Hepatitis Elimination as an Equity Issue

American Indian/Alaska Native HCV Initiatives

2018 United States Conference on AIDS

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History

Mission
To improve the health of racial and ethnic minority populations through the development of health policies and programs that will help eliminate health disparities.
A Nationwide service of the Office of Minority Health
HCV in Native Communities

https://youtu.be/JH2wVeSgCDU
HCV among American Indian/Alaska Natives
HCV among American Indian/Alaska Natives

• For Hepatitis C, the largest increase in acute Hepatitis C among American Indians and Alaska Natives from 2010 to 2015 was among persons aged 20-29. In 2015, acute Hepatitis C rates among American Indians was 1.8 per 100,000, which is 2 times higher than among Whites.

• In 2015, American Indians and Alaska Natives had the highest Hepatitis C-related mortality rate compared to all other racial/ethnic groups. The main risk exposure or behaviors was from injection drug use at 64.2%. Alcohol abuse also contributes to Hepatitis C with between 14 percent and 36 percent of people who use alcohol infected with HCV.

Strategies in Native Communities

A Tale of Two Epidemics — HCV Treatment among Native Americans and Veterans

Brigg Reilly, MPH, and Jessica Gann, MPH

Perspective

In light of ongoing debates about health care budgets and rising drug prices, a current public health crisis can provide useful insights. For patients who get their health care through two separate federal agencies, the hepatitis C virus (HCV) epidemic is unfolding in markedly different ways. In recent years, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) health care system has engaged in a response to HCV that should be the envy of any health care system, public or private. On the other hand, the Indian Health Service (IHS), an agency that serves American Indians and Alaska Natives, has been slow to act. This article explores the reasons behind these differences in response and suggests strategies for overcoming them.

Audio Interview

Interview with Brigg Reilly on why the Indian Health Service has lagged when it comes to treating patients with hepatitis C.

Does Your Work Teaching Preventive Skills and Healthcare Navigation?

CareerCenter

Registration is open!

2018 Southwest HEP C Tribal Summit & Arizona Statewide American Indian STD/HIV Conference
Black Canyon Conference Center | 9440 N. 25th Avenue Phoenix, AZ 85021

Wednesday, September 26, 2018
Pre-Conference Event! 2018 Southwest HEP C Tribal Summit
Thursday, September 27, 2018
Arizona Statewide American Indian STD/HIV Tribal Conference

Sponsored by:

Arizona Department of Health Services
California PTC

Register here: http://courses.npirc.org/class_information.html?tid=2214
Cherokee Nation HCV Elimination Project

2012-2016

- Central hospital in Tahlequah
- 8 outlying Clinics
- Over 900,000 visits per year
- One HCV ECHO clinic in 2012
- Seven HCV ECHO clinics in 2016

CNHS

- HCV ECHO Clinic

ECHO: Extended Community Health Outcomes
## Cherokee Nation HCV Elimination Project

### Decrease the HCV burden of liver disease (prevalence)
- Increase screening and care
  - Baby boomers
  - Patients with other liver comorbidities
- Increase clinical capacity to
  - Treat HCV
  - Manage cirrhosis
  - Hepatocellular carcinoma surveillance

### Decrease HCV transmission (incidence)
- Increase screening and care
  - Special populations (PWID, homeless)
- Acute HCV Surveillance
- HCV transmission education
  - Public and health care personel
- Harm reduction
  - Opioid Substitution
  - Needle exchange programs
  - Behavioral health services
- Treatment as prevention
OMHRC SMAIF HIV/HCV Project

• Albuquerque Area Indian Health Board
  Albuquerque, NM
• Sacramento Native American Health Center
  Sacramento, CA
• Wabanaki Health & Wellness Center
  Bangor, ME
Albuquerque Area Indian Health Board

• HIV and HCV awareness increased in AIAN communities in New Mexico through stakeholder partnerships
• Increase in understanding of the transmission of HIV and Hepatitis C and how both can be prevented.
• Increase in the numbers of individuals tested for HIV and increase of referrals for Hepatitis C testing
• Increase in visibility of organizations offering rapid testing services
• Decrease in stigma associated with seeking testing services.
Loving Our People and
#GettingItDone

facebook.com/AAHHGettingItDone

#GettingItDone
Sacramento Native American Health Center

- Providers have expressed that patients are more interested in testing and utilizing CHE to provide education in conjunction with testing
- SNAHC is developing an opt-out testing policy and have condom dispensers in all clinic bathrooms and exam rooms
- HIV/HCV marketing will continue in the clinic as a result of partnerships and funding
- HCV treatment and support groups are being utilized by patients.
GET TESTED.
IT’S FREE.
IT’S FAST.

Free HIV and Hepatitis C testing at SNAHC.

The sooner you know, the better.

Knowing your HIV and Hepatitis C status helps you start treatment early and prevents unknowingly infecting others. Testing is free at SNAHC and the results are available within one hour. Should treatment be necessary, SNAHC accepts Medi-Cal and other forms of insurance.

Hepatitis C (HCV) testing is recommended for:
- Everyone born between 1945-1965
- Current and former injection drug users

HIV testing is recommended for:
- People with certain risk factors
- Everyone who has been sexually assaulted
- Everyone between the ages of 13 and 64 as part of routine health care

Get tested at SNAHC
2020 J Street, Sacramento
916-341-0575 | snahc.org
Wabanaki Health & Wellness Center

• Provided direct education to tribal members about Hepatitis C through Champions (volunteers) recruited in the community
• Provided service navigation to support client utilization of service referrals
• Developed print messaging that increase AIAN awareness of Hepatitis C
• Utilized social media to focus outreach to tribal members and provided health education.
AIAN HCV Tribal Summits

• Southwest HEP C Tribal Summit – New Mexico & Arizona (2016, 2017, 2018)

• Harm Reduction Summit – White Earth Reservation, Minnesota
Questions?

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