HIV Among Urban and Rural Areas

Nebraska 2018

In order to understand the differences of HIV across Nebraska, we analyzed our surveillance data comparing urban versus rural.

For the purposes of this fact sheet “urban” is defined as Lancaster and Douglas counties and “rural” is defined as the areas outside those counties. In Nebraska people living in urban areas have about 4.5 times the HIV rate that people living in rural areas do (7.5 vs 1.6 in the past five years).

New HIV Cases*

Statewide about 16 people living in rural areas and 66 people living in urban areas are diagnosed with HIV each year. People living in urban areas represent about 80% of Nebraska’s new HIV cases and people living in rural areas represent about 20% of new cases.

*The term “new HIV cases” refers to all new diagnosis of HIV infection, with or without AIDS.
By HIV Exposure Category

The most common method of transmission is MSM with 58% of new infections in urban areas are attributed to MSM compared to 48% of new infections in rural areas attributed to MSM. Slightly more persons with newly diagnosed with HIV infections in rural areas report injecting drug use (9%) versus urban areas (5%).

**NIR: People who do not have a risk identified. Every effort is made at the time of diagnosis to get a risk through interviews. IDU injecting drug user**

Living HIV Cases

As of December 31, 2018, there were 1004 HIV positive people living in rural areas and 1,458 HIV positive people living in urban areas. The number of people living with HIV in rural areas has remained relatively steady while it has increased in the urban areas. The proportion of people living with HIV and those living with AIDS has remained fairly constant the last five years.

Testing in Nebraska

HIV testing in Nebraska is available at all physician offices, hospitals, medical clinics and counseling and testing sites. The Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (NDHHS) Counseling and Testing Program has multiple federally funded HIV test sites located across Nebraska. At these test sites, the client has the option of testing.
*The term “new HIV cases” refers to all new diagnosis of HIV infection, with or without AIDS.

anonymously (by number) or confidentially (by name). Testing at any other site is confidential only. To locate a counseling and testing site near you, go to: https://www.cdc.gov/hiv/testing/index.html.