

HIV Deaths due to AID cuts. Devex, 24 Apr 2025

Counting the dead

Since the Trump administration initiated a foreign aid freeze in January, **40,000 people living with HIV are estimated to have died** after losing access to U.S.-funded treatment. That includes almost 4,000 children.

Those deaths have been largely invisible ... until last week. AIDS activists [deposited more than 200 cardboard coffins](#) outside the [U.S. Department of State](#), each representing more than 100,000 people once supported by the [U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief](#), or PEPFAR.

According to activists, almost **none of the money appropriated for PEPFAR** this fiscal year **has actually been spent**. The total allocation is about \$4.85 billion. Meanwhile, questions continue to swirl around the future of the program.

There is even more bad news for PEPFAR. The [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Global Health Center is on the chopping block](#) in a budget proposal for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, which oversees CDC. The center plays a critical role in administering PEPFAR, including implementing much of the HHS' \$1 billion budget for the program.

[The cuts to HHS in the budget proposal](#) would also **eliminate the National Institutes of Health's Fogarty International Center**, which provides crucial training to both U.S. and foreign scientists. And they would end funding for the Office of Global Affairs, which leads on global health diplomacy and policy.

Read: [How US Human and Health Services budget cuts could impact global health](#)

Plus: [AIDS activists pile coffins outside State Dept. to protest PEPFAR cuts](#)