

NEW YORK
state department of
HEALTH

Nirav R. Shah, M.D., M.P.H.
Commissioner

Sue Kelly
Executive Deputy Commissioner

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Dear Colleague:

New York State (NYS), once the epicenter of the national pediatric HIV epidemic, has almost eliminated mother-to-child transmission (MTCT). In 1990, almost 1,900 HIV-positive women in New York gave birth with an estimated 450-700 of their infants having MTCT. In 2010, close to 500 HIV-positive women gave birth with just three of their infants having HIV. Since 1997, when newborn HIV screening began, New York's efforts are estimated to have saved at least 749 infants from a lifetime of living with HIV and averted more than \$215 million in HIV-related medical expenses for the care of these infants.

Despite this impressive progress, there are substantial challenges to achieving and sustaining elimination of MTCT. Although NYS has seen a significant decline in the number of HIV-exposed births, there continue to be approximately 500 HIV-positive women who deliver HIV-exposed newborns each year. These women and infants need ongoing state-of-the-art services tailored to their unique medical and psychosocial needs.

In November 2010, the AIDS Institute (AI) convened an advisory panel of HIV-positive women and experts from all regions of NYS with expertise in caring for HIV-positive women and their children. The goal of the meeting was to develop recommendations to further elimination of MTCT. From these recommendations, the AI developed a *New York State Strategic Plan for Elimination of Mother-to-Child Transmission of HIV*, as well as a companion *User Guide*. The success of the *Strategic Plan* and, ultimately, achieving and sustaining elimination of MTCT in NYS, requires ongoing collaboration of all stakeholders caring for women, children and families. The *Strategic Plan* and *User Guide* provide a flexible framework for diverse stakeholders to align their efforts in support of elimination of MTCT.

We are pleased to provide you with a copy of the *Strategic Plan* and *User Guide*, as well as a roster of the Advisory Panel members. Please share them with your colleagues and other interested stakeholders. These documents and additional information will be available at www.health.ny.gov/diseases/aids/EMTCT in the near future. If you have questions or comments, please feel free to contact the Perinatal HIV Prevention Program at phpp@health.state.ny.us or by calling 518-486-6048.

In closing, we would like to thank the NYS women living with HIV and the vast array of providers serving women and children for their dedicated efforts that made this remarkable achievement possible.

Sincerely,

Humberto Cruz
Director
AIDS Institute