

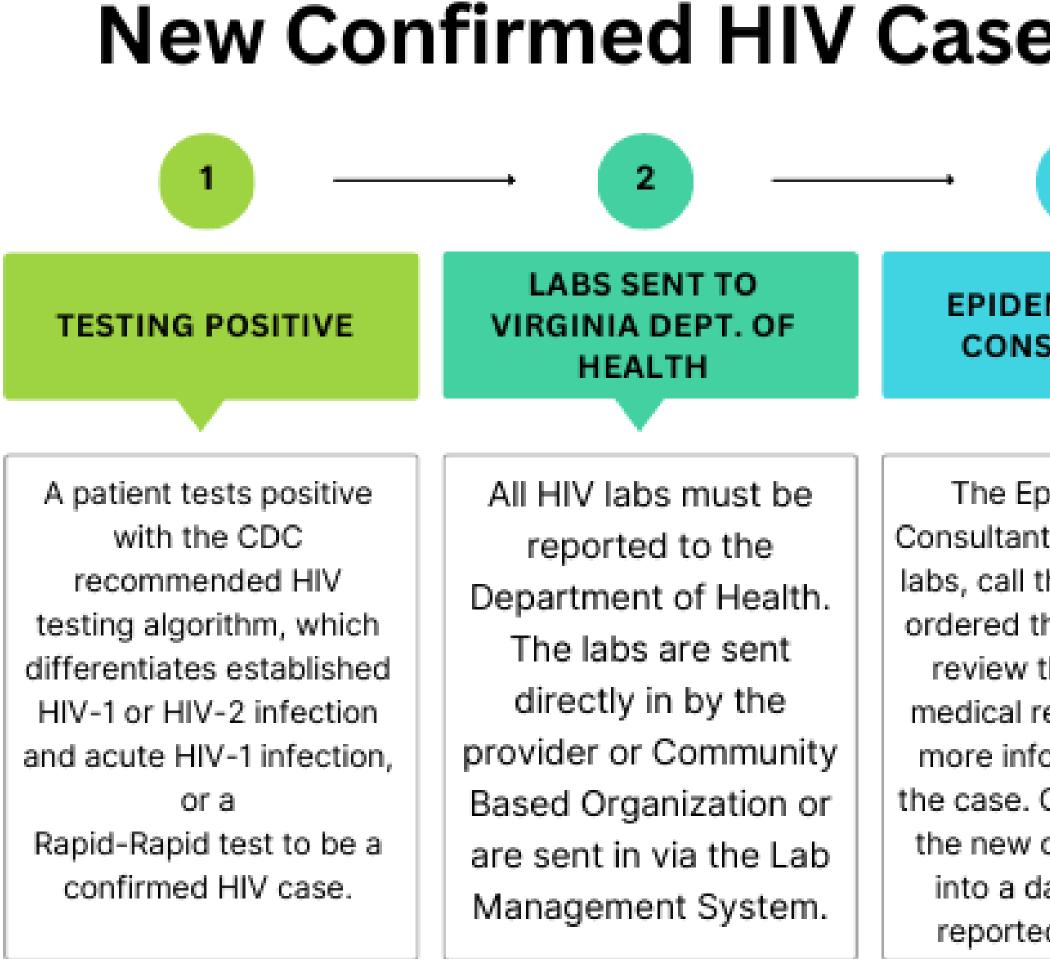
HIV and Hepatitis Surveillance, Division of Disease Prevention of the Office of Epidemiology Kayla Vaught

Internship Aim

- > To understand the reporting of HIV related laboratory findings, how HIV case investigation is completed, what HIV related data are reported, and what programs rely on HIV surveillance data
- > To provide insight into the many interrelated tasks and programs that fall under HIV surveillance, and produce improved data as a direct result of quality assurance efforts learned during the internship

Additional Activities

- Attended a Hepatitis and HIV Rapid Test Clinician Training at Bremo Pharmacy
- Attended Nationz mobile HIV testing site visit for national HIV Testing Day
- Met with work units in the Office of Epidemiology including Tuberculosis Control, Cluster Detection and Response, Comprehensive Harm Reduction, the HIV analyst team, National HIV Behavioral Surveillance, Hepatitis Testing, and PrEP services



HIV Surveillance Internship Overview

Projects and Tasks

Update HIV Case Reported Risk Information Data

Reviewed HIV case's field interviews in the Virginia Electronic Disease Surveillance System (VEDSS) and Counseling, Testing, Referral (CTR) forms to update individual's risk information (e.g. men who have sex with men (MSM), intravenous drug use, transplant recipient) in the HIV CDC reporting system

Active Surveillance for Facilities

VDH receives line lists of HIV diagnoses from hospitals/clinics. I compared these lists to the VDH HIV reporting database to see if there were any confirmed HIV cases that VDH did not have record of to improve surveillance data

Lab Management System (LMS)

• VDH receives labs (e.g. CD4 count, CD4 percents, HIV viral load tests) for individuals through LMS. I reviewed these labs and search if the patient is a confirmed case in the VDH HIV database. I update the labs in LMS to successfully import them to the database.

Daily Adult Case Report Form Quality Assurance

Review list of confirmed HIV cases in the VDH HIV database to see if an individual has a changed case status from HIV to AIDS to report to the case epidemiologists for investigation

Facility UID Updates

Updates the LMS list of facilities that send reportable labs to VDH for the HIV lab information to be entered in the HIV database correctly

Medical Record Abstraction

Under the Medical Monitoring Program (MMP), I abstracted key health information and labs from individual's medical records for their goal of obtaining clinical data to learn more about the healthrelated experiences and needs of people who are HIV infected in Virginia

New Confirmed HIV Case Surveillance in Virginia Process Chart

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EPIDEMIOLOGIST CONSULTANTS

The Epidemiologist Consultants will review the labs, call the provider that ordered the HIV test, and review the individuals medical record to gather more information about the case. Once confirmed, the new case is entered into a database to be reported to the CDC.

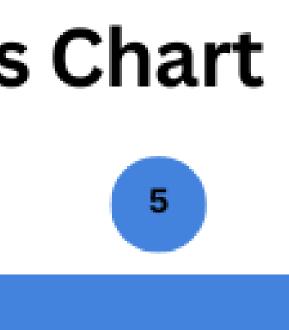
DISEASE INVESTIGATION SPECIALISTS

A Disease Intervention Specialist (DIS) will be assigned to the case. The DIS will contact the patient, either by phone call or a field visit. The DIS will interview the patient and collect medical history, social history, and risk information. The patient or partner services will notify people that could be at risk for HIV because of their contact with the patient, and recommend them to be tested for HIV. DIS also investigate coinfections with HIV, like Syphilis. DIS will give the patient necessary information and resources regarding their new diagnosis and connect them to HIV care.

The Epidemiology Consultants update the patient's case in the database with the information the DIS collected. Since HIV is a chronic condition, the Epidemiology Consultants remain in contact with the patient and their provider to track HIV disease progression and to ensure the person is linked to HIV care.

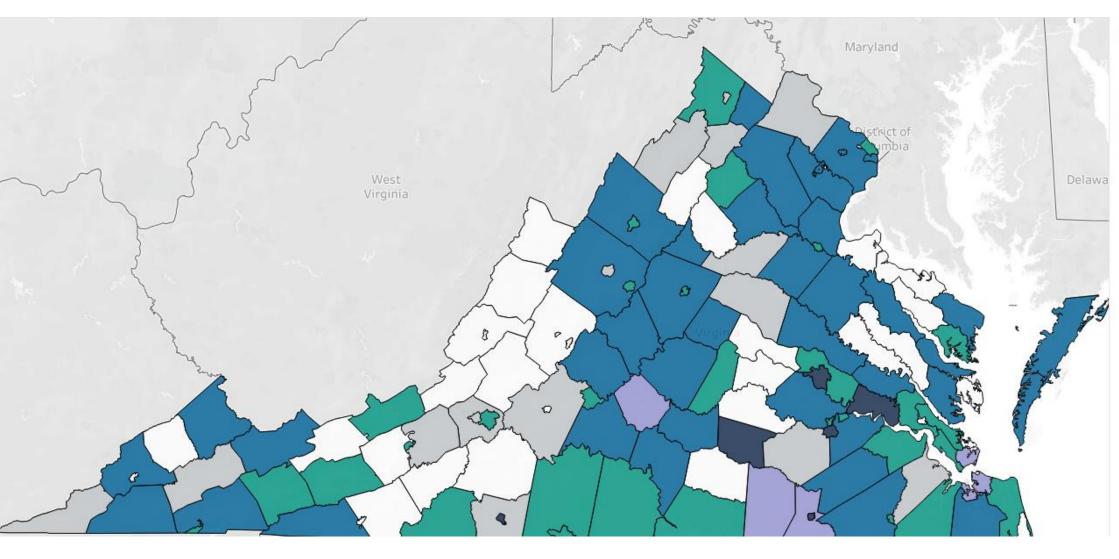
Lessons & Takeaways

Context of HIV in Virginia



FOLLOW UP

Newly Diagnosed HIV Cases by Locality, 2021 (eHARS):



- In 2022, the Central and Eastern region had the highest rate of new HIV diagnoses
- MSM and Black men and women are disproportionately affected by HIV infection
- A person's housing status is a large indicator on whether an individual is linked to and stays with HIV services, care, and treatment

Takeaways

The most important takeaway from my internship in HIV Surveillance is that HIV continues to impact stigmatized and minority groups at disproportionate rates (e.g. MSM, people who use injection drugs, Black men and women). This internship gave me perspective on how an individual's behavior and environment interact to influence one's health outcomes, and how health agencies in Virginia serve to improve the health and lives of citizens. I learned successful public health initiatives require teamwork, and I saw first-hand how the CDC, state agencies, and community health workers work together to get people tested for HIV, monitor HIV infections, and link individuals to care.

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

INTERNSHIP ACADEMY



Rate per 100,000 □ No Reported Cases