



BRIEF FROM THE CHIEF

Michael G. Harmon, MA, Chief, HIV/STD Service

Improving the Delivery of Viral Hepatitis Prevention Services

I am excited to announce that the HIV/STD Service recently received \$98,088 in funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). This funding is a new first time application process for an Adult Hepatitis Program created by the change at CDC that begins to integrate hepatitis into the branch overseeing HIV, STD and TB program activities.

The overall purpose of the new cooperative agreement with the CDC that funds the Adult Viral Hepatitis Prevention Coordinator (AVHPC) is to improve the delivery of viral hepatitis prevention in health care settings and public health programs that serve adults at risk for viral hepatitis. The primary goals of these activities are to decrease the incidence of new infections of hepatitis A virus (HAV), hepatitis B virus (HBV) and hepatitis C virus (HCV) and to decrease risks for chronic liver disease, including cirrhosis and liver cancer, in persons with chronic HBV infection or chronic HCV infection. Activities are intended to integrate primary and secondary viral hepatitis prevention services into clinical services and prevention programs serving adults at risk for viral hepatitis to reduce infection and disease caused by viral hepatitis and to improve the health of adults.

Integration of prevention services, based on feasibility and available resources, include testing for HBV and HCV, HAV and HBV vaccination for high risk adults and HIV infected

individuals, counseling regarding viral hepatitis prevention for at-risk adults, training for professionals serving at-risk adults, referral for substance abuse treatment, and services for HIV-infected persons, including hepatitis A and B vaccination.

Named to manage the Adult Viral Hepatitis Program for the HIV/STD Service is Debbie Purton, RN. Debbie previously served as the Coordinator of the Perinatal Hepatitis B Program funded by the Immunization Service. In her new role she will continue to serve as the supervisor of the Adult Hepatitis B and C as well as the Perinatal Hepatitis B Programs. Replacing Debbie as Coordinator of Perinatal Hepatitis B is Janet Wilson, RN, who previously served as the STD Nurse Consultant and Infertility Prevention Project Coordinator.

The Oklahoma State Department of Health (OSDH) HIV/STD Service identified as its target populations incarcerated persons, adults presenting with an STD, and contacts to cases of acute/chronic hepatitis B. Since this funding is earmarked for the Adult Hepatitis B Coordinator's salary and associated personnel costs, we will continue to supplement funding with state money as it becomes available for other costs such as vaccines, travel, and associated staff.

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In the Oklahoma implementation plan, the HIV/STD Service proposes to provide hepatitis A and B vaccine to 4,400 at-risk individuals incarcerated in the Oklahoma Correctional System who are six months away from release and who are transferred to DOC pre-release centers; provide an estimated 700 hepatitis A and B vaccine doses annually to the Tulsa City/County Jail (David L. Moss Criminal Justice Center) to allow for the continuation of a pilot project implemented in October 2006; and expand existing efforts to prevent the transmission of hepatitis B among at least 650 more persons annually with a history of multiple sex partners or history of sexually transmitted infection identified in public STD clinics.

Assisting in the vaccination objectives, the CDC funded Oklahoma with \$321,204. These monies were made available from unspent 317 vaccine funds and vaccine allocations were based on the adult population (19-64 years), but also took into account the rank of each state plan based on the reviewers' scores. This funding has been identified to target high-risk hepatitis B activities.

We are excited about the opportunity to use this limited amount of federal funding in our work of prevention and integration of HIV/STD and hepatitis. However, more financial assistance is necessary in order to better serve our Oklahoma citizens at-risk for viral hepatitis.

RECENT FEDERAL FUNDING

Ryan White HIV/AIDS Treatment Modernization Grant, Part B Award - \$8,062,212. Oklahoma's Ryan White, Part B grant project focuses on the delivery of primary medical care, HIV-related medications, mental health and substance abuse treatment, oral health, case management and supportive services to low-income persons living with HIV/AIDS.

Adult Hepatitis C Coordinator Grant Award - \$98,088

HIV Prevention Grant for 2008 Award - \$2,434,358. The purpose of the cooperative agreement is to provide HIV prevention activities, including HIV counseling, testing and referral and partner counseling and referral services in order to reduce HIV disease transmission.

AIDS Drug Assistance Program Supplemental Award - \$1,028,438. Provides funding to purchase life-saving HIV/AIDS medications. This award requires a state match of \$257,110.

Gonorrhea Isolate Surveillance Project (GISP) Supplemental Award - \$9,900. Provides supplies necessary to support the collection of gonorrhea specimens from the Oklahoma City County Health Department STD Clinic for the Gonorrhea Isolate Surveillance Project.

STD Prevention Grant for 2008 – Requested \$1,105,089. This Comprehensive STD Prevention Systems (CSPS) cooperative agreement addresses the prevention of sexually transmitted diseases, including related infertility and syphilis elimination.

HIV/AIDS and STD Surveillance Grant for 2008 – Requested \$434,771. The purpose of this cooperative agreement is to improve the quality, efficiency and productivity of care surveillance activities in Oklahoma for disease reporting to the CDC.

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HIV/AIDS IN OKLAHOMA MINORITY POPULATIONS

For many years HIV and AIDS has disproportionately affected minority groups in Oklahoma. As of 2006, there have been 7,342 people diagnosed with either HIV or AIDS. Among all the cases diagnosed, twenty percent (1,477) of the cases were black, while the black population is only estimated to be 7.1% in Oklahoma. There were a total of 4,365 total living cases of either HIV or AIDS in Oklahoma as of 2006. Of those cases still known as living, 24% (497) of the total living HIV cases and 21% (410) of living AIDS cases are black.

Number of newly diagnosed cases of HIV non-AIDS reported in Oklahoma 2005 and 2006

New Diagnosis of HIV non-AIDS and AIDS

Race/Ethnicity	2005				2006			
	HIV		AIDS		HIV		AIDS	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Hispanic-all races	12	6.6%	25	11.5%	21	10.4%	18	8.1%
American Indian-not Hispanic	12	6.6%	15	6.9%	11	5.4%	13	5.9%
Asian-not Hispanic	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	2	1.0%	0	0.0%
Black-not Hispanic	53	29.0%	44	20.2%	52	25.7%	62	28.1%
Haw/Pac. Islander-not Hispanic	1	0.5%	0	0.0%	2	1.0%	0	0.0%
White-not Hispanic	99	54.1%	128	58.7%	107	53.0%	118	53.4%
Multi Race-not Hispanic	6	3.3%	6	2.8%	7	3.5%	10	4.5%
Totals	183		218		202		221	

As illustrated in the following graph, there has been an increase in prevalence of living HIV and AIDS cases in the Oklahoma minority populations. It is clear that all minority populations are increasing in number; however, the black population is increasing at a markedly higher rate.

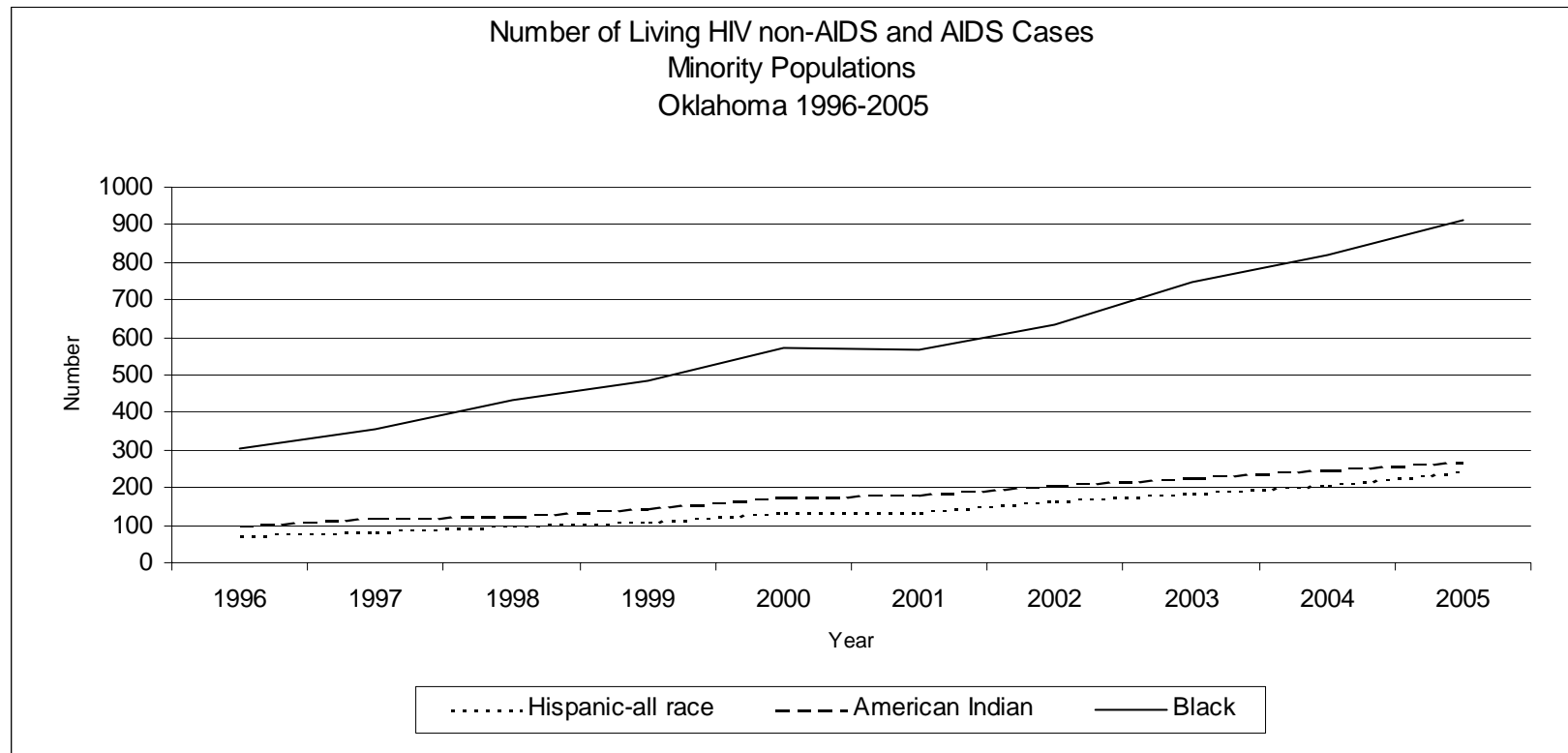
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Number of living HIV non-AIDS and AIDS cases among minority populations in Oklahoma from 1996-2005



Blacks at higher risk for HIV are those who are unaware of their partner's risk factors, have other STDs, and those who live in poverty.

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The National Association of State and Territorial AIDS Directors (NASTAD) in the report, *A Turning Point: Confronting HIV/AIDS in African American Community* urges action against HIV/AIDS in the African American Community by saying, "The nation has waged a war against HIV/AIDS for more than two decades, and during this time it has witnessed the epidemic's proliferation into virtually every segment of the African American community. The unfortunate reality is that as time has passed, public interest, federal funding, and media attention has waned. Awareness of the devastating impact of HIV/AIDS on African Americans is simply not enough. The nation must take ownership and reinvigorate the response to this crisis within African American communities and beyond. A comprehensive response to addressing HIV/AIDS in African American communities must include state and local health departments, federal agencies, policy makers, and national organizations. NASTAD urges its members, national organizations, federal partners, community based organizations and community leaders to adopt the action steps in this Call to Action, and work together to effectively and proactively tackle this public health crisis." The report can be accessed on the web at http://www.nastad.org/Docs/highlight/2006113_AA_Call2Action_120905_final.pdf.

The Oklahoma State Department of Health, HIV/STD Service currently provides funding to Guiding Right, Inc., for HIV testing in the African American Community, as well as an intervention to reach African American men who have sex with men (MSM), a group that continues to be disproportionately affected by HIV/AIDS.

Guiding Right, Inc., receives funds from multiple sources, including direct funds from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

(CDC) and provides interventions to reach African American women, Comprehensive Risk Reduction Counseling for those who have HIV/AIDS, an intervention designed to increase condom use among heterosexual African American men and women, and rapid HIV testing.

Other groups in Oklahoma specifically addressing the issues of HIV/AIDS in the African American community are the African American Faith Community for AIDS Prevention (AAFCAAP), a group that works to enhance the knowledge of ministers and congregations throughout Oklahoma City and surrounding areas about the impact regarding the devastation of the AIDS epidemic in the African American community. The HIV Community Awareness Project (HICAP), works to bring awareness, educate and motivate the African American community into taking action in the fight against HIV/AIDS. In Tulsa, Morton Health Services' HIV prevention program focuses on African Americans and Hispanics, but all Tulsa residents are welcome to contact Morton for HIV prevention education, counseling and testing.

Events in 2008 highlighting HIV/AIDS in the African American Community:

**National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day
February 7, 2008**

<http://www.blackaidsday.org>

**The Black Church Week of Prayer for the Healing of AIDS
March 2-March 8, 2007**

<http://www.balmingilead.org/programs/weekofprayer2008>

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WHERE TO GET HELP FOR PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV/AIDS

2-1-1

2-1-1 is a FREE 24-hour telephone number that connects Oklahomans with important community services 365 days per year.

918 area code:

Oklahoma State University, Center for Health Sciences, College of Osteopathic Medicine - (OSU-COM) Health Care Center, Tulsa (918) 382-5058

405 and 580 area codes:

University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center, College of Medicine, Infectious Disease Institute, Oklahoma City (405) 271-6434

DHS (Department of Human Services) has AIDS Care Coordinators who help people with HIV/AIDS:

Tulsa and eastern Oklahoma:

(800) 734-7516 or TTY (918) 581-2146

Oklahoma City, north central, and northwest Oklahoma:

(800) 884-1572 or TTY (405) 271-5816

Case management, applications for medications, and other services are available through Ryan White Part B and other resources.

918 area code:

Tulsa C.A.R.E.S. (918) 834-4194 or (800) 474-4872

405 and 580 area codes:

RAIN, Inc., Oklahoma City (405) 232-2437 or (800) 285-CARE (2273)

RAIN, Inc., Lawton (580) 353-7900

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On Dec. 1st, Oklahoma recognized **World AIDS Day** throughout the state. **“Stop AIDS. Keep the Promise,”** was the national theme for this year. Everyone was encouraged to take the lead with the “Stop AIDS Leadership Pledge” by reaching the goal of at least 100,000 pledges collected online, by mail or at events held throughout 2008. Both Oklahoma City and Tulsa held memorial services focused on remembering those who lost their lives to the disease and highlighting progress made in the battle against AIDS. The events also directed attention to what still needs to be done to reduce infection rates and improve the quality of life of those already infected. Other community organizations, such as, African-American Faith Community for AIDS Prevention (A.A.F.C.A.P.), the Latino Community Development Agency (L.C.D.A.) and H.O.P.E. (Tulsa) also observed the occasion with services and extended testing hours. For more information on the ongoing efforts toward the leadership pledge visit <http://www.worldaidscampaign.info/static/en/participate/>

DIRECTORS URGE PREVENTION

With full vigilance, State AIDS directors released on World AIDS Day, their vision for America’s prevention response, ***A New Blueprint for the Nation: Ending the Epidemic Through the Power of Prevention***, and a companion policy agenda.

A full copy of the report can be accessed at the address below.

http://www.nastad.org/Docs/highlight/2007123_NASTAD_Blueprint_FINAL_112907.pdf

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- February 7, 2008** National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day
- March 2-8, 2008** Balm in Gilead’s National Black Church Week of Prayer
- March 10, 2008** National Girl and Women’s HIV/AIDS Awareness Day
- March 20, 2008** National Native American HIV/AIDS Awareness Day

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NEWS AT A GLANCE

The HIV Prevention & Training section of the HIV/STD Service offers training in several HIV/AIDS/STD related topics. Trainings throughout the year include:

[Online HIV 101](#)
[HIV Counseling and Testing](#)
[HIV/STD Risk Reduction Counseling](#)
[Bridging Theory and Practice](#)
[STD 101](#)

For a complete list of course descriptions and dates contact:

Raymond Dallas, MPH
Coordinator, Prevention, Capacity Building & Training
405.271.9444 ext. 56619 or RaymondD@health.ok.gov

The training staff can also prepare and present HIV/AIDS/STD presentations and trainings based on request and trainer availability. To request a presentation or training contact:

Sally Bouse-Pittser, MPH, CHES
Manager, HIV Prevention and Training
405.271.9444 ext. 56621 or SallyB@health.ok.gov

For online HIV 101 training, contact:

Raymond Dallas, MPH
Coordinator, Prevention, Capacity Building & Training
405.271.9444 ext. 56619 or RaymondD@health.ok.gov

To join an email list that alerts community partners about HIV/AIDS/STD related trainings, updates and events contact:

Amani M. Smiley, MHR
HIV/STD Prevention Training Specialist
405.271.9444 ext. 56626 or AmaniL@health.ok.gov

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Want to Test? Send a Text.

**Know Your
HIV Status?**

To find HIV Test
Centers near you:

**Text: Your Zip Code
To: KnowIt or 566948**

www.hivtest.org

In observance of World AIDS Day, The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Center for Disease Control (CDC) and the Kaiser Foundation collaborated to promote a text messaging campaign to assist people in identifying nearby HIV testing sites.

Mobile callers can send a text message with their zip code included to "KnowIt" (566948) and within seconds, they will receive a message containing information on nearby free confidential and/or anonymous HIV testing sites.

Statistics show that over 40, 000 people are infected with the HIV every year; yet, 25 percent are not aware of their infection. Hopefully, this option will be beneficial to those who may not know where to go to take the test.

**Know Your
HIV Status?**

To find HIV Test
Centers near you:

**Text: Your Zip Code
To: KnowIt or 566948**

www.hivtest.org



INFORMATION CORNER

Free live and archived coverage of events on various subjects, such as [Medicare](#), [Medicaid](#), [prescription drugs](#), [health information technology](#), [HIV/AIDS](#), [minority health](#) and more is available from KaiserNetwork.org HealthCast. Go to <http://www.kaisernetwork.org/>

For information about HIV/AIDS or STDS go to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention at <http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/>
<http://www.cdc.gov/std/>

A slide set was recently updated by the **CDC**. HIV/AIDS Surveillance in Adolescents and Young Adults (through 2005):
<http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/topics/surveillance/resources/slides/adolescents/index.htm>

Looking for statistics? Information about Oklahoma's statistics for HIV/AIDS/STDs is available from the HIV/STD Service on a quarterly basis. Go to <http://www.health.ok.gov/program/hivstd/epi/Stats.htm>

The OSDH, HIV/STD Service offices will be closed January 1 and 21 and February 18 for state recognized holidays.

HIV/STD Service Staff Changes

New Staff:

Laura Green - Disease Intervention Specialist (DIS), OCCHD
Terri L. Tate BSN, RN – STD Nurse Consultant

New Assignments:

Janet Wilson, RN – Coordinator, Perinatal Hepatitis (left)
Debbie Purton, MPH, RN – Manager, Viral Hepatitis Program



Retirement:

Janice Holmes – Disease Intervention Specialist (DIS),
Comanche County



HIV/STD News is a quarterly E-newsletter published by the HIV/STD Service, Oklahoma State Department of Health, as authorized by James M. Crutcher, MD, MPH, Secretary of Health and Commissioner of Health.

HIV/STD Service Chief

Director, Division of Surveillance and Care Delivery

Director, Division of Prevention and Intervention

Production

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