

[As reported earlier this week by *The Washington Times*](#) , one of President Bush's key foreign aid initiatives, the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief ([PEPFAR](#)) was shown to have saved 1.1 million lives in a study just released.

Former President George W. Bush's international AIDS-fighting campaign has reduced by 10 percent the mortality rates in 15 targeted countries, primarily in Africa, and has saved 1.1 million lives, according to a study that for the first time quantified the successes of his program.

The study by two Stanford University doctors showed the treatment part of PEPFAR, the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, which involves making drug treatment available to about 2 million people, has shown solid success while the prevention efforts under the program have not yet produced the same concrete results.

And [today's *Washington Post* writes](#) that

ONE OF the more positive legacies of the Bush administration is the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR). It is an unprecedented multiyear and multibillion-dollar commitment by the United States to combat the epidemic's deadly march across Africa. And, according to a just-released study, the program is working.

*PEPFAR, the brainchild of President George W. Bush in 2003, has targeted Vietnam, Haiti, Guyana and 12 sub-Saharan nations for HIV testing, counseling and treatment. Statistics through Sep. 30, 2008, show that more than 2 million men, women and children have received antiretroviral treatment because of the program. This would include almost 1.2 million pregnant HIV-positive women. As a result, 240,000 infants were born free of HIV infection. The upshot, according to the *Annals of Internal Medicine*: a 10.5 percent reduction in the AIDS death rate in 12 PEPFAR countries in Africa compared with neighboring nations.*

As a member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, Congressman Pence was an early and vocal supporter of PEPFAR, helping to craft this vital legislation. Pence also spoke out about PEPFAR often: [speaking to students](#) , [speaking at press conferences](#) and [speaking out on the floor](#) of the U.S. House in favor of global AIDS relief -

"I believe it is possible to be both responsible to our fiscal constraints while being obedient to our moral calling. The greatest of all human rights is the right to live. America is a nation of great wealth - wealth of resources, but more importantly, a wealth of compassion. The history of the world is filled with telling moments regarding the character of a people. Sometimes we are witness to mankind's great inhumanities. Other times we marvel at the beauty of mankind's selfless acts of compassion, when we rise above politics and raise up those in dire need. Let this be such a day."

- Congressman Pence, April 2, 2008