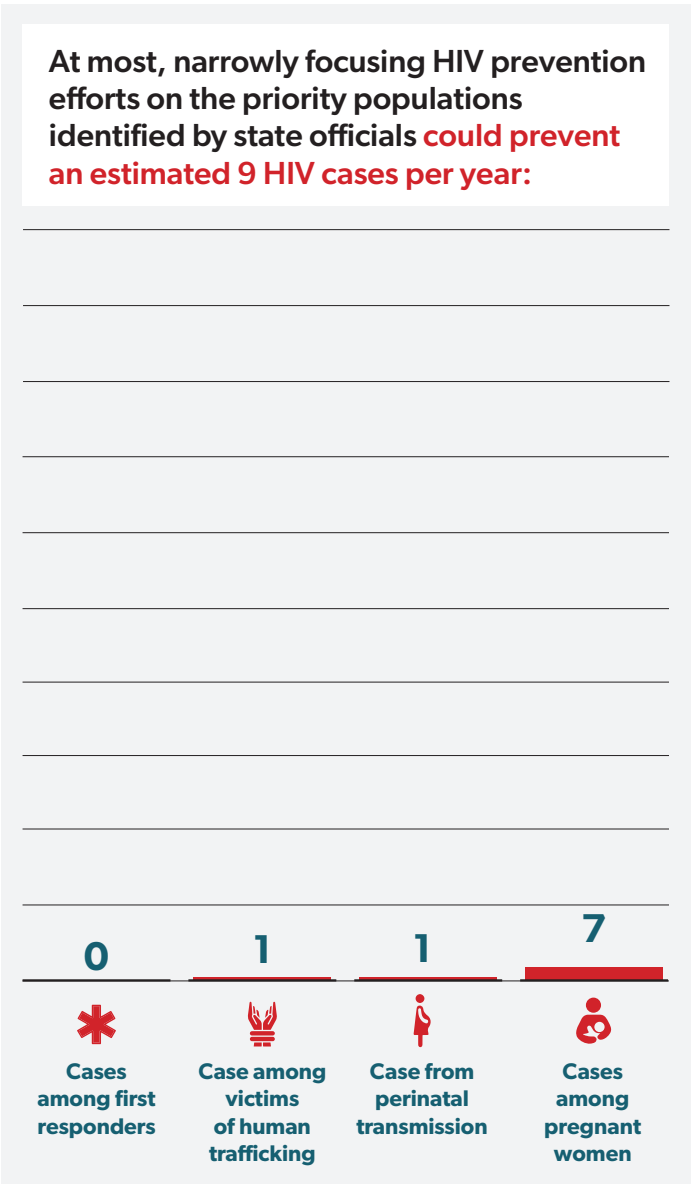
On January 17, 2023, health officials in Tennessee announced their intention to reject federal funding for HIV services including testing kits, condoms, medication to prevent acquisition of the virus, and HIV surveillance in the state. Last year, these funds totaled \$8.3 million. State officials have indicated that they aim to maintain the same level of funding, but shift the priorities of the program to prevent HIV among first responders, mothers and children, and victims of human trafficking. These populations do not align with those most vulnerable to HIV infection in Tennessee.



By limiting HIV prevention activities to only 2% of those “at risk,” the missed prevention opportunities in the Tennessee state officials’ plan could end up **adding \$255 million in HIV treatment costs** per year for the state.*

At most, narrowly focusing HIV prevention efforts on the priority populations identified by state officials **could prevent an estimated 9 HIV cases per year:**

In contrast, preventing new HIV cases among those populations most at risk in Tennessee **could prevent an estimated 509 cases of HIV per year:**



* Calculated as the lifetime treatment costs of failure to prevent 500 net HIV cases [509 cases - 9 cases] each year under the Tennessee state officials’ plan [\$510,000 x 500 = \$255 million in additional treatment costs].