HIV Disease in the Central Region

Newly Diagnosed Cases in the Central Region

In 2014, there were 208 newly diagnosed cases of HIV in the Central region of Virginia. From 2010 to 2014, the average number of new HIV diagnoses was 221 cases per year. New HIV diagnoses remained relatively stable from 2010 to 2012; there were 231 new cases in 2010, 228 in 2011 and 232 in 2012. In 2013, there was a decrease in newly diagnosed HIV cases with only 204 reported cases in 2013 and 208 reported cases in 2014.

Of the 208 newly diagnosed HIV cases in 2014, the majority were male (85%); 176 cases were male and 32 cases were female. Seventy-one percent of cases were among Black, non-Hispanic persons, 22% were White, non-Hispanic and 4% were Hispanic. One hundred and twenty-nine cases (62%) were diagnosed with HIV between the ages of 15 and 34. The highest number of cases were diagnosed in the 25-34 age range (32% of newly diagnosed cases). Sixty percent of the newly diagnosed cases in the Central region of Virginia were attributed to male-to-male sexual contact (MSM), 17% to heterosexual contact, 2% to injection drug use (IDU) and 1% reported both MSM and IDU. Twenty percent of cases had no identified risk factor (NIR).

Late testing is defined as a person newly diagnosed with HIV who is diagnosed with AIDS less than a year from initial HIV diagnosis, or a person who is diagnosed with AIDS at initial diagnosis. Persons who are diagnosed late in the disease process have an increased risk of morbidity, increased health costs, and diminished responses to antiretroviral therapy, showing that the importance of access to HIV testing to increase timely diagnosis and early engagement in comprehensive HIV medical care support better health outcomes for persons living with HIV. The percentage of late testers remained stable in the Central region from 2009 to 2012; approximately 34% of newly diagnosed cases were late testers. In 2013, 24% of newly diagnosed cases were late testers. Of the late testers, 73% were male and 27% were female. Eighty-six percent of late testers were Black, non-Hispanic followed by 10% White, non-Hispanic and 4% Hispanic in 2013. On average, 31% of newly diagnosed HIV cases were late testers during 2009-2013.
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Persons Living with HIV Disease in the Central Region

As of December 31, 2014, there were 5,803 persons who were living with HIV disease (PLWH) in the Central region. Seventy-five percent of PLWH in the Central region were male and 25% were female. Seventy-one percent of PLWH (4,149 persons) were Black, non-Hispanic, 22% (1,261 persons) were White, non-Hispanic, 5% (266 persons) were Hispanic (all races) and the remaining 2% were Asian, multi-race or unknown. The majority of PLWH were between the ages of 45 and 54 (34%) or ages 55 and older (29%). Eighty percent of PLWH were 35 years or older, reflecting an aging PLWH population.

The rate of HIV disease per 100,000 persons in the Central region varied by county with the lowest rate of 107 cases per 100,000 in Hanover County and the highest rate of 1,045 cases per 100,000 in Richmond City. The rate of HIV disease was 631 per 100,000 for males in the Central region and 204 per 100,000 for females. Black persons were disproportionately affected by HIV/AIDS. There were 1,342 cases per 100,000 for black males compared to 250 cases per 100,000 for white males and 495 cases per 100,000 for black females compared to 38 cases per 100,000 for white females.

Figure 5. Persons Living with HIV by Race/Ethnicity and Gender, Central Region as of 12/31/2014

There was a higher percentage of Black, non-Hispanic females compared to White, non-Hispanic females diagnosed with HIV. Among Black PLWH, 71% were male and 29% were female, while among White PLWH, 87% were male and 13% were female. At the end of 2014, 44% of living HIV cases were attributed to male-to-male sexual contact (MSM). Heterosexual contact and injection drug use (IDU) represented 22% and 13% of cases, respectively. Fifteen percent of PLWH had no reported or identified transmission risk.

Figure 6. Persons Living with HIV Disease in the Central Region as of December 31, 2014
The HIV continuum of care is a framework for assessing health outcomes among persons living in Virginia with diagnosed HIV infection. As of December 31, 2014, 5,803 persons were diagnosed and living with HIV in the Central region. Sixty-one percent (3,536 persons) had evidence of a care marker (CD4 count, viral load, HIV medical care visit or antiretroviral (ART) prescription) in 2014. Forty-nine percent of the diagnosed population had at least two care markers separated by 90 or more days in 2014 (retained in care) and 47% had the last viral load measurement of 2014 at <200 HIV copies/mL (virally suppressed). Of those newly diagnosed in 2014, 154 (74%) were linked to medical care within 90 days of their HIV diagnosis.

As of December 31, 2014, 55% of females were retained in care, while only 48% of males were retained in care (Figure 8) and 51% of White, non-Hispanic persons were retained in care compared to 49% of Black, non-Hispanic persons and 41% of Hispanics persons (Figure 9). Fifty-six percent of PLWH who acquired HIV via heterosexual contact were retained in care as of December 31, 2014 compared to 54% of MSM and only 38% of IDU.

Similar to the retention measures, females, White persons and heterosexuals had the highest proportion of cases virally suppressed in 2014. Among cases newly diagnosed in 2014, 84% of females and 72% of males were linked to care within 90 days. White persons were more likely to be linked to care within 90 days of HIV diagnosis (87%) than Black persons (72%) and Hispanic persons (75%). Linkage to care was comparable between MSM and heterosexual cases. Seventy-seven percent of heterosexual cases and 76% of MSM cases were linked within 90 days of HIV diagnosis.