Hepatitis C Risk Factors Among Youth & Young Adults—Philadelphia, PA 2012

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RESULTS: RESPONSE RATES

The newly established PDPH enhanced hepatitis C surveillance system has identified a baseline local characterization of HCV in the under 31 population
- Respondents were 54% female, slightly younger than non-respondents (median 26 vs. 27 years, p<0.001).
- 74% Caucasian; and 20% Hispanic.
- Most prevalent in clinical history were a history of injection drug use (IDU), particularly heroin, and incarceration.

OBJECTIVES

Launch of an enhanced HCV surveillance program in Philadelphia to:
1. Establish a baseline understanding of local burden in residents <31 years old.
2. Characterize local epidemiology with respect to:
   - Demographics
   - Clinical characteristics
3. Use this data to design and implement interventions

METHODS

Enhanced surveillance launched January 1st, 2012
1. Inclusion Criteria:
   - Philadelphia resident
   - Event date: January 1 2012 - June 30, 2012
   - <31 years old
2. Never previously reported to PDPH
   + In-coming from both state-wide and local communicable disease registries
3. Creation of a customized investigation tool to detail demographic, clinical, and risk factor information
4. Investigation approach two-pronged
   - Case phone interview attempts
   - Ordering Provider form mailings
5. Data entry in the PDPH Communicable Disease Management System (CDMS)
6. Analysis using SAS v9.3

BACKGROUND

Hepatitis C

Hepatitis C (HCV) is the most common chronic blood-borne infection—and leading cause for liver transplantation—in the United States
- 3.2 million people in the US have chronic hepatitis C
- 4,000 new diagnoses are made annually among Philadelphia residents
- National trends show increasing new HCV infections in 20–30 year olds

Risk Factors
- Injection drug use (IDU)
- Tattoos/Body piercings (outside a commercial parlor)
- Anal sex
- Receipt of clotting factors prior to 1987
- Receipt of blood products prior to 1992
- Birth mother HCV
- Multiple sexual partners

CONCLUSIONS

The newly established PDPH enhanced hepatitis C surveillance system has identified a baseline local characterization of HCV in the under 31 population
- Respondents were 54% female, slightly younger than non-respondents (median 26 vs. 27 years, p<0.001).
- 74% Caucasian; and 20% Hispanic.
- Most prevalent in clinical history were IDU history, particularly heroin, and incarceration.

LESSONS LEARNED

Greater behavioral risk factors are more evident in: tattooing, IDU, particularly heroin, and incarceration.

LIMITATIONS

- Under-reporting of cases
- Missing case or provider contact information
- Time lag from event date diminishes successful contact outcomes

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