

2018 STATEWIDE PRIMARY CARE PROVIDER HIV PREVENTION AND CARE SURVEY RESULTS

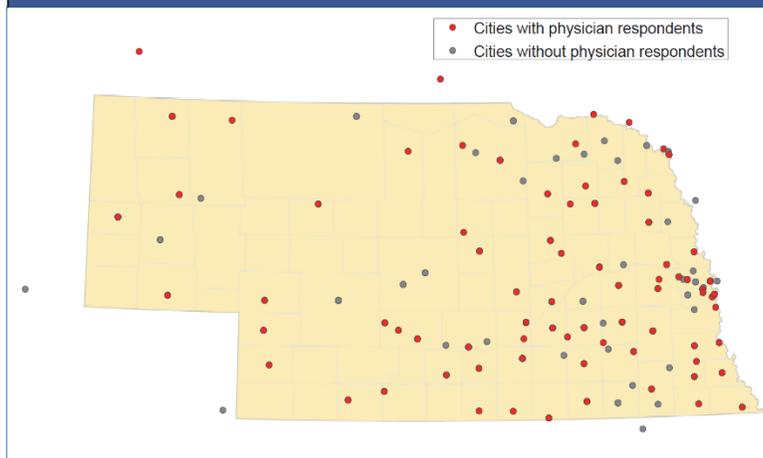
Background

A total of 2,217 persons were living with Human Immunodeficiency Virus (PLW-HIV) at the end of 2015 in Nebraska, with an additional 332 (15% estimated by CDC) unaware they have HIV (State of Nebraska Integrated HIV Prevention and Care Plan 2017 – 2021; Centers for Disease Control). Results of a statewide survey of primary care providers and infectious disease specialists (39% response overall) describe baseline data about practices and attitudes toward HIV care and prevention.

Purpose

The Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services is distributing the findings for use by local community health care delivery systems to improve support and care of those PLW-HIV and those at risk who would benefit from prevention education.

Geographic Distribution of Eligible Physician Responses to HIV Prevention and Care Practices Survey



FINDINGS

Near half of primary care have experience with HIV + persons

43% of primary care physicians have or currently do care for HIV positive persons.
... 76% of these physicians refer patients to HIV specialty infectious disease care while continuing to see the patients for general medical care.
... 25% report co-managing the HIV with an infectious disease specialist.

Willingness of primary care to treat is high with infectious disease co-management

78% of primary care physicians are willing to treat HIV positive patients despite that only 29% have managed the treatment of HIV at some point in their careers. Those who previously treated HIV-positive patients are more willing to treat patients now compared to those who never had this experience (Fisher's Exact Test $p < 0.000$).

Local pharmacy relationship engagement is an underdeveloped opportunity

About 10% of primary care physicians say they work with patients' local pharmacies to provide care to HIV positive patients and 80% indicated they do not.

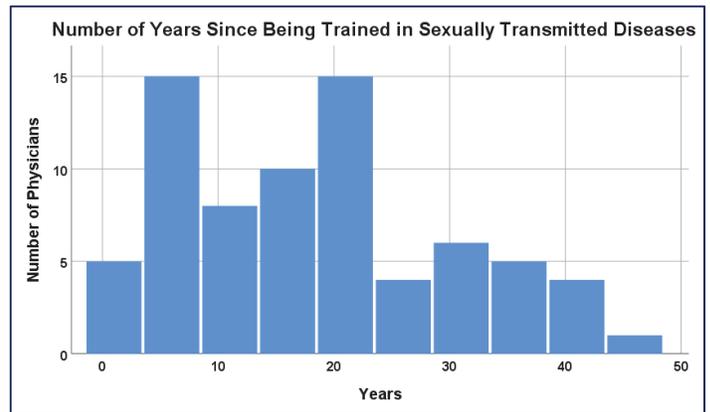
Education is needed about PrEP

Pre – Exposure Prophylaxis Treatment (PrEP) has been prescribed by 20% of primary care physicians, but 40% say lack of knowledge about PrEP use has stopped them from prescribing it.

Diverse Training about Sexually Transmitted Diseases

Recent training (< 2 years) in sexually transmitted diseases management is

associated with willingness to treat HIV positive patients (χ^2 , $df=1$, $p=0.006$). Most physicians were last trained about management, treatment, prevention and care of HIV positive patients at a time historically when the outcomes of care were less successful. The concept of undetectable = untransmittable (U=U) changes how HIV is perceived, and directly reinforces the need for local physician engagement and participation in HIV prevention and counseling practices (Fauci, A.S., Redfield, R.R., Sigounas, G., Weahkee, M.D., Giroir, B.P. (2019). Ending the HIV epidemic. A plan for the United States. JAMA, 321(9):844-845. doi:10.1001/jama.2019.1343).



Physicians need and desire to know more about available programs and services

Most primary care physicians are unaware of the programs and resources available to support the social and economic needs of HIV positive persons. 32% of primary care physicians and 40% of infectious disease physicians knew where to locate HIV case reporting forms to meet mandatory reporting requirements of the state.

Programs	Physicians Who Want to Know More <i>n</i> (%)
Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program A comprehensive system of HIV primary medical care, essential support services, and medications for low-income people living with HIV who are uninsured and underserved.	68 (21%)
Nebraska HIV Prevention and Surveillance Program Promotes and supports improving health outcomes, increasing individual knowledge of HIV status, preventing new infections among HIV-negative persons, reducing transmission from persons living with HIV, and strengthening interventional surveillance to enhance response capacity and intensive data-to-care activities to support sustained viral suppression.	64 (20%)
Housing Opportunities for People With AIDS (HOPWA) Provides housing assistance and related supportive services to meet the housing needs of low-income persons and their families living with HIV/AIDS.	56 (17%)
Sexually Transmitted Disease Prevention Program Promotes and support the prevention and control of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) and their complications.	62 (19%)
Hepatitis Prevention and Care Program Promotes hepatitis B and hepatitis C testing, increasing individual knowledge of their hepatitis infection, and supporting linkages to care and treatment services.	67 (21%)
Tuberculosis Program Promotes and supports Tuberculosis (TB) prevention and control through TB education, medical consultation, follow-up, surveillance, case management, and bacteriology services through a partnership with the Nebraska Public Health Laboratory (NPHL).	56 (17%)
Addiction and Pain Management Specialists (Project ECHO) Provides specialist knowledge, clinical advice, and recommendations from substance use and pain management specialists in a virtual learning network.	91 (28%)