

## 3 in 4 Americans with HIV don't have disease under control: Study

**HUFF POST:** Almost three out of four people in the United States with HIV do not have their condition under control, according to a new report from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The news comes just days before World AIDS Day, which is on Dec. 1.

The high figures are likely a result of one in five people not realizing that they have the disease to begin with, the CDC said.

“While we have known that viral suppression can be achieved with proper HIV treatment and care,

today's new Vital Signs data highlight the challenges our country faces in keeping HIV-positive Americans in the care they need to control the virus,” Dr. Thomas R. Frieden, M.D., M.P.H., the director of the CDC, said in a statement. ...

**EDITOR:** *Lancaster General Health has spurned an offer by the Urban League to operate a full scale syringe exchange here in Lancaster! Syringe exchanges are gateways to identifying bearers of HIV / AIDS through testing, guiding them to treatment, and for protecting the health of the general population.*

## LGH prevents public comment at open annual meeting

The annual Lancaster General Health Board of Trustees meeting took place at the Stager Auditorium at 5 pm on Tuesday, November 15th . The format was changed from last year and it went as follows: A one hour and fifteen minute agenda was presented, then the meeting adjourned for one hour, after which there were three additional presentations.

About 125 people were in attendance.

Chairman Alex Henderson made the announcement that at the adjournment the board would be available to answer questions from the public. Thus in its sole meeting open to the public of the year, public charity LGH prevented members of the public from jointly addressing its board, officers, the medical community, and the local media.

At the adjournment, *NewsLanc* reporter Christiaan Hart-Nibbrig approached board members and other

LGH officials, introduced himself, and said that *NewsLanc's* publisher Robert Field was out of the country but wanted Hart-Nibbrig to read a letter at the meeting during the public segment. He handed a copy personally to Henderson, President Tom Beeman and Executive Vice President Jan Bergen. Senator Armstrong received a letter as well.

Failure to permit public comment may have been a violation of federal regulations. In any case, this is still another example of how LGH disdains public input and criticism, now taking the unprecedented and arrogant step of preventing the well represented Lancaster medical community in attendance from being exposed to views from the public.

Excerpts from letter:

*[Continued on back]*

Field wrote: *I regret that I cannot attend in person ... In reviewing the latest federal 990 report, we were again disappointed that LGH did not donate more of its outsized earnings for regional health and education purposes. But I expressed my views on that matter at some length and last year, so let me focus here on the dire need for LGH to help bring about an effective syringe exchange program here in Lancaster...*

*An explanation for LGH failure to accept and support the Union League offer to operate a facility has been there may be legal obstacles. The body of evidence makes this stance highly questionable. Nevertheless, LGH could have supported the Union League's other efforts and, by doing so, freed up League funds for the exchange...*

**INTELLIGENCER JOURNAL:** Article headed "Lancaster Quilt & Textile Museum will fold" goes on to report:

*"When the Lancaster Quilt & Textile Museum opened in 2004, organizers expected between 35,000 and 55,000 people to come through the doors to see the famous Esprit Collection of Amish quilts...*

*"This year, only 8,500 have paid admission to the 37 N. Market St. museum.*

*"And it simply was not enough to keep operating."*

**WATCHDOG:** Sometimes the heart is allowed to take the place of good business practice. The same noble intention that was behind the Quilt & Textile Museum also was part of the misbegotten genesis of the Convention Center Project, later to be exploited by others. The idea was that 'we just

*An exchange doesn't just give out injection devices; it is the back door to counseling, medical assistance and referrals to detoxification programs and subsequent methadone and buprenorphine treatment. It gets people off the streets, off welfare, and back to homes and jobs.*

*I feel confident that most of those present here today share my concerns and believe that a syringe exchange would well serve the estimated 5,000 to 10,000 heroin addicts, their loved ones and safeguard the general public.*

*You represent the medical leadership of our community. I implore you to take up the task and get the job done.*

have to do something about the Watt & Shand building' rather than 'we have to do what will work to revitalize downtown.' There never was a legitimate feasibility study for the Convention Center project until the Commissions authorized one too late in the game and we question if a hard nose study was done for the Quilt Museum.

We also point out the Pennsylvania Academy of Music disaster might well have been averted had a feasibility study been made. (It seems ironic if not downright comical that the former PAM building is now named for the co-perpetrator of the PAM debacle... after he, unlike other donors, got most if not all of his money back from the sale of the building at an inflated price to the state. Well, what is government for if it isn't to bail out the rich?)

When will the Lancaster establishment learn that it isn't what is popular at cocktail parties but what makes hard business sense that matters

**The above have been excerpted from [www.NewsLanc.com](http://www.NewsLanc.com).  
Visit the website daily for news, commentary, letters, and other features.  
Suggestions and letters are most welcome**