

Prognosis

Early recognition and improved medical care have changed HIV disease from a rapidly fatal illness to a chronic disease. After the introduction of combination antiretroviral therapy, the numbers of new AIDS cases and deaths declined substantially. In the United States, from 2009 to 2013, the annual estimated number and rate of deaths of HIV-infected children younger than 13 years old has remained stable ([Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2015](#); [Simpkins, Siberry, and Hutton, 2009](#)). In contrast, adolescents and young adults (13 to 24 years old) with AIDS that represent a minority of cases in the US ($\approx 5\%$) constitute one of the fastest growing groups of newly infected persons in the country ([Simpkins, Siberry, and Hutton, 2009](#); [Yogev and Chadwick, 2011](#)).

Quality Patient Outcomes: Human Immunodeficiency Virus

- Early recognition of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection
- HIV infection slowed or maintained
- Growth and development promoted
- No infectious complications or cancer development
- Adherence to antiretroviral therapy
- Prolonged survival
- Quality of life supported

Nursing Care Management

Education concerning transmission and control of infectious diseases, including HIV infection, is essential for children with HIV infection and anyone involved in their care. The basic tenets of standard precautions should be presented in an age-appropriate manner, with careful consideration of the educational levels of the individuals (see [Infection Control, Chapter 20](#)). Safety issues,