OVERVIEW

Persons infected with an STD are at least two to five times more likely than uninfected persons to acquire HIV if they are exposed through sexual contact. Similarly, HIV-infected individuals co-infected with another STD are more likely to transmit HIV through sexual contact. In Oklahoma, for 2014, there were a total of 104 persons that were co-infected with HIV/AIDS and syphilis. For this fact sheet, only primary and secondary (P&S) syphilis, the earliest and most infectious stages, will be considered for co-infections. In 2014, Oklahoma had 54 persons co-infected with both HIV/AIDS and P&S syphilis, up from 50 in 2013 and 36 in 2012.

The majority of these persons were diagnosed with secondary syphilis (50; 92.6%), while four persons were diagnosed with primary syphilis (7.4%). Most of these co-infected persons were found in Oklahoma County (30; 55.6%) and Tulsa County (9; 16.7%). All 54 co-infections were among males, with 94.4% (51) reporting a risk factor of MSM. Among those reporting MSM, one also reported having sex with females (Bisexual). There were two persons who reported a risk of heterosexual contact and one with no identified risk. Of these 54 co-infected persons, 27 (50.0%) reported having sex with anonymous partners. Over 90% (49; 90.7%) of these co-infected persons were interviewed by disease intervention specialists (DIS) and 73.5% (36) of those interviewed named partners for DIS follow-up.

For More Information

Contact:
HIV/STD Service Surveillance and Analysis
1000 NE 10th Street, MS 0308
Oklahoma City, OK 73117
405.271.4636
hivstd.health.ok.gov

\(^1\) Wasserheit JN. 1992. Epidemiologic synergy: Interrelationships between human immunodeficiency virus infection and other sexually transmitted diseases. Sexually Transmitted Diseases 9:61-77

\(^2\) Because all co-infected persons for 2014 were male, those reporting risk factor of Bisexual should also be considered MSM.
Age groups 25 to 29 years (13; 24.1%) made up the largest percentage of co-infected persons, followed by the 35 to 39 years age group (11; 20.4%). Age groups 30 to 34 years (8; 14.8%) and 40 to 44 years (8; 14.6%) had the same number of cases. There were seven (13.0%) among age group 50 years and older, five (9.3%) among 45 to 49 year olds and two (3.7%) among 20 to 24 year olds.

Among the racial/ethnic groups, Whites accounted for the most co-infections, 55.6% (30), followed by Blacks, 24.1% (13). Hispanics made up 11.1% (6), while American Indians/Alaska Natives made up 9.3% (5). This differs from 2013 when Blacks made up the largest percentage of co-infections, 58.3% (21), followed by Whites, 33.3% (12).

### TIME BETWEEN DIAGNOSES
Of co-infected persons, 85.2% (46) were diagnosed with HIV/AIDS prior to their P&S syphilis infection, the majority of which had an HIV/AIDS diagnosis between one and ten years before having a syphilis infection in 2014. Specifically, 37.0 % (17) had an HIV/AIDS diagnosis five to ten years prior to syphilis infection and 28.3% (13) had an HIV/AIDS diagnosis within one to four years before syphilis infection. Just over 30% (14, 30.4%) had an HIV/AIDS diagnosis over 10 years before syphilis infection while two were diagnosed HIV/AIDS less than a year before P&S syphilis diagnosis. Among all co-infections, 14.8% (8) had a simultaneous diagnosis of HIV/AIDS and P&S syphilis.3

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3 For this analysis, simultaneous diagnoses are defined as having HIV/AIDS and Syphilis within 90 days (3 months) of each other.