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**JANUARY 2019 EDITION**

**COMPREHENSIVE HARM REDUCTION SERVICES UPDATE**

In 2018, three Comprehensive Harm Reduction Sites were authorized to perform services in Virginia. Lenowisco Health District was the first to begin operations in Wise County this past summer, and Health Brigade began offering services in November 2018 in the city of Richmond. Mt. Rogers Health District was authorized in late 2018 and started providing services in Smyth County in 2019. Data reported in 2018 is limited, and primarily from the Wise County site; however, early outcomes are encouraging. Some successes include:

- Four overdoses were reversed using Naloxone given to participants.
- Of 24 persons tested for Hepatitis C, 11 (46%) were diagnosed with the virus. Of the 11 newly diagnosed individuals, 10 began Hepatitis C treatment.
- Seven participants were referred to substance use disorder treatment.
- 2,532 syringes were distributed to 59 participants.
- 4,746 used syringes were collected by the sites, almost double the number of syringes distributed.

Congratulations to all three CHR sites for successful program launches. For additional information on comprehensive harm reduction contact **Bruce Taylor** at [bruce.taylor@vdh.virginia.gov](mailto:bruce.taylor@vdh.virginia.gov) or visit <http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/disease-prevention/chr/>.

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**NAVIGATION**

- Comprehensive Harm Reduction Services Update
- **Two Common Sexually Transmitted Diseases Threaten Advances in HIV**
- Virginia Harm Reduction Coalition Seeks Members
- **2018 Annual HIV Report Available**
- FDA Approves First Test to Detect Mycoplasma genitalium
- Facebook Live Series on Public Health Messaging to Reach Priority Populations
- Personnel

**TWO COMMON SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASES THREATEN ADVANCES IN HIV**

Sexually transmitted infections are associated with an increased risk of HIV acquisition and transmission. A recent modeling study in the journal Sexually Transmitted Diseases used statistical projections to estimate that 10% of all new HIV cases among men who have sex with men (MSM) in the U.S. are caused by gonorrhea and chlamydia infections. Read more about the study and the National Coalition of STD Directors' response [here](#).

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**VIRGINIA HARM REDUCTION COALITION SEEKS MEMBERS**

Virginia has a new Harm Reduction Coalition. The organization formed in the fall of 2018 and is seeking members and collaborative partnerships. Their mission is to improve the health of our communities by advocating for, implementing and developing evidence-driven solutions to the adverse effects of drug use. The Coalition plans to have regional meetings this summer and fall.



If you or your agency would be interested in learning more about or joining the Coalition, please contact **Lawson Koepfel** at [lawson@virginiaharmreduction.org](mailto:lawson@virginiaharmreduction.org).

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**VIRGINIA HIV SURVEILLANCE ANNUAL REPORT**

Table 1: New HIV Diagnoses

	Newly Diagnosed Cases of HIV Disease										
	Number of New Diagnoses					Rate per 100,000 population					5-Year Trend
Year of HIV Diagnosis:	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	
<b>Total</b>	<b>932</b>	<b>975</b>	<b>919</b>	<b>883</b>	<b>831</b>	<b>11.2</b>	<b>11.6</b>	<b>10.9</b>	<b>10.4</b>	<b>9.8</b>	
<b>Gender</b>											
Male	742	785	749	697	671	18.1	19.0	18.1	16.7	16.1	
Female	190	190	170	186	160	4.5	4.5	4.0	4.3	3.7	
<b>Age at HIV Diagnosis</b>											
<10	5	1	2	7	4	0.5	0.1	0.2	0.7	0.4	
10-14	3	1	1	1	1	0.6	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	
15-19	42	48	36	45	41	7.8	8.9	6.7	8.3	7.6	
20-24	190	214	180	172	146	31.5	35.7	30.5	29.5	25.1	
25-29	175	176	183	180	154	29.5	29.4	31.0	30.0	25.6	
30-34	115	146	145	111	131	19.9	25.0	24.9	19.0	22.4	
35-39	94	99	84	94	89	17.6	18.1	15.1	16.5	15.6	
40-44	80	84	72	72	71	14.4	15.5	13.6	13.7	13.5	
45-49	81	60	70	58	53	14.2	10.7	12.4	10.3	9.4	
50-54	62	58	60	52	50	10.2	9.6	10.1	8.9	8.6	
55-59	48	47	45	47	49	8.5	8.2	7.8	8.1	8.4	
60-64	21	24	19	24	19	4.3	4.9	3.8	4.7	3.7	
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**2018 HIV ANNUAL REPORT AVAILABLE**

Virginia's 2018 HIV Annual Report is now available [online](#)! The 2018 HIV Annual Report is a snapshot of the HIV epidemic statewide. It includes demographic and geographic trends on new HIV diagnoses and the

number of persons living with HIV. The Annual Report can also be used for grant applications, presentations, and data requests. For additional information or questions, please contact **Latanya Crawford** at [latayna.crawford@vdh.virginia.gov](mailto:latayna.crawford@vdh.virginia.gov).

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### **FDA APPROVES FIRST TEST TO DETECT MYCOPLASMA GENITALIUM**

The FDA recently approved the marketing of the first test to diagnose the sexually transmitted infection (STI) called Mycoplasma genitalium. This STI is associated with inflammation of the urethra in men as well as inflammation of the cervix and infection of reproductive organs (pelvic inflammatory disease, or PID) in women. Read more about the new test [here](#).

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### **FACEBOOK LIVE SERIES ON PUBLIC HEALTH MESSAGING TO REACH PRIORITY POPULATIONS**

The Urban Coalition for HIV/AIDS Prevention Services (UCHAPS) has organized a weekly Facebook live series titled: How National Campaigns Can Improve Public Health Messaging Using Modern Technology. The series runs February 6 through February 20 and each series is from 2:00 pm until 3:00 pm. Each session will discuss using public health messaging to reach one of three target audiences – black women, the LGBTQ community, and youth.

For more information on the free series or to register, please visit the [UCHAPS event page](#).

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## **PERSONNEL**

### **Welcome**

The STD Operations and Data Administration (SODA) unit welcomes **Alex Cook**, who began her new position within the Central Registry Unit (CRU) on December 13, 2018. Alex attended Longwood University as a History Education major. Alex is excited to learn new skills and work in a challenging environment. Please join us in welcoming Alex to DDP. She can be reached at (804) 864-7347, or at [alexandra.cook@vdh.virginia.gov](mailto:alexandra.cook@vdh.virginia.gov).



The Disease Prevention Hotline is happy to announce that **Sarah Lannon** is a new Hotline Counselor. Sarah has a B.S. Degree, with a concentration in Health Sciences, from Virginia Commonwealth University. As a Peace Corps volunteer, she partnered with hospitals, health centers, and community based organizations to conduct activities and training to improve community health in the areas of HIV/AIDS and Malaria in Mozambique, Africa. Sarah is fluent in Spanish and Portuguese. She can be reached at [sarah.lannon@vdh.virginia.gov](mailto:sarah.lannon@vdh.virginia.gov).

### **Farewell**

SODA says good bye to Peninsula/Three Rivers Disease Intervention Specialist (DIS) **Aieshia Brooks**, who took a position in the HIV PrEP Program on January 24. Congratulations, Aieshia!

SODA bids farewell to Crater DIS **Linda Lewis**, whose last day was February 5. Good luck, Linda!

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