Thank you for joining

The Impact of Hepatitis C in the USA:
A webinar with the Latino Commission on AIDS and HepVu

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The webinar will begin at 2:00 PM EST
The Latino Commission on AIDS and HepVu Webinar:
The Impact of Hepatitis C in the USA

May 26, 2020
Agenda

I. The Impact of Hepatitis C on the Hispanic/Latinx Community
   Luis Mares, LMSW
   National Community Mobilization Director, Latino Commission on AIDS

II. HepVu and Hepatitis C in America
    Heather Bradley, Ph.D.
    Assistant Professor of Epidemiology, Georgia State University, and Project Director, HepVu

III. New HepVu Stratified Hepatitis C Prevalence Estimates
     Heather Bradley, Ph.D.

IV. HepVu Features and Site Overview
    Heather Bradley, Ph.D.
The Impact of Hepatitis C on the Hispanic/Latinx Community

Luis Mares, LMSW
National Community Mobilization Director, Latino Commission on AIDS
About the Commission

• **Founded in 1990** to lead health advocacy efforts for Latinos, promote HIV education, develop model prevention programs for high-risk communities, and build capacity in community organizations.

• **Seeks to meet the health challenges and address** the impact of HIV/AIDS, hepatitis, and STIs in communities nationwide.

• **Nonprofit committed to** creating and promoting a safe space.
Hepatitis Awareness Month and NHHAD

May
Hepatitis Awareness Month

May 15
National Hispanic Hepatitis Awareness Day (NHHAD)

May 19
Hepatitis Testing Day
The Hepatitis C Epidemic

• Hepatitis C is a leading cause of liver-related morbidity and mortality in America

• An estimated 2.3 million people were living with Hepatitis C from 2013 to 2016
  • Heaviest impact on males, Baby Boomers, Black Americans, and, increasingly, young persons in states highly affected by the opioid epidemic

• Hepatitis C and other infectious diseases are often-overlooked consequences of America’s opioid crisis
  • Hepatitis C infections have nearly tripled in recent years, with the largest increases among persons under 40, largely due to injection drug use
Hepatitis C Among Hispanic/Latinx

- Chronic liver disease is a leading cause of death among the Hispanic/Latinx community
  - Chronic liver disease can be caused by Hepatitis B or C viruses

- The rate of chronic liver disease among Hispanic men and women is double that of white counterparts
  - Third-leading cause of death for Hispanic men (ages 55-64) in 2015

- To monitor and effectively address the Hepatitis C epidemic, there is a need for better surveillance data to inform policy, programmatic, and resource planning
  - Limited surveillance and resources make this even more challenging when examining the impact of Hepatitis C by race/ethnicity
HepVu and Hepatitis C in America

Heather Bradley, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Epidemiology, Georgia State University
Project Director, HepVu
HepVu Overview

- **HepVu.org is an online platform** that visualizes data and disseminates insights on the Hepatitis C epidemic across the United States

- Established in 2017 to present the first standardized state-level estimates of people living with Hepatitis C

- **HepVu is presented by** Emory University’s Rollins School of Public Health in partnership with Gilead Sciences, Inc.
Mission

Vu visualizes data, presents insights, and catalyzes research to drive public health action across the U.S.
HepVu Maps

View data at the state level, including:
- State-level Hepatitis C prevalence estimates (2013-2016) stratified by sex, age, and race.
- Hepatitis C-related mortality data (2016)

Opioid Maps
- Opioid prescription rate (2017)
- Narcotic overdose mortality rate (2013-2016)
- Pain reliever misuse percent (2015-2016)
Limitations and Strengths

**Limitations to consider**
- NHANES representation of Hepatitis C increases among PWID
- Hepatitis C- and narcotic-related mortality are incomplete proxies for underlying Hepatitis C infection
- Estimates represent average during 2013-2016
  - Period of rising incidence
  - Likely increasing >2016
- Model unable to produce robust, separate estimates for Hispanic/Latinx population

**Strengths of approach**
- Synthesis of large national datasets, with local information
- Few model assumptions
- Allows apples-to-apples comparisons between states
HepVu Data by Age, Sex, and Race
New Stratified Maps

Hepatitis C prevalence estimates (2013-2016) stratified by:

- **Sex**
  - Male
  - Female
- **Age**
  - Less than 50
  - 50 – 74 (Baby Boomer)
  - 75 and older
- **Race**
  - Black
  - Non-Black
Hepatitis C by Sex

- **Men had double the Hepatitis C prevalence of women** – a ratio that was consistent in nearly every state

- Nationally, the rate of Hepatitis C prevalence was 1.3% for males and 0.6% for females

- This disparity is consistent with previously published estimates
Hepatitis C by Age

• Nationally, Hepatitis C prevalence among persons:
  • 50 – 74 years (Baby Boomers): 1.6%
  • 49 years or younger: 0.5%
  • 75 years or older: 0.2%

• 71% of infections were among Baby Boomers, but…

• ...Younger Americans represent larger proportions of Hepatitis C infections in states hardest hit by the opioid epidemic

The largest increase in new Hepatitis C infections over the last decade have been among people under 50, primarily as a consequence of injection drug use associated with the opioid crisis.
Hepatitis C by Race

- Hepatitis C prevalence was more than twice as high for Black Americans than for non-Black Americans.

- Black Americans account for 23% of Hepatitis C infections, but only 12% of the U.S. population.

- Despite lower rates of Hepatitis C, the Hispanic/Latinx community sees worse HCV-related mortality outcomes compared to non-Hispanic whites.
Conclusions

• National surveys, in conjunction with local mortality data that capture multiple aspects of Hepatitis C epidemics, enable systematic estimation of state-level Hepatitis C prevalence

• Hepatitis C continues to affect populations including:
  • Males
  • Baby Boomers
  • Black Americans

• Highest rates frequently in states:
  • With history of increased levels of injection drug use and chronic Hepatitis C infection
  • That are deeply affected by opioid crisis

• Estimates can benchmark epidemic and guide prevention, diagnosis, and treatment efforts
HepVu Features and Site Overview
Shareable Resources

- **Infographics** on Hepatitis C by sex, age, and race, and testing infographics in Spanish and English

- **Expert Q&A blogs** about viral hepatitis, opioids, and Hepatitis C elimination campaigns, with recent examples including:
  - Dr. John W. Ward, Director of the Coalition for Global Hepatitis Elimination
  - Dr. Monica Graybeal, Hepatitis C ambulatory and community pharmacist at Yakima Valley Farm Workers Clinic
  - Guillermo Chacon on Hepatitis C among Hispanic/Latinx individuals
Intersection of Opioids and Hepatitis C

- **Focus on the intersection of the hepatitis and opioid epidemics** to inform public health decision-making and raise greater awareness about the infectious disease consequences of the opioid epidemic.

- **Maps, infographics, and Deeper Look page illustrate how opioid misuse** – and the sharing of needles or other equipment used to inject drugs – are driving new infections of Hepatitis C and other blood-borne viruses.
Opioid Maps

Narcotic Overdose Mortality Rate
2013-2016

Opioid Prescription Rate
2017

Pain Reliever Misuse Percent
2015-2016
Deeper Look: Opioids

The opioid crisis is one of the greatest public health challenges facing the U.S., causing an unprecedented surge in drug overdose deaths, and fueling the rapid rise in new Hepatitis C infections from injection drug use in communities across the country.

As opioid abuse rates have declined, new Hepatitis C infections have also increased. Data on HepVu show that an estimated 2.4 million Americans were living with Hepatitis C between 2011 and 2017. Though the majority, or roughly three-quarters of all infections were among baby boomers (those born between 1945 and 1965), there has been a spike in new Hepatitis C infections among younger Americans.

The number of new Hepatitis C infections more than tripled from 2010 to 2016, largely reflecting infections due to the rise in injection drug use. This has created a syndemic, in which the opioid and Hepatitis C epidemics are linked—both with the number of Hepatitis C being directly exacerbated by injection drug use.

The Opioid Epidemic

In 2017, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) declared a public health state of emergency due to the opioid epidemic. Opioids are highly addictive and include prescription pain relievers, synthetic compounds such as fentanyl, and illegal drugs such as heroin. From 2011 to 2017, the number of opioid deaths due to opioid abuse has more than quadrupled. The opioid epidemic’s growth even contributed to a decrease in annual US HIV diagnoses, which declined from 78,664 in 2016 primarily due to increases in suicides and opioid-related overdose deaths.

The Syndemic

A syndemic refers to two or more interassociated epidemics that are mutually reinforcing and interact in a way that amplifies the overall burden of disease. Although not all people who abuse opioids inject drugs, people who inject drugs are at significantly higher risk of transmission of blood-borne viruses, including HIV and Hepatitis C.

Hepatitis C and HIV can be transmitted by sharing needles, syringes, water, alcohol, and other equipment used to inject drugs. Nearly 50 percent of people with HIV who inject drugs are also infected with Hepatitis C. As younger Americans engage in injection drug use, there is also a rising risk of incarcerated individuals who contract Hepatitis C and pregnant women exposing their babies to the virus.
Comparing Data

• View the prevalence of Hepatitis C in the U.S. stratified by age, sex, race, and social determinants alongside opioid maps.
• Print custom map views and develop a widget to embed the maps directly into a website.
State Profiles

Local Data: Idaho

There are approximately 11,200 people living with Hepatitis C in Idaho.
HepVu: Coming This Year

- May: Hepatitis Awareness Month and Testing Day
  - National Hispanic Hepatitis Awareness Day
- July: World Hepatitis Day
  - National African American Hepatitis C Action Day
- Webinars on the state of testing, surveillance, and harm reduction during COVID-19
- Deeper Look: Viral Hepatitis Surveillance
- Ongoing blog series with experts and infographics
Questions?

Please visit www.latinoaids.org and follow @LatinoCommAIDS on Twitter.

Thank you for joining!