Sexually Transmitted Disease & Viral Hepatitis News

Florida State Health Profile
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Each year, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) publishes a state health profile that presents findings related to sexually transmitted diseases, viral hepatitis, tuberculosis, and HIV/AIDS, among others. The most recent data—for 2015—is below.

**Syphilis** – Primary and secondary (P&S) syphilis (the stages in which syphilis is most infectious) remains a health problem, primarily among men who have sex with men, but congenital transmission of syphilis from infected mothers to their unborn children persists in many areas of the country. In Florida, the rate of primary and secondary syphilis was 6.6 per 100,000 in 2011 and 10.5 per 100,000 in 2015. Florida now ranks 6th in rates of P&S syphilis among 50 states. There were 191 cases of congenital syphilis from 2011 through 2015.

**Chlamydia and Gonorrhea** – Untreated STDs are a common cause of pelvic inflammatory disease, infertility and chronic pelvic pain. In addition, they can increase the spread of HIV and cause cancer. Pregnant women and newborns are particularly vulnerable. In 2015, Florida ranked 25th among 50 states in chlamydial infections (454.8 per 100,000 persons) and ranked 21st among 50 states in gonorrheal infections (121.3 per 100,000 persons). Reported rates of chlamydia among women (610.1 cases per 100,000) that were 2.1 times greater than those among men (291.4 cases per 100,000).
Florida State Health Profile, Continued

Hepatitis A, B, and C Virus (HAV, HBV, HCV): While acute hepatitis A virus and acute hepatitis B virus (HBV) infections have generally been declining in incidence since 1990 mainly due to effective vaccination strategies, the number of cases increased in 2015 compared to 2014. Reported cases of acute hepatitis C virus (HCV) infection also continued to increase in 2015, more than 2.9-fold from 2011–2015. Approximately 4.4 million people are living with HBV and HCV infection; most do not know they are infected. Lifelong infections with HBV and HCV are shown to be major risk factors for liver cancer. In Florida, between 2011 and 2015, reported rates of acute hepatitis A did not increase. Reported rates of acute hepatitis B increased by 91%, from 213 to 432 cases. Reported rates of acute hepatitis C increased by 100%, from 64 to 126 cases (Source: https://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/statistics/2015surveillance/index.htm).

To learn more, visit: www.cdc.gov/nchhstp

FOCUS Program at Tampa General Hospital

The Frontlines of Communities in the United States (FOCUS) is a Gilead Sciences initiative launched at health institutions across the country, including multiple Florida sites. The FOCUS program was launched at Tampa General Hospital in May 2016. Viral Hepatitis program staff from the Department of Health met with FOCUS staff at Tampa General Hospital in August, and were later provided with data on their testing efforts related to hepatitis C and HIV.

Hepatitis C

- Age criteria for screening: 18—71
- Number of HCV Antibody tests given: 15,000
- Number of patients that screened positive on HCV Antibody test: 1,018 (6.9% seropositivity)
- Number of confirmation HCV RNA tests: 464
- Proportion linked to care: 48%

HIV

- Age criteria for screening: 13—64
- Number of HCV Antibody tests given: 15,000
- Number of patients that screened positive on HIV test: 208 (1.6% seropositivity)
- Proportion linked to care: 55%
County Health Departments Increase Use of Hepatitis Panel Tests in 2017

Across the state, county health departments have conducted nearly seven times more hepatitis panel tests in August 2017 compared with just the beginning of 2017. These efforts help meet the Viral Hepatitis Program goals of preventing and eliminating hepatitis in Florida.

HIV Care Outcomes Among Men Who Have Sex With Men Diagnosed with HIV Infection—United States, 2015

*Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention*

What is already known about this topic?
Gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men (collectively referred to as MSM) represent approximately 2% of the U.S. population, yet in 2015 MSM accounted for 70% of all diagnoses of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection, including 3% who also were persons who inject drugs. National goals for persons living with HIV infection include linkage to care for 85% within 1 month of diagnosis, retention in care for 90%, and viral load suppression for 80% by 2020.

What is added by this report?
In 2015, 19% of HIV infections diagnosed among MSM were classified as stage 3 (acquired immunodeficiency syndrome), and 75% of MSM with diagnoses of HIV infection were linked to care within 1 month. MSM who were black or African American and MSM aged <25 years were less likely to be linked to care within 1 month of diagnosis of HIV infection compared with other racial/ethnic and age groups. Among MSM living with diagnosed HIV infection at year-end 2014, 74% received some care, 58% were retained in care, and 61% had achieved viral suppression. Retention in care and viral suppression were low in all MSM, particularly black or African American MSM.
HIV Care Outcomes Among Men Who Have Sex With Men Diagnosed with HIV Infection, Continued

What are the implications for public health practice?

Tailored strategies for MSM that increase care and achieve viral suppression, particularly among young MSM and black or African American MSM, are needed to reduce HIV infections, improve health outcomes for persons living with HIV infection, and reduce HIV-related health disparities.

For more information, visit: dx.doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.mm6637a2


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