

Profile of HIV Epidemic in Minnesota

The Minnesota AIDS Project AIDSLINE, 612-373-AIDS
800-248-AIDS www.mnaidsproject.org/aidsline

REPORT INDICATES STEADY RATE OF NEW CASES DIAGNOSED

In 2008, 326 new cases of HIV were reported in Minnesota. This is statistically flat versus the prior year but remains at a level not seen since the mid 1990s.

Absent comprehensive HIV education for all Minnesotans, this trend is to be expected as more people in Minnesota live longer with HIV due to medical advances. Without a vaccine, Minnesota should expect to see rising infection rates.

UNREPORTED INFECTIONS

Experts estimate approximately 2,500 Minnesotans are believed to be living with HIV but do not know they are infected.

ONE NEW INFECTION REPORTED NEARLY EVERY DAY

A new case of HIV disease is reported in Minnesota every 27 hours.

STEADILY INCREASING NUMBER LIVING WITH HIV OR AIDS

As of December 31, 2008, 6,220 people are known to be living with the HIV virus in Minnesota.

- 3,415 living with HIV infection
- 2,805 living with AIDS diagnosis

CUMULATIVE CASES

To date, 8,819 cases of HIV disease have been reported in Minnesota since 1982. Of that total, 2,976 or 34 percent have died.

GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

In 2008, 43% of the newly reported cases of HIV resided in Minneapolis, 9% in Saint Paul, 36% in Twin Cities' suburbs, and 12% in Greater Minnesota.

These numbers have remained relatively steady over the past few years. However, over the past five years, there has been a steady increase of newly reported cases from the Twin Cities suburbs.

PERINATAL TRANSMISSION

In 2008 there were no cases reported in Minnesota of mother-to-child HIV transmission. A total of 50 infants were delivered to HIV+ mothers during 2008.

MINNESOTA GAY & BISEXUAL MEN STILL MOST AFFECTED BY HIV

77% of Minnesota's living cases of HIV are male. Of that population, 85% are reported to have contracted this virus through male-to-male sex and, by total population, this group remains the largest community impacted by the HIV virus in Minnesota. Disproportionately, African American gay and bisexual men are represented in this group.

RAPID INCREASE IN YOUNG GAY & BISEXUAL MEN

Since 2001, there has been a steady increase in new cases occurring within the population of young gay and bisexual men (under the age of 24).

In 2008, there was approximately double the number of newly reported cases in this demographic as compared to 2001 reports.

For the 117 young men who tested HIV-positive during the three year period of 2006 – 2008, *all of the young men*, who reported risk, indicated same sex contact.

AN EPIDEMIC OF COLOR -- AFRICAN AMERICANS AND AFRICAN BORN COMMUNITIES

Overall, only 53% of newly-reported cases occurred in Caucasians. This in contrast with Minnesota population demographics that show the state to be 86% Caucasian,

22% of new cases of adult and adolescent HIV disease in Minnesota are among African Americans, who represent just over 4% of the state's population. HIV continues to impact the Minnesota African American community at disproportionate rates.

Members of the African born community represented 11% of new cases in 2008. Case numbers are down versus those reported in 2007 but have remained high as compared with the state's population of African born citizens.

IMPACT OF INJECTING DRUG USE

Minnesota continues to see great success in preventing new infections linked to injecting drug use. Only 4% new cases diagnosed last year indicated injecting drug use as the only risk factor. This compares positively to the national average of approximately 13%.

HISPANIC CASES REMAIN LEVEL

During 2008 the number of new cases reported within the Hispanic community remained relatively steady. However, rates in this community are still significantly higher than those seen in Caucasians.

WOMEN REPRESENT A HIGHER PERCENTAGE OF NEW CASES

Overall, new cases in women made up 27% of the 2008 data. Ten years ago, women represented only 18% of the newly-reported cases. Women of color remain over-represented in these data; comprising 69% of newly-reported cases. However, in 2008, there was an increase in newly reported cases amongst Caucasian women.

For all females, roughly one third of new cases occurred in Caucasian, African Americans, and African born women respectively.

PREVALENCE DATA INDICATE A "GRAYING EPIDEMIC" OF THOSE LIVING WITH HIV

As the number of Minnesotans continues to grow due to declining mortality rates resulting from improved medications, the number of HIV+ individuals over the age of 50 is increasing rapidly. Of the 6,220 reported to be living with HIV, 47% are over the age of 45. This compares to only 31% in this age range in 2002.

These data indicate a need to understand the impact this has on medical treatment, prevention and support services.

NOTES

HIV DISEASE: HIV disease starts at infection. This term is inclusive of people with advanced stage infection, who can have the technical classification of AIDS.

AIDS: This is the reporting classification for people with advanced stage HIV disease.

Data from the Minnesota Department of Health, April 2009



