

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **CDC Study in Botswana Provides First Evidence that ARVs can reduce HIV Acquisition**

The United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) today released groundbreaking results from a study conducted in Botswana that provide the first evidence that pre-exposure use of antiretroviral drugs can reduce HIV acquisition among uninfected individuals exposed to the virus through heterosexual sex.

The CDC study, conducted in partnership with the Botswana Ministry of Health, found that a once-daily tablet containing tenofovir disoproxil fumarate and emtricitabine (TDF/FTC, known by the brand name Truvada) reduced the risk of acquiring HIV infection by roughly 63 percent overall in the study population of uninfected heterosexual men and women.

The study included a total of 1,219 HIV-uninfected heterosexual male and female participants (aged 18-39) in Botswana, randomly assigned to take a daily TDF/FTC pill or a placebo pill. All participants in the study were provided comprehensive HIV prevention services, including male and female condoms, intensive risk-reduction behavioral counseling, and testing and treatment for sexually transmitted infections. In the primary analysis, among the 601 participants who received TDF/FTC, there were nine who became infected with HIV during the study. Among the 599 individuals who received a placebo, 24 became infected with HIV during the study. This translates into a statistically significant overall reduction in risk of 62.6 percent.

The results of this trial, which could have a global impact on HIV prevention, would not have been possible without the dedication of the more than 1,200 Botswana participants and the strong collaboration between the Botswana Ministry of Health and CDC.

United States Ambassador to Botswana Michelle Gavin said, “These results may open a door to HIV prevention that until now had been closed. It was the dedication of the Botswana participants, the commitment of the Government of Botswana, and the close partnership with the CDC that has made this day possible. The partnership between the United States and Botswana has long been important to our two countries. These results show why it is important to the world.”

The U.S. Embassy will hold a press conference Thursday, July 14 at 2:30pm at the Public Affairs Section. Please refer to the CDC press release attached for additional detail.

For additional information, contact Public Affairs Officer John Warner ([warnerje@state.gov](mailto:warnerje@state.gov) or 395-3982 x 2468).