HIV/AIDS in Volusia County

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) describes HIV (human immunodeficiency virus) as a virus spread through body fluids that affects specific cells of the immune system called CD4 cells, or T-cells. T-cells are essential for human immunity and over time, HIV can destroy so many of these T-cells that the body cannot fight off infections and disease; when this happens, HIV infection leads to AIDS (acquired immunodeficiency syndrome).

HIV/AIDS is considered a pandemic; a disease outbreak presenting over a large area and is actively spreading. CDC estimates 1.5 million people died from AIDS-related illnesses in 2013 and an estimated 39 million people with AIDS have died worldwide since the epidemic began. As of 2013, nearly 35.3 million people were living with HIV globally; 1.2 million in the U.S., 106,335 in Florida and 1,410 people in Volusia County.

Volusia County residents who are living with HIV/AIDS can take solace in knowing the health department offers services to help with the financial and emotional burdens of the disease. The Ryan White HIV/AIDS program provides HIV-related services for those without sufficient health care coverage or financial resources. The AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) provides life-saving medications, disease management training and information in a way that is cost effective for infected persons. Health department staff will refer PLWHAs to other community-based organizations for those services not provided by the health department. These include services for housing, food, substance abuse and mental health counseling, transportation, Medicaid eligibility, etc. The Department of Health in Volusia County is committed to the health and well-being of the HIV/AIDS community and will continue to explore means of serving all of our residents needs.

In Volusia County, in 2013, non-Hispanic black males and females were more likely to be a Person Living with HIV/AIDS (PLWA). Gender seemed to be a contributing factor to being a person living with HIV/AIDS for Hispanic and white residents. The groups least likely to be persons living with HIV/AIDS were Hispanic females and non-Hispanic white females. Non-Hispanic white males and Hispanic males were more likely to be PLWHAs than Hispanic females and white females.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Persons Living with HIV/AIDS (PLWA), Volusia County, 2013</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Females</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Males</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 in 79 has a greater chance of being a PLWA than 1 in 105

Source: Florida Department of Health, Bureau of HIV/AIDS
Report Card

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reduce the rate of AIDS cases among adolescents and adults (per 100,000)</td>
<td>12.0^4</td>
<td>17.0^4</td>
<td>13.0^7</td>
<td>12.4^5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reduce deaths from HIV infection (per 100,000)</td>
<td>3.9^4</td>
<td>4.7^4</td>
<td>3.7^6</td>
<td>3.3^5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase the proportion of newly diagnosed patients linked to clinical care within three months of their HIV diagnosis (%)</td>
<td>40.7^8</td>
<td>71.6^8</td>
<td>65.0^10</td>
<td>85.0^10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reduce the proportion of men who have sex with men (MSM) who reported unprotected anal intercourse with a partner of discordant or unknown status during their last sexual encounter (%)</td>
<td>4.6^8</td>
<td>4.9^8</td>
<td>13.7^9</td>
<td>10.3^5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NOTE: The references for the Report Card data are listed on the bottom of this page. All data are 2013 unless otherwise indicated. The year in parentheses is the year of that specific indicator value. All data are the most recently available data.

Reducing the rate and number of HIV infections is a major objective for Healthy People 2020 (HP2020). The Volusia County rate of AIDS cases among adolescents and adults was 12.0, 29.4% lower than the state rate (17.0), 7.7% lower than the national rate (13.0) and 3.2% lower than the HP2020 target (12.4). Volusia County’s death rate was 3.9 (per 100,000 population) from HIV infection in 2010, 17.0% lower than the Florida rate (4.7), 5.4% higher than the national rate (3.7) and 18.2% higher than the HP2020 target (3.3).

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) validated in a landmark study in 2011 that early HIV treatment significantly reduced the risk of transmission of HIV to an uninfected partner by 96%. Volusia County was well under the state, national and HP2020 rates for linking newly diagnosed patients to care within three months of their HIV diagnosis. Volusia County (40.7) was 43.2% lower than Florida (71.6), 37.4% lower than the US proportion (65.0), and 52.1% lower than the HP 2020 target (85.0) for newly diagnosed patients linked to clinical care within three months of their HIV diagnosis.

Volusia County and Florida are statistically well ahead of the nation and the HP2020 target in reducing the proportion of men who have sex with men (MSM) who reported unprotected anal intercourse with a partner of discordant or unknown status during their last sexual encounter. Volusia County (4.6) was 61.1% lower than the state proportion (4.9), 66.4% lower than the national proportion (13.7), and 55.3% lower than the HP2020 target (10.3).

Sources:
4 Florida Community Health Assessment Resource Tool Set (FL CHARTS), www.floridacharts.com
6 National HIV Surveillance System, 2006
7 National HIV Surveillance System, 2010
8 Florida Department of Health, Bureau of HIV/AIDS, 2013 - 2014
## Volusia County HIV/AIDS Indicators

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicators</th>
<th>Volusia County</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of HIV cases</td>
<td>84⁴</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rate of HIV cases (per 100,000 population)</td>
<td>16.8⁴</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of adults less than age 65 who had an HIV test in the past 12 months</td>
<td>5.7%⁴&lt;sub&gt;(2010)&lt;/sub&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of adults less than 65 who have ever been tested for HIV</td>
<td>47.7%⁴&lt;sub&gt;(2010)&lt;/sub&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of newly diagnosed perinatally acquired HIV cases</td>
<td>0⁸</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of pregnant women who have never been tested for HIV/AIDS</td>
<td>13⁸</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of men who have sex with men who reported never being tested for HIV/AIDS</td>
<td>78⁸</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of men who have sex with men who have ever been tested for HIV/AIDS</td>
<td>386⁸</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In 2014, 115 people in Volusia County had a HIV infection, a 36.9 percent increase from 2013. The rate of HIV cases (per 100,000 population) in 2014 was 36.3% higher than the previous year. The percentage of adults less than age 65 who had an HIV test in the past 12 months increased by 91.2% in Volusia County from 5.7% in 2010 to 10.9% 2013. The percentage of adults less than age 65 who have been tested for HIV in Volusia County decreased 7.3% from 47.7 to 44.2% over the same time period.

There were no newly diagnosed perinatally acquired HIV cases in 2014; a continuation of no perinatally transmitted HIV infections in Volusia County in 2013. The number of pregnant women who have never been tested for HIV/AIDS decreased by 84.6% in Volusia County from 2013 to 2014.

The number of MSM’s who reported never being tested for HIV/AIDS decreased by 33.3% in Volusia County from 2013 to 2014, however the number of MSM’s who have ever been tested for HIV/AIDS declined by 10.9% in Volusia County from 2013 to 2014.

**Sources:** (continued)

11 Florida Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey (BRFSS), 2010
The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that roughly 1.2 million Americans are living with HIV with nearly one in seven unaware they are infected. In addition, the number of people living with HIV/AIDS is increasing as effective new drug therapies keep HIV-infected people healthy longer and reduce the death rate.

Paying for HIV medication can be a challenge as these drugs can be very costly. Having public or private health insurance does not guarantee coverage for prescriptions. However, there are programs designed to assist in meeting the cost of anti-retroviral medications for those individuals without health insurance (uninsured) or lacking sufficient insurance coverage (under-insured).

The AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) is a national program that provides HIV/AIDS prescription drugs to uninsured and under-insured individuals living with HIV/AIDS. Each state runs the program according to the Ryan White CARE Act guidelines. The ADAP formulary has expanded from only containing AZT to 32 different anti-retroviral (ARVs) medications and 18 medications that treat opportunistic infections.

ADAP is available to all eligible clients. Eligibility is attained through the Ryan White Patient Care eligibility process. The following criteria are used to determine eligibility.

1. Have laboratory results (less than six months old) that show positivity for HIV/AIDS
2. Do not have insurance or have inadequate prescription coverage
3. Have prescription for medications that are on the ADAP formulary

Enrollment in ADAP for Volusia County has fluctuated over the past eight years. Most recent figures indicate an increase in enrollment from a low of 96 in 2007 to a high of 172 in 2012. Recent figures indicate an increase in enrollment from a low of 96 clients in 2007 to a high of 172 in 2012. Enrollment has increased 62.5% over the eight year period, 2007 through 2014.
AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) (continued)

There were 151 clients enrolled for the 2014 fiscal year, April 2013 - March 2014. Thirty-seven were females, 113 males and one identifying as trans-gender. Sixty-seven of the clients in 2014 were non-Hispanic whites, 59 were non-Hispanic blacks and 23 identified themselves as Hispanic. The majority of females were black while the majority of males were white.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ADAP Enrollment by Race and Gender, Volusia County, 2014</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Race/Ethnicity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------------------------------------------------</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black (non-Hispanic)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (non-Hispanic)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White (non-Hispanic)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Currently, ADAP is addressing the transition of current ADAP clients to the Affordable Care Act, Marketplace insurance plans. As a part of the Ryan White CARE Act, the clients enrolled must access all other sources of funds prior to accessing the Ryan White CARE Act funds (payer of last resort). Due to this restriction the clients now must enroll in the marketplace insurance plans. The Florida Department of Health has selected a set number of individuals to transition into the marketplace plans. ADAP will use its funds to cover the costs of the plans for those selected individuals that decide to transition.

ADAP is an essential program that saves lives. It grants access to medicine for clients that have no other means of paying for their medication. Research has shown that the quicker an individual starts anti-retroviral medication the less of a chance they have to pass HIV/AIDS to another person. They will also start to live a healthier life and increase their chance of living longer than without medications. ADAP also works to meet the goals of the National HIV/AIDS Strategy — Increase the proportion of HIV-diagnosed gay, bisexual, Latino and black men with an undetectable viral load by 20%.

ADAP is operated out of the Daytona Beach office of the Department of Health in Volusia County. Services are provided in Deltona every other Wednesday. For information about the ADAP program at the Department of Health in Volusia County, please call 386-274-0585.

Sources:
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, www.cdc.gov/hiv/
US Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration
US Department of Health and Human Services, National HIV/AIDS Strategy
Florida Department of Health, Bureau of HIV/AIDS
HIV Medical Services in Volusia County
by Patrick Forand, MPH, HIV/AIDS Program Coordinator, DOH-Volusia

Volusia County is located on the eastern coast of central Florida with an estimated population of 499,046. Of the 499,046 Volusia County residents, the Florida Department of Health (FDOH) estimates that about 1,410 persons, less than one percent (.003%) of the population, are persons living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA). Many PLWHAs face numerous obstacles socially, mentally, emotionally and medically as they confront the impact of HIV/AIDS on their lives.

PLWHAs incur a number of challenges when trying to access HIV/AIDS medical services in Volusia County. The ensuing concerns prevent access to care, lead to late entry into care, or cause confusion in understanding how to access medical care:

1. Complexity - The care of an individual with HIV is multifaceted. The complexity lies in the comorbidities accompanying HIV/AIDS and the variety of medications enlisted to treat each of the diseases and conditions.
2. Insurance - Many individuals living with HIV/AIDS are unable to maintain their private health insurance because of their illness.
3. Scarcity - The lack of physicians skilled in and willing to treat HIV that makes it difficult for a person living with HIV/AIDS in Volusia County to find medical services.
4. Specialty Care - The Medicaid managed care program fails to include HIV/AIDS specialty care programs in the Agency for Health Care Administration’s Area 4.
5. Affordable Care Act (ACA) - People struggle with confusing health insurance options and do not understand the ACA, nor do they understand the difference between Medicare and Medicaid.

Treating HIV/AIDS is difficult, as most individuals that are HIV positive have other medical issues that complicate the care and treatment of HIV. HIV is often accompanied by comorbidities necessitating their own medications. The medications prescribed for HIV and the comorbidities can interact and must be closely managed.

Many individuals living with HIV/AIDS do not have private insurance. They rely on Medicare, Medicaid, the Affordable Care Act, Hospital Patient Assistant Programs, and/or the Ryan White CARE Act. Not all physicians elect to accept the aforementioned as payer sources for their patients. The physicians that do accept those payer sources are few and far between. This makes it difficult to find a physician for individuals that are not already established (newly diagnosed with HIV/AIDS or new to Volusia County) in the system of care.

There are not many physicians that are willing or have the proper training to treat an individual with HIV/AIDS. There are only five physicians in Volusia County available to treat persons living with HIV/AIDS that do not have private insurance. At times, those physicians have practices that are full and not accepting new patients. There are other instances where the practice is accepting new patients but the wait for an appointment is many weeks out. The last problem is that some of the physicians do not see patients five days a week. This limits the number of appointments and makes it difficult on the client if there is a need on a non-clinic day.

Early in 2014, the state’s Medicaid program switched to a managed care program. Several types of managed care plans are available - Health Maintenance Organizations, Provider Service Networks and Children’s Medical Services. Once the managed care plans were released, it was discovered that the Agency for Health Care Administration’s Area 4 (which includes Baker, Clay, Duval, Flagler, Nassau, St. Johns, and Volusia Counties) does not have any HIV/AIDS specialty care plans. This further restricts the clients’ choices for medical services and the availability of medical services in Volusia County.

Finally, in 2013, the Affordable Care Act (ACA) went into effect, with services beginning in 2014. The ACA is a national program that provides medical insurance to all individuals that qualify. Not all of the un-insured clients that have HIV/AIDS qualify for the ACA. Many clients had difficulty understanding the insurance plans. They were not sure if the plans covered HIV medications or if their current provider accepted the selected plan. The ACA provided navigators to assist
HIV Medical Services in Volusia County (continued)

clients with registering into a qualified plan based on their current health needs. The ACA and Florida’s Medicaid managed care program are government programs that can be confusing and difficult to understand. This causes stress for individuals that are trying to figure out the best plan for their current situation. Stress exhausts individuals infected with HIV/AIDS.

Despite the difficulties discussed above, HIV/AIDS clients are able to locate a physician and begin medical care. If they qualify for the Ryan White CARE Act, they can use a provider in that network and begin HIV treatment. The Ryan White CARE Act covers medical visits, co-pays, medications, dental visits and other services needed by the clients. This is the safety net for the clients as Ryan White is the payer of last resort, and there are limited physicians that accept Ryan White as a payer. Clients also have the option of using with a medical case manager who will assist with the insurance programs, coordinating medical and dental visits and authorizing payments.

There are currently 451 individuals enrolled and eligible to receive services through the Ryan White CARE Act program at the Department of Health in Volusia County. This means that the five physicians that treat those 451 clients at least twice a year and frequently see them more than twice a year. The clients are not evenly distributed between the physicians and with HIV being a complicated disease the visits can be in excess of 30 minutes each. Each client has a case manager located at the health department.

Programs also exist for assisting clients with access for HIV/AIDS medications. The AIDS Drug Assistance Program is a medication program that provides access to HIV/AIDS medications for eligible persons who are uninsured or underinsured.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Patrick Forand, Department of Health in Volusia, Disease Control at 386-274-0585 or Patrick.Forand@flhealth.gov.

Source:
Healthy Volusia Report

Hispanics & HIV/AIDS in Partnership 12 - Volusia & Flagler Counties
by Jeff Allen, President, Positive Champions Speakers Bureau, Inc.

Florida is divided into 14 HIV/AIDS planning partnerships covering 17 diverse geographic regions. Flagler and Volusia counties form Partnership 12. The Hispanic population in Volusia and Flagler counties, Partnership 12, represented approximately 11% of the total Partnership 12 population in 2014. Hispanic representation in Partnership 12 is lower than percentage of Hispanics in Florida (23.8%) and less than the 16% of Hispanics residing in the United States. According to population statistics provided by the Florida Department of Health, Office of Health Statistics and Assessment, Hispanic residents in Volusia County have increased in number by 12.7% since 2008.

In 2008, Hispanic females and males were represented equally in Partnership 12. Both groups experienced similar rates of growth from 2008 to 2014, but in opposite directions. The Hispanic female population increased by 0.6 percentage points to 50.6% while the Hispanic male population decreased by 0.6 percentage points to 49.4%.

Disparities in HIV/AIDS are driven by a range of factors that disproportionately affect communities of color. Hispanics were under-represented in the Partnership 12 HIV population in 2014; having seven percent infected with HIV as compared to 10 percent in the general population of Partnership 12. This differed from the over-representation of HIV infection in black and other race populations. In contrast, Hispanics were over-represented among AIDS cases. They accounted for 15% of adult AIDS cases but only 10% of the Partnership 12 population. A group is disproportionately impacted to the extent the percentage of cases exceed the population percentage. Black and other races were also over-represented in AIDS cases.

Gender differences within and between racial/ethnic groups vary in Partnership 12 as well. Adult HIV infection case rates for Hispanic males were eight times higher than case rates for Hispanic females and nearly four times higher than case rates for white females. Case rates for Hispanic males (30.0) were only four points higher than white males (26.0).
Hispanic females had the lowest case rates for adult HIV infections of all race and gender groups in Partnership 12. This is consistent with the data in the cover article which reveal Hispanic males more likely to be a Person Living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) in 2013 than Hispanic females and white males and females. Only black females and black males had greater odds of being a PLWHA.

Data for the past 10 years indicate a decreasing trend in the percent of Hispanics and black adult HIV infection cases. Hispanic cases have decreased from 12% to 7%, a 41.7% decline. The percent of cases started decreasing after 2011 following a consistent rise from 2007 to 2011.

Gender cases over the same time period reveals a sizeable decrease (50.0%) for Hispanic males. They had been trending upwards from 2007 then had a 55.6% drop from 2013 to 2014. Despite considerable annual variation, from 18% to a low of zero, Hispanic females ended where they started. They accounted for three percent of the adult Hispanic HIV infection cases in 2005 and in 2014.

The percent of adult AIDS cases tells a different story for Hispanics. They rose from 12% in 2005 to 16% in 2015. Black and white cases either remained the same or recorded a decrease in AIDS cases during the same 10 year period.

Hispanic residents in Partnership 12 are not immune to the consequences of HIV/AIDS. In some respects, their health statistics are better than black and other races. However, in regards to AIDS, they are the only group trending upwards. Knowledge of HIV risk and treatment options remains a significant barrier to preventing the spread of the disease within the Hispanic community and other populations. Spanish language health education and strategic media campaigns that educate the general public about HIV treatment and prevention are desperately needed prevention tools. For more information call Patrick Forand at 386-274-0585 or email at Patrick.Forand@flhealth.gov.

HIV/AIDS emergency department (ED) visits age-adjusted rate per 100,000 person, Volusia County, 2013

- The Volusia County age-adjusted rate of HIV/AIDS ED visits was 33.3 per 100,000 persons in Volusia County in 2013
- The Northwest Quadrant had the highest rate of HIV/AIDS ED visits in 2013
- The Southwest Quadrant had the lowest rate of HIV/AIDS ED visits in 2013

Data Source: Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistic, Death Dataset, 2013

HIV/AIDS hospitalization age-adjusted rate per 100,000 person, Volusia County, 2013

- The age-adjusted rate of HIV/AIDS hospitalizations was 54.0 in Volusia County in 2013
- The Northeast Quadrant had the highest rate of HIV/AIDS hospitalizations in 2013
- The Southeast Quadrant had the lowest rate of HIV/AIDS hospitalizations in 2013

Data Source: Florida Agency for Health Care Administration, Hospital Dataset, 2013

HIV/AIDS age-adjusted death rate per 100,000 person, Volusia County, 2013

- The age-adjusted death rate of HIV/AIDS was 4.1 in Volusia County in 2013
- The Northeast Quadrant had the highest rate of HIV/AIDS deaths in 2013
- The Southeast Quadrant had the lowest rate of HIV/AIDS deaths in 2013

Data Source: Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistic, Death Dataset, 2013
HIV/AIDS Hospitalizations by Race/Ethnicity, Volusia County, 2013

Hispanic HIV/AIDS hospitalization age-adjusted rate per 100,000 person, Volusia County, 2013
- The Hispanic age-adjusted rate of Hispanic HIV/AIDS hospitalizations was 31.6 per 100,000 persons in Volusia County in 2013
- The Northeast Quadrant had the highest rate of Hispanic HIV/AIDS hospitalizations in 2013
- The Southeast Quadrant had the lowest rate of Hispanic HIV/AIDS hospitalizations in 2013

Source: Florida Agency for Health Care Administration, Hospital Dataset, 2013 (All three maps)

NOTE: Other races not used because of possible identification
Healthy Volusia Report Key Points

- AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) enrollment has increased by 62.5% from 2007 to 2014. This allows for more people who do not have insurance or have inadequate prescription coverage to receive medications that are on the ADAP formulary.

- Volusia County only has five eligible physicians treating 451 individuals enrolled and eligible to receive services through the Ryan White CARE Act program at the Department of Health in Volusia. This emphasizes the need for physicians in the treatment of HIV/AIDS.

- The Northeast Quadrant led all other quadrants in age-adjusted HIV/AIDS hospitalization and death rates. Similarly, hospitalizations with HIV/AIDS were highest in the northeast quadrant for Hispanics and whites.

- Black and Hispanic adult HIV infection rates have decreased from 2005 to 2014, 15% and 42%, respectively, while the white adult HIV infection rate has increased by 20% during the same time period.

Rate of Persons Living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) by ZIP Code, Volusia County 2013

The crude rate of HIV/AIDS in Volusia County in 2013 was 277.2 per 100,000 persons. Volusia County had wide variations in rates of HIV/AIDS by ZIP code in 2013. The Southeast Quadrant had the lowest rate with 100.2 per 100,000 persons. The Northeast Quadrant (522.0) had the highest rate of HIV/AIDS per 100,000 persons in Volusia County in 2013. Similarly, the Northeast Quadrant was 60.9% higher than the next closest quadrant (Northwest at 203.8). There was great variation across ZIP codes as well. ZIP code 32114 had the highest rate of HIV/AIDS per 100,000 persons in the county and three ZIP codes (32102, 32754, and 32759) had no cases of persons living with HIV/AIDS.

Source: Florida Department of Health, Bureau of HIV/AIDS, 2013