

Perinatal HIV Infection in Florida 2003-2007: What We Learned

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At the end of 2007 there were 33.2 million people living with HIV/AIDS.

What percentage of the total do you think consists of women?

- a. 50%
- b. 45%
- c. 25%
- d. Don't know

Since the start of the HIV/AIDS epidemic the proportion of women infected has:

- a. increased
- b. decreased
- c. remained the same
- d. Don't know

The majority of women acquiring new infections are through:

- a. heterosexual contact
- b. intravenous drug use
- c. receipt of blood products
- d. don't know

Florida ranked ? in the number of pediatric AIDS cases through 2007

- a. first
- b. second
- c. third
- d. fourth

2007 HIV/AIDS Facts

- 6800 new infections in 2007
- Mostly in low and middle income countries
- 1200 in children under the age of 15 years
- 5800 in adults over 15 years with almost 50% in women and 40% in people ages 15-24 years

2007 AIDS Epidemic Update-United States

- The proportion of women among new HIV or AIDS diagnosis has increased dramatically, from 15% before 1995 to almost 30% in 2001
- Subsequently however, this number decreased steadily and fell to 26% in 2005

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- 3/4th of newly infected women acquired infection through heterosexual unprotected intercourse
- A significant proportion (20%) were also infected while using injectable drugs

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- Racial and ethnic minorities also continue to be disproportionately affected

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- In 2005, 48% of new HIV or AIDS diagnosis were amongst African Americans who constitute only 13% of the US population and 18% amongst Hispanics who comprise 14% of the US population

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- The rate of HIV/AIDS was 7 seven times higher among African American men than among white men in 2004 and 21 times higher among African American women than among white women

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- To complicate matters further at least one quarter of people living with HIV do not know that they have been infected

Florida Facts

- In 2007, Florida ranked second among states in the number of reported AIDS cases. Florida also reported a higher percentage of heterosexual HIV and AIDS cases than the United States (U.S.)
- Florida reported a higher percentage of AIDS cases (34%) among women as compared to the U.S. (19%). The number of women reported with HIV were also higher as compared to the U.S. (30% vs 27%)

Florida Facts

- As seen at the national level, racial and ethnic minorities continue to be disproportionately affected
- As of 2007, women of child bearing age (15-44) accounted for 59% of all living HIV/AIDS cases among women

Objectives

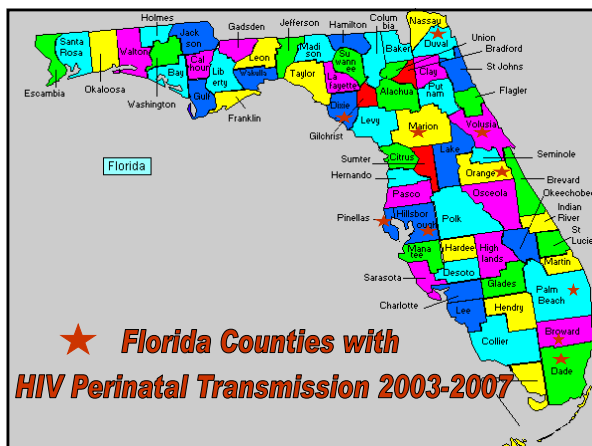
- Given the high prevalence of HIV/AIDS cases in Florida particularly amongst women of child-bearing age, we sought to look at the number of perinatal HIV infections in the era of highly active antiretroviral therapy (HAART), during 2003-2007.
- We also wanted to understand barriers leading to the birth of infected infants if any.

Methods

- Review of records of women who gave birth to HIV infected infants between 2003-2007.

Results

- 47 perinatally HIV infected infants were born in Florida between 2003-2007.
- Cases were reported from 14 of the 67 counties.
- 77% of the cases were reported from seven of the most populous counties in the state (Miami-Dade, Pinellas, Broward, Duval, Palm Beach, Hillsborough and Orange).



Results

- 28 (60%) babies were born to women who were known to be HIV infected prior to delivery.
- Only 8 (28%) women in this group were on appropriate therapy through out pregnancy and delivery. The baby also received adequate treatment after birth.

Results

- 6 (21%) had no prenatal (PNC) care, 1 very late PNC and 9 (32%) had inadequate (≤ 2 visits) PNC
- 2 of the 28 women were infected during the current pregnancy and for 2, timing of the infection was unclear

Results

- Five (10%) women were diagnosed at the time of delivery and 14 (30%) were diagnosed after the birth of the baby
- Four (29%) of the women diagnosed after delivery were likely in the window period and tested HIV negative during the last trimester or around the time of delivery

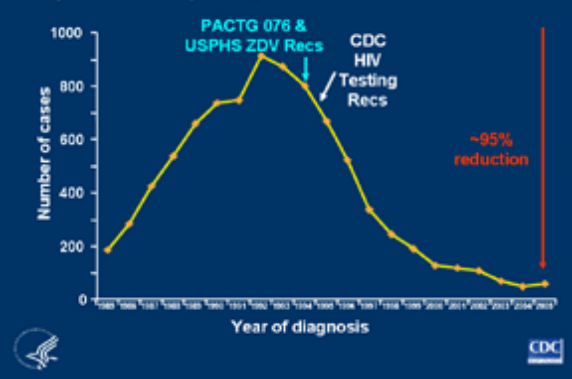
Results

- 10 (71%) were not tested or only had one test at the beginning of pregnancy.
- 14 (30%) of the 47 women had known risk factors for HIV infection i.e. intravenous drug use, history of sexually transmitted diseases or a history of incarceration.

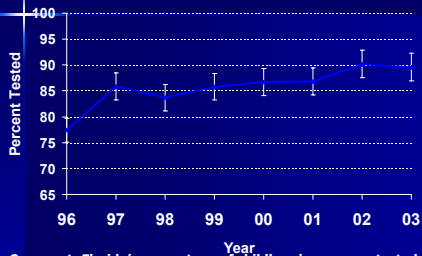
Conclusions

- Despite the availability of HAART, which has dramatically reduced the incidence of perinatal transmission from 25% in the pre Zidovudine/HAART era to less than 1%, these numbers are disturbing.

Estimated Number of Perinatally Acquired AIDS Cases, by Year of Diagnosis, 1985-2005 – United States



Prenatal HIV Testing Among Women Delivering a Live Birth, Florida, 1996-2003



- Comment: Florida's percentage of childbearing women tested prenatally for HIV is the highest in the U.S., which has probably contributed to the continued decline in pediatric AIDS cases.
- Source: Florida Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS) 2003 Surveillance Data Book.

Conclusions

- Overall there has been a significant decline in the number of perinatal HIV cases since 1992 in Florida
- However, the cases analyzed here show several possible missed opportunities where interventions could have taken place to prevent perinatal transmission

Conclusions

- In 2005 Florida legislated and in 2006 implemented 'opt out' testing for pregnant women.
- Although opt-out testing will help improve HIV testing of pregnant women, access to care remains a significant barrier in preventing mother to child transmission of HIV

Conclusions

- Strict adherence to current testing guidelines as well as annual testing for all at risk populations along with close monitoring of high risk individuals will help close some of these gaps in the system.
- Understanding barriers to obtaining health care whether due to lack of understanding of the disease, lack of insurance, mental health or other factors is also critical.
