The Syndemics of HIV, Hepatitis, and Overdose

Sara Zeigler
Associate Director for Policy
Office of Policy, Planning and Partnerships (proposed)

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD and TB Prevention

USCA Hepatitis Pathway Session
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Massive Increase in Opioid Deaths in United States

Over 600,000 people have died from opioid overdose since 2000

Acute Hepatitis C Infections Continue to Soar and Progress Combatting Hepatitis B is Threatened

Over 22,000 Americans die of viral hepatitis each year

Source: National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System (NNDSS)
Increased Transmission of Viral Hepatitis to Infants

- Without preventive treatment, 40% of infants born to HBV-infected mothers will develop chronic infection
- Without treatment, a quarter will die from liver disease
- From 2009-2014, HCV infection among women giving birth nearly doubled

MMWR, May 12, 2017; https://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/hbv/perinatalxmtmtn.htm
Hepatitis A Outbreaks in Multiple States

- CDC has been assisting with multi-state hepatitis A outbreaks
  - Primarily among homeless persons, persons who use injection and non-injection drugs, and their close contacts
  - More than 5,118 cases; 63 deaths
  - Over 3,058 hospitalizations
Drug Overdoses and Hepatitis C: *Interconnected Epidemics*

**Drug Overdose Death Rates**

**Reported New HCV Infections**

**Source:** CDC/NCHS Data Visualization Gallery 2016

**Source:** CDC National Notifiable Disease Surveillance System 2013-14
Annual HIV infections in the U.S. declined 15% from 2008-2015, then plateaued

Prevented 34,000 cases at estimated cost savings for medical care of over $16 billion*

Note. Estimates were derived from a CD4 depletion model using HIV surveillance data.
WHAT WORKS?
Comprehensive Community Action Works

Mobilize multi-sector community action
- health care
- education agencies
- public health
- law enforcement

Comprehensive syringe services programs (SSPs)
- stopping use of drugs
- prevent infections
- link patients to treatment
- do not increase drug use or crime

Targeted Disease Prevention Strategies

• Respond quickly and comprehensively to Hepatitis A clusters
  • Implement targeted vaccination strategy

• Ensure Hepatitis B vaccines and testing are reaching the people who need them

• Increase screening, diagnosis, and treatment of Hepatitis C and reduce barriers to treatment access
  • Cost of treatment is decreasing
    • 2014: $83,000–$153,000
    • 2017: About $40,000
Rapid and Comprehensive Outbreak Response Makes All the Difference

• 233 people with HIV
• ~90% had hepatitis C co-infection
• 5% adults with HIV (population 3,143)
• Over $100 million in lifetime medical costs

- Comprehensive community based prevention services worked
- Essential partnerships with law enforcement, schools, healthcare, and others
- Continued focus on adherence to treatment
44 states and Puerto Rico have areas that are experiencing, or at risk for, increases or outbreaks of HCV/HIV

CDC Resource: Managing HIV and hepatitis C outbreaks among persons who inject drugs - A guide for state and local health departments
• $478,000: lifetime cost to treat someone with HIV infection

• For every $1 CDC spent on HIV testing, $2 were saved in direct medical costs

• $6.5 billion: estimated total healthcare costs associated with hepatitis C infection in 2011

• The average cost of curing people with hepatitis C is not only cost-effective, but cost-saving to the healthcare system
Comprehensive action will reduce drug use, save money, and save lives.