HIV Infections among Injection Drug Users in the United States\textsuperscript{1,2}

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), injection drug use (IDU) has directly and indirectly accounted for approximately one-third of the HIV infections in the United States (U.S.) since the beginning of the U.S. HIV epidemic in the early 1980’s. Each year more than 8,000 people are newly infected with HIV through sharing contaminated syringes and needle works. While CDC does indicate HIV infections in the U.S. attributed to IDU has declined in the most recent five year period (range: 7-10 percent of HIV infections 2009-2013); injecting drugs remains a significant risk factor for acquisition and spread of HIV infections. CDC also notes that many rural, resource-poor populations with a high prevalence of unaddressed comorbid conditions are particularly vulnerable to HIV infections due to IDU.

In 2013, 7 percent of the estimated 47,352 diagnoses of HIV infection in the U.S. were attributed to IDU alone, and another 3 percent to male-to-male sexual contact (MSM) and IDU. Of persons diagnosed with HIV infection reporting injection drug use (PWID) in the U.S. in 2013: 63 percent were male and 37 percent female. Black/African Americans accounted for the largest proportion (44 percent) of all PWID in the U.S. in 2013 followed by whites (27 percent), and Hispanic/Latinos (25 percent). American Indians/Alaska Natives, Asians, Native Hawaiians/Other Pacific Islanders, and those of multiple races made up the remaining 5 percent of PWID in the U.S. in 2013.

Source:

\textsuperscript{2}Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Community Outbreak of HIV Infection Linked to Injection Drug Use of Oxymorphone — Indiana, 2015. Weekly, May 1, 2015. MMWR 64(16); 443-444. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Persons Diagnosed with HIV Infection Reporting Injection Drug Use (PWID) in Ohio

Between 2010 and 2013, PWID in Ohio increased 35 percent (43 to 58 PWID). PWID declined in Ohio between 2013 and 2014. MSM/IDU accounted for the largest proportion (42 percent) of PWID in Ohio from 2010 to 2014, followed by male IDU (30 percent) and female IDU (28 percent) as illustrated in Figure 1. Caution should be used when interpreting Ohio’s PWID data as small numbers impact accuracy of any discernible trends.

In 2014, 5 percent of the 950 diagnosed HIV infections reported in Ohio were attributed to IDU. Males accounted for 72 percent and females for 28 percent of PWID in Ohio in 2014. PWID ranged from 21 to 70 years in age (median age = 33 years) at the time of initial diagnosis in Ohio in 2014. Whites accounted for the largest proportion (63 percent) of PWID, followed by black/African Americans (9 percent) and Hispanic/Latinos (8 percent) as illustrated in Figure 2 on the following page.
Over half (51 percent) of PWID in Ohio between 2010 and 2014 resided in a county contained within one of three of Ohio’s largest urban areas at the time of their HIV diagnosis: Hamilton county and surrounding counties in southwestern Ohio; Franklin county and surrounding counties in central Ohio; and Cuyahoga county and surrounding counties in northeast Ohio. Rural Ohio counties and Appalachian counties along the southeast area of Ohio account for the remaining reported PWID during this time period as illustrated in Figure 3.

Reported Cases of HIV Infection, Stage 3 (AIDS) Reporting Injection Drug Use in Ohio

Of the 19 reported AIDS diagnoses in Ohio in 2014, 37 percent (7 of 19 persons) progressed to AIDS within 12 months of their diagnosed HIV infection. Of the 19,352 cumulative AIDS cases diagnosed since the beginning of the HIV epidemic in Ohio through 2014, 9 percent (1,689 persons) were attributed to IDU and another 6 percent (1,020 persons) to MSM/IDU.

Deaths among Persons Diagnosed with HIV Infection Reporting Injection Drug Use (PWID) in Ohio

Of the 178 reported deaths among persons diagnosed with HIV infection in Ohio in 2014, 19 percent (33 of 178 persons) were among PWID. Of the 12,001 cumulative deaths among persons diagnosed with HIV infection since the beginning of the HIV epidemic in Ohio through 2014, 18 percent (2,120 persons) were PWID.

Explanation of Terms:
- Persons diagnosed with an HIV infection includes persons reported to the Ohio Department of Health with an initial diagnosis of HIV infection, regardless of the stage of disease (stage 0, 1, 2, 3[AIDS], or unknown), by the end of 2014. Data are reported through June 30, 2015.
- AIDS diagnoses represent all reported AIDS cases diagnosed in 2014; cumulative AIDS cases represent all reported AIDS cases diagnosed since the beginning of the epidemic through 2014.
- Data presented herein reflects confidential reports of HIV infection and AIDS diagnoses reported to the Ohio Department of Health HIV/AIDS Surveillance Program.
- Due to case reporting delays, data are presented with a 6-12 month delay for more complete reporting. Ohio data are reported through June 30, 2015. All data is provisional and subject to change.
- Men who have sex with men (MSM) include MSM who also inject drugs unless otherwise stated.
- Deaths among persons with a diagnosis of HIV infection represent deaths attributed to any cause among persons reported with a diagnosis of HIV infection, regardless of stage; cumulative deaths represent all reported deaths since the beginning of the epidemic through 2014.
- White, non-Hispanics and black/African-American, non-Hispanics are referred to as white and black/African American, respectively.

Please direct questions about this report to: Ohio Department of Health/Office of the Medical Director/Bureau of Infectious Diseases/HIV Surveillance Program /614-995-5599.