

Profile of HIV Epidemic in Minnesota

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NEW REPORT INDICATES AN INCREASE IN NEWLY DIAGNOSED CASES OF HIV.

In 2007, 325 new cases of HIV were reported in Minnesota. This continues a slow, yet steady, growth of newly reported HIV infections. This number of newly reported cases within one year has not been seen since the 1990's. Absent comprehensive HIV education for all Minnesotans on an ongoing basis, this is to be expected as more individuals in Minnesota live longer and healthier lives with HIV due to medical advances. Absent a vaccine, Minnesota will continue to see rising infection rates.

UNREPORTED INFECTIONS. Experts estimate approximately 2,500 Minnesotans are believed to be living with HIV disease but do not know they are infected.

ONE NEW INFECTION REPORTED NEARLY EVERY DAY.

A new case of HIV disease is reported in Minnesota every 27 hours.

STEADILY INCREASING NUMBER LIVING WITH HIV DISEASE.

As of December 31, 2007, 5,950 people are known to be living with HIV disease in Minnesota. This represents nearly 30% more individuals living with HIV in 2007 than in 2002. It is an increase of 81% since 1997, the year in which HAART (highly active anti-retroviral therapies) were introduced that dramatically lowered the death rate.

CUMULATIVE CASES. To date, 8,504 cases of HIV disease have been reported in Minnesota since 1982. Of those, 2,912, or 34% of these people have died.

GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION. In 2007, 38% of the newly reported cases of HIV resided in Minneapolis, 13% in Saint Paul, 37% in Twin Cities' suburbs, and 12% in Greater Minnesota. There has been a steady increase in reported Twin Cities' suburban cases over the past five years.

IMPACT OF INJECTING DRUG USE.

Minnesota continues to see great success in preventing new infections linked to injecting drug use. Only 16 new cases (5% of total) diagnosed last year indicated injecting drug use as the only risk factor. This compares to the national average of approximately 13%.

MINNESOTA GAY & BISEXUAL MEN STILL LARGEST GROUP IMPACTED BY HIV.

77% of Minnesota's living cases of HIV are male. Of that total, 72% have contracted this virus solely through male-to-male sex or through male-to-male sex and injecting drug use (dual risk). Of male cases reported in 2007, 63% were similarly infected.

DISTURBING INCREASE IN YOUNG GAY & BISEXUAL MEN

There has been a steady increase in new cases occurring within the population of young gay and bisexual men (under the age of 24) since 2001. Of newly reported cases of HIV in 2007, 15% occurred in young men ages 13 – 24. In 2005 – 2007, virtually all of these cases (98%) are estimated to have male-to-male sex as their risk.

Of the 18 newly reported male cases of any age who report male-to-male sex *and* injecting drug use as a risk factor, 5 (28%) are under the age of 24. This may be due to the continuing problem of injecting meth use within this community.

GAY AND BISEXUAL MEN OF COLOR CASES DISPROPORTIONATE.

Looking at 2005 – 2007, 96% of newly diagnosed Caucasian men, 76% of African American men and 90% of newly diagnosed Latino men reported male-to-male sex (including male-to-male sex and injecting drug use) as a risk factor.

BIRTHRATE TO HIV+ WOMEN INCREASING.

While the number of infants born to mothers who have tested HIV-positive continues to increase rapidly, the rate of transmission of HIV to the infants remains at 1%. Many women only learn through prenatal screening that they are HIV+. In 2007 14% of women newly-diagnosed learned their status due to these tests.

AFRICAN AMERICANS AND AFRICAN BORN. 22% of new cases (71) of adult and adolescent HIV disease in Minnesota are among African Americans, who represent just over 4% of the State's population. The increase is in male cases, largely amongst African American men who report male-to-male sex as a risk factor.

New cases of HIV in the African born community saw an increase in 2007 (48 cases in '07 vs. 36 cases in '06.) However, the overall number of new cases has been quite stable over the past seven years.

HISPANIC CASES REMAIN LEVEL

During 2007 the number of new cases reported within the Hispanic community remained relatively level to 2006, which was a record high.

NEW INFECTIONS AMONG WOMEN OF COLOR STILL DISPROPORTIONATE.

Seventy-four percent of new HIV cases among females occurred in women of color. This concerning trend has continued for a number of years. Of that group, 32% of these women are African born and an additional 23% are African American. 10% are Latina and 7% Native American.

PREVALENCE DATA INDICATE A "GRAYING EPIDEMIC" OF THOSE LIVING WITH HIV

As the number of Minnesotans continues to grow due to declining death rates resulting from improved medications, the number of HIV+ individuals over the age of 50 is increasing rapidly. Of the 5,950 reported to be living with HIV 45% are over the age of 45. This compares to only 31% in this age range just five years ago (2002). These data point to a need to understand the impact this has on medical treatment, prevention and support services.

MORTALITY

According to a report issued by the Minnesota Department of Health looking at all causes of death to those living with HIV both before and after the advent of the newer highly effective medications, the distribution of deaths due to HIV-related causes and non-HIV related causes is evenly distributed.

NOTES

HIV DISEASE: HIV disease starts at infection. This term is inclusive of people with advanced stage infection, who can have the technical classification of AIDS.

AIDS: This is the reporting classification for people with advanced stage HIV disease.

Data from the Minnesota Department of Health, April 2008

