



WAYNE STATE  
UNIVERSITY

# Pandemic Perspectives

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# Pandemic Perspectives

Historical accounts of  
pandemics and epidemics

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Center for Judaic Studies

With support from:

# HIV/AIDS

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# The Origin Story

- Disease found from 1979 – 1981 in clusters of men who had sex with men in San Francisco, Los Angeles, and NYC
- CDC identifies HIV in 1981
- Manifests self as a combination of Kaposi's Sarcoma and Pneumonia
- 1999 scientist found the disease in chimpanzee blood, killed and eaten for meat in Africa, so transmission was bloodborne
- As early as 1959 HIV was found in blood sample from the Congo
- HIV symptoms lead to AIDS disease



# Prevalence Data

- 0.8% population prevalence of HIV currently
- Since 1980 74 million people infected, 32 million have died
- 2004 peak year 1.7 million people died, in 2018 770,000 died worldwide (55% reduction), YTD 2020 500,000 have died of Covid-19
- A quarter of cases related to sex trade and their sex partners, 1/5 cases among men who have sex with men, 1/10 of cases IV drug users
- 2/3 current cases receiving treatment. It is a treatable disease now due to science



# Similarities to Covid-19

- Reveals health disparities, most cases of AIDS now found in sub Saharan Africa where they go untreated
- Passed from animal to human
- PPE like face masks today was educating folks about condom use and not sharing needles
- Vulnerable populations including the homeless who I was working with at risk due to lack of resources including \$ or access to PPE so I distributed condoms and needle cleaning supplies and lessons on how to use both

