



Epi Update for Friday, September 3, 2021

**Office of the Public Health Medical Director
Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology (CADE)
Bureau of HIV, STD, and Hepatitis**

Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH)

Items for this week's Epi Update include:

- **Reminder: Positive and negative COVID-19 tests remain reportable in Iowa**
- **West Nile virus activity increasing in Iowa**
- **2020 Iowa HIV End-of-Year Report highlights**
- **Infographic: HIV In Iowa**

Reminder: Positive and negative COVID-19 tests remain reportable in Iowa

All laboratory results for SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) are reportable to IDPH, including both positive and negative results. For example, the following types of tests should be reported to IDPH:

- PCR (including rapid PCR)
- Antigen
- Antibody / Serology

Regarding at-home testing:

- Results of at-home tests sent to a laboratory should be reported to IDPH by the laboratory.
- Results of at-home tests taken by the patient with a health care provider supervising remotely should be reported to IDPH by the health care provider via the following link: redcap.link/HomeTestReporting.
- Results of at-home tests sent to SHL via the Test Iowa program are automatically reported to IDPH.

All persons who contact public health or health care providers about at-home tests should be advised on the best practice public health recommendations for staying home and alerting exposed persons to minimize risk.

For more information, visit wiki.idph.iowa.gov/epimanual/Home/CategoryID/522.

West Nile virus activity increasing in Iowa

So far in 2021, four human cases of West Nile virus have been identified, and 54 mosquito samples have tested positive for the virus. In recent weeks, there has been an increase in the number of mosquito samples testing positive for West Nile virus.

This serves as a reminder of the importance of taking steps to reduce the risk of exposure to mosquitoes until the state's first hard frost:

- Use insect repellent with DEET, Picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus, or IR3535.
 - Always read the repellent label and consult with a health care provider if you have questions when using these types of products for children.
 - For example, oil of lemon eucalyptus should not be used on children under 3 years of age and DEET should not be used on children less than 2 months of age.
- Avoid outdoor activities between dusk and dawn, when mosquitoes are most active.
- Wear long-sleeved shirts, pants, shoes, and socks outdoors whenever possible.
- Eliminate standing water around the home because that's where mosquitoes lay eggs.
 - Empty water from buckets, cans, pool covers, and pet water dishes.
 - Change water in bird baths every three to four days.

For more information, visit idph.iowa.gov/cade/disease-information/west-nile-virus.

2020 Iowa HIV End-of-Year Report highlights

Iowa recorded 98 new HIV diagnoses by the end of 2020, similar to the number of new diagnoses in 2019. After peaking at 136 new diagnoses in 2016, Iowa has continued to see a decline in annual HIV diagnoses. 80% of the new infections were among males. As of December 31, 2020, there were 3,012 people with a current address in Iowa who knew their HIV diagnosis status and were living with HIV, a prevalence of 95 per 100,000 population. Of these, 2,910 were diagnosed with HIV on or before December 31, 2019, and lived in Iowa through 2020. 83% were retained in care and 79% were virally suppressed at the end of 2020.

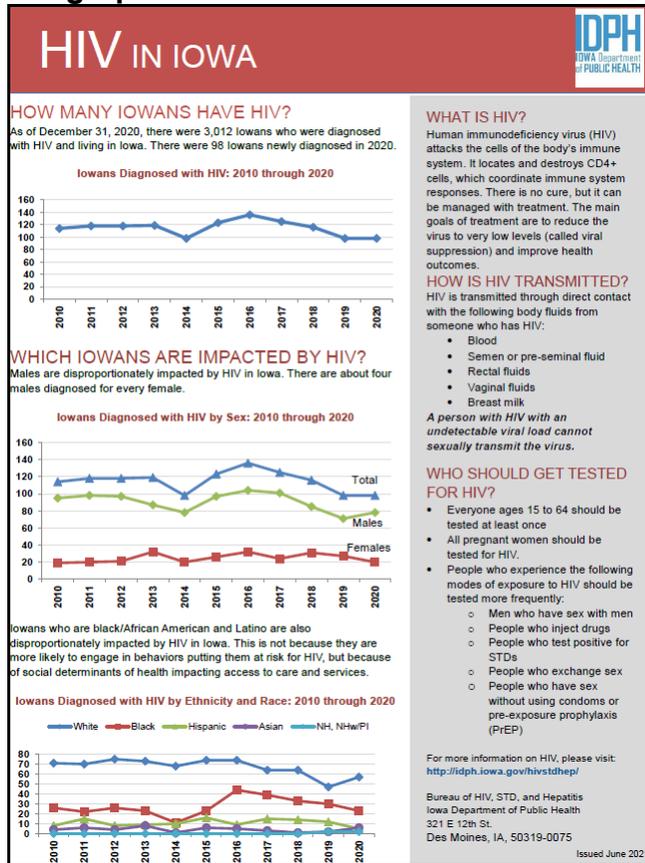
The proportion of new diagnoses at stage 3 of HIV disease (AIDS) at the time of diagnosis or within 3 months of their initial HIV diagnosis ("late testers") increased slightly from 20% in 2019 to 24% in 2020. Strategies to increase awareness about HIV and increase access to early testing for people at-risk for HIV infection continue to be employed. Partnerships with IDPH's Independent Testing Sites and Federally Qualified Health Centers continue to increase testing options for people at-risk for HIV, hepatitis C, and other sexually transmitted infections.

Despite lower HIV diagnoses overall, diagnoses among males who have sex with other males (MSM) and among people who inject drugs (PWID) increased by 13% and 63%, respectively. Additionally, diagnoses among U.S.-born females and males increased by 7% and 20%, respectively, from 2019-2020. While Iowans aged 25-44 years continued to account for the largest proportion of people diagnosed with HIV at 53% of new diagnoses in 2020, youth aged 15-24 years experienced a sustained increase in diagnoses for two years in a row. New HIV diagnoses within this age group increased by 18% from 2018-2019 and by 16% from 2019-2020. 27% of all new diagnoses in 2020 were among youth and young adults.

Diagnoses among non-Hispanic Black/African-Americans decreased for the fourth year in a row after peaking at 44 new diagnoses in 2016. In 2020, there were 23 new diagnoses among non-Hispanic Black/African-American Iowans, with 65% of the new diagnoses being among U.S.-born non-Hispanic Black/African Americans, translating to a 15% increase from 2019-2020. Non-Hispanic Whites represented 58% of people diagnosed with HIV in 2020.

To view the full 2020 HIV Surveillance Report, visit <https://idph.iowa.gov/hivstdhep/hiv/data>.

Infographic: HIV In Iowa



To view in full size, visit

idph.iowa.gov/Portals/1/userfiles/40/Final_2020_Fact%20Sheet_HIV%20in%20Iowa.pdf.

Have a healthy and happy week!

Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology
800-362-2736

Bureau of HIV, STD, and Hepatitis
515-281-6801