Vancouver Hospital Closes AIDS Ward

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St. Paul's Hospital in Vancouver, Canada, has closed its ward dedicated to people with AIDS, The Vancouver Sun reports. The hospital no longer has enough patients to justify it. Ward 10C will continue to treat people living with HIV, but also will extend care to treatment for addiction and hepatitis.

About one person was lost to AIDS every day in Vancouver when the ward opened in 1997. British Columbia, the province that includes Vancouver, has had a 90 percent decrease in AIDS cases since 1995 and an 80 percent drop between 1996 and 2012 in mortality related to the virus.

A recent study also shows that new HIV cases in the province dropped by 66 percent between 1996 and 2012. Researchers attribute this drop to significantly expanded use of antiretrovirals in the province during that time span, which lends support to the concept of HIV treatment as prevention (TasP).

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