

CDC site visit and funding update

In August, six staff members from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) visited the Oregon Health Authority, HIV Prevention Program. This site visit served to discuss how Oregon is implementing activities and using data to support the National HIV/AIDS Strategy, as well as adapting to federal funding reductions.

CDC staff shared that there is an increased emphasis on high-impact prevention (HIP) at the federal, state and local levels. HIP means selecting and implementing the best interventions to prevent the greatest number of new infections for the least amount of money. HIP should be informed by data on effectiveness, scalability, cost and local need.

CDC has been asked to justify why continued public funding for HIV testing is necessary given the expanded access to preventive health care with the implementation of the Affordable Care Act. One of the key ways CDC demonstrates the value of publicly funded HIV testing is by comparing the results of these programs, which target populations most impacted, to the results of non-targeted HIV screening

programs. While universal screening in the private sector plays a critical role in identifying persons with undiagnosed infection, targeted testing has yielded a higher positivity rate historically. Oregon's efforts to target at least 70% of HIV tests to our priority populations is one example of how our state is supporting HIP and the National HIV/AIDS Strategy.

OHA staff shared information with CDC about the impact of sequestration and previous federal funding reductions in Oregon, including the significant decrease in the number of local health departments receiving HIV prevention funding. OHA has absorbed most of the impact of sequestration at the state level. Oregon received a 6.1% and 5.4% reduction to Category A (core) activities and Category C (technology-based) activities, respectively. While Category C contracts were reduced, no Category A awards were reduced due to sequestration. To absorb these costs, OHA will delay filling two vacancies in the state program staff, reduce condom and lubricant purchases and reduce HIV testing supply purchases to align with the reduction in testing at local health departments.

Preventing perinatal transmission



“Perinatal” refers to the time and process around birth. This article highlights important facts to know about HIV in the perinatal period and systems in place to prevent mother-to-child transmission.

Women who test positive and take antiretroviral medication during pregnancy as recommended can reduce the risk of transmitting HIV to their babies to less than 1% (wow!). Since 2006, prenatal health practitioners in Oregon have been required to test all pregnant patients for HIV within 10 days of the first prenatal care visit unless the woman explicitly declines to be tested.

This policy has yielded encouraging results. Oregon birth certificate data from 2012 indicate that at least

96% of mothers had an HIV test performed.

From September 2008 to December 31, 2010, ten pregnant females tested positive for HIV in Oregon. However, the last birth of a baby with HIV in Oregon occurred in 2006. The decline in perinatal cases is due largely to early diagnosis and treatment resulting from routine screening among pregnant women.

In addition to adhering to HIV medication during pregnancy, there are other steps HIV-positive mothers can take to protect their babies. The woman's health care provider may discuss having a cesarean (C-) section delivery to lessen the risk of HIV transmission to the baby during birth. Although breastfeeding is best for the development of a baby, it is not recommended for HIV-positive mothers since HIV is found in breast milk. However, with a doctor's

Preventing perinatal transmission (continued)

prescription, there is an option of feeding a baby donated human breast milk. More information can be found on the “Northwest Mothers Milk Bank” website (www.nwmmb.org). There are also healthy options for using baby formula.

The Oregon Health Authority publishes a “Prenatal and Newborn Resource Guide for Oregon Families” (<http://1.usa.gov/1968130>) in English and Spanish. This guide is offered by prenatal

care providers and includes information about HIV testing during pregnancy, as well as the importance of taking medication and avoiding breastfeeding for HIV-positive mothers.

Continued awareness of HIV prevention measures during the perinatal period will help ensure that perinatal HIV transmission remains low in Oregon. Our hope is that today’s babies may grow up healthy as part of an AIDS-free generation.

Upcoming events

U.S. Conference on AIDS

Sept. 8–11, 2013

Learn more at <http://bit.ly/14h3GTn>.

Smoking cessation program

Three-week program tailored to, but not limited to, persons living with HIV

Starts Sept. 9

Quest Center for Integrative Health in Portland

To sign up, call 503-238-5203.

National HIV/AIDS and Aging Awareness Day

Sept. 18, 2013

Learn more at <http://1.usa.gov/1dE2OLu>.

AIDS Walk Portland

Sept. 22

9 a.m.–1 p.m.

Starts at Pioneer Courthouse Square

Register at www.AIDSwalkPortland.org.

National Gay Men’s HIV/AIDS Awareness Day

Sept. 27, 2013

Learn more at <http://1.usa.gov/19fTxV0>.

Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Oct.

Learn more at <http://bit.ly/14oaVU5>.

National Latino AIDS Awareness Day

Oct. 15, 2013

Learn more at www.nlaad.org.

¡Concientízate!

To honor National Latino AIDS Awareness Day

Oct. 17 from 6–11 p.m. at Refuge in Portland

Visit www.cascadeaids.org/concientizate.

Motivational Interviewing Training

Oct. 17 in Salem

Email christy.j.hudson@state.or.us.

Staffing changes

We are sad to announce that Aug. 7 was Lorelee Trocio’s last day with the OHA HIV Prevention Program. She has now moved to Sedona, Arizona!

Larry Hill (larry.d.hill@state.or.us) will now serve as the contact for all funded local health departments. Requests for technical assistance with sHIVer (Oregon’s HIV testing database) can be directed to shiver.support@state.or.us or to Matt Navarre at 503-880-6288 if experiencing issues that are preventing data entry. Questions relating to the evaluation of Category C (technology-based) activities may be directed to Dano Beck at daniel.w.beck@state.or.us. Other

questions relating to evaluation may be directed to Ruth Helsley at ruth.helsley@state.or.us.

Lorelee served as the OHA HIV Prevention Program evaluator since 2011. She played an instrumental role developing systems to collect and report data on a wide range of program activities and outcomes; monitoring program implementation; providing technical assistance to local health departments; evaluating planning processes; and participating in a number of inter-agency and external workgroups.

We are thankful for Lorelee’s many contributions and wish her well in Sedona!

Referrals to services

Preventing new HIV infections requires a commitment to connect clients to prevention and care services for HIV, sexually transmitted infections (STIs), and viral hepatitis, as well as services designed to meet basic and psychosocial needs. A number of resources are available to assist staff and clients with these efforts. These resources include the Oregon HIV/STD Hotline, 211info, CDCinfo, AIDSinfo, and service locator widgets.

Each of these resources provides information to Oregonians at risk for, or living with, HIV. Thus, we encourage agencies to ensure service and contact information is accurate and up-to-date for clients using these resources.

The Oregon HIV/STD Hotline is available Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. In addition to providing information and referrals, the Oregon HIV/STD Hotline staff and volunteers are trained to help callers develop risk reduction plans. Clients can call 1-800-777-2437, text 503-946-6202, chat online or search for referrals on the hotline website (www.oregonaidshotline.com). The hotline is available in English and Spanish (1-800-499-6940). Agencies can submit new or updated resource information by visiting the website and selecting "Submit Resource."

211info is an information and referral line available Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. to people in Oregon and Southwest Washington. 211info provides referrals to a wide range of services, including housing-, health-, and transportation-related services. Clients can call 2-1-1, text their ZIP code to 898211 or search for referrals at www.211info.org. Staff can answer calls in nearly any language through an interpreter service. Agencies can submit new or updated resource information at bit.ly/17KtWpX.

CDC-INFO is a national hotline available Monday through Friday from 5 a.m. to 5 p.m. PT. CDC-INFO provides information on a wide variety

of health topics, including HIV, STI and viral hepatitis transmission and test site referrals. Users can call 1-800-232-4636 to receive information or referrals in English or Spanish. Agencies can submit new or updated HIV and STI test site information at <http://1.usa.gov/14gYkre>.

AIDSinfo is a national hotline available Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. PT. AIDSinfo provides information about HIV treatment and clinical trials. AIDSinfo does not provide referrals to local agencies. Staff can be reached at 1-800-448-0440 or at contactus@aidinfo.nih.gov.

There are a number of **widgets for locating HIV and STI testing and care services** available at <http://bit.ly/13aT6dG>. A widget is a small Web application for Web pages. When a user enters an address, city or ZIP code in one of the service locator widgets, a map is generated showing service agencies near the user's location. Note that the website above includes HTML codes for Web editors to add the widgets to their agency's website. Does your website include one or more of these widgets?

FIND YOUR LOCAL TESTING CENTER
ENTER YOUR ZIP CODE BELOW



Collaboration with these systems is just one way that OHA meets its statutory requirement to provide information about HIV to the public. Other activities serving this goal include providing information via the OHA HIV Prevention Web page (www.healthoregon.org/hivprevention) and Facebook (www.facebook.com/Prevent.HIV.OR), as well as maintaining an "HIV/AIDS: Know the Facts" brochure available to view and print at <http://1.usa.gov/15wbNw2>.

sHIVer data

Thank you to all our contractors who enter data into sHIVer, the Statewide HIV Electronic Record database. sHIVer data entry has improved

significantly, which supports OHA's ability to evaluate and report HIV testing data in a meaningful manner. Thank you!