

HIV DISEASE MANAGEMENT

SYSTEMATIC PROGRAM TO PROVIDE BEST OUTCOMES IN HIV CARE

Human Immunodeficiency Virus infection remains a fatal infectious disease of vital importance to the State of Louisiana.

In 2005, the United States Centers for Disease Control (CDC) reported the following:

- Louisiana ranked 6th highest in case rates among US states and territories and,
- Baton Rouge was 6th and New Orleans 7th of 98 metropolitan areas in AIDS case rates.

In 1999, spurred by dramatic progress in HIV treatment, the eight HIV Outpatient Clinics administered by the LSU Health Care Services Division (HCSD) developed a disease management program to address

- a) High morbidity and mortality in those without treatment,
- b) High cost of HIV treatment, and
- c) Complexity of treatment and associated complications.

Over the past decade, as part of the HIV disease management program, the HCSD clinics adopted treatment guidelines from the Public Health Service regarding testing, monitoring, and treating with highly active HIV antiretroviral therapy (HAART). As a result, Louisiana joined other states nationwide in achieving unprecedented improvements in the health of its HIV-infected population who sought and continued treatment. Continuing beneficial results of combination therapy include:

- Fewer hospital admissions and reduced need for home health and hospice care
- Decreased mortality rates, prolonged life expectancy
- Significantly fewer babies being born to HIV-infected women (< 10/year)

As a result, HIV-infected individuals are living longer and better lives and require long-term care and monitoring.

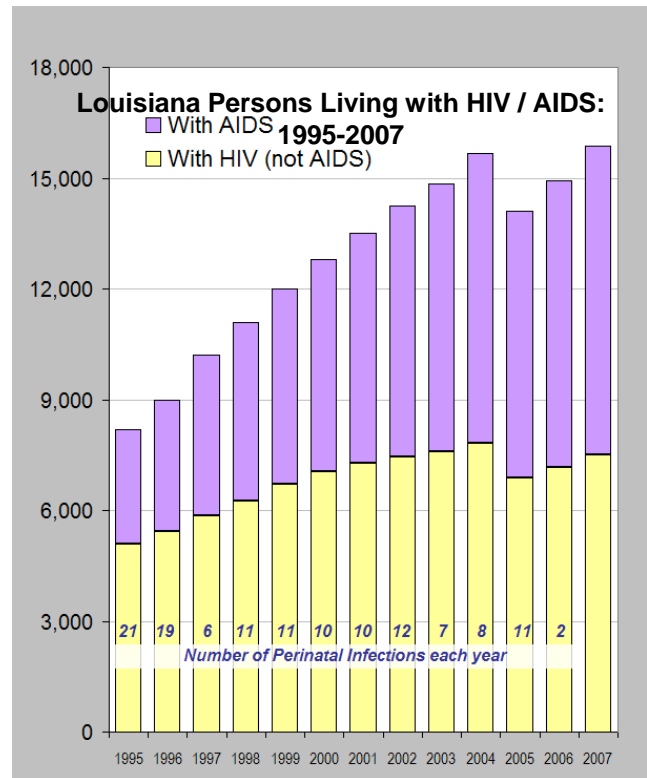
Despite great advances in treatment, infected persons are now experiencing unanticipated consequences of chronic HIV infection and its treatment. These include increased risk for several cancers, cardiovascular disease, hypertension, diabetes mellitus, hyperlipidemia, kidney disease, dementia, neuropathy, and exacerbation of mental disease. These events emphasize the importance of continued epidemiologic and clinical research.

Because of the complexity of HIV infection, its sequelae and treatment, it is recommended that specialists manage the care of these patients. All of the HCSD HIV Clinics are staffed with Infectious Diseases-trained physicians, and the larger ones also use Nurse Practitioners. Using combined data from over 150 HRSA-funded HIV Clinics, the HCSD HIV Disease Management Program evaluates its clinical performance quarterly. Overall, the HIV Clinics perform at or above the mean for all parameters.

HIV/AIDS and Louisiana

- Louisiana ranks 6th highest in AIDS case rates
- 1000 new HIV cases annually
- 70% of new HIV/AIDS cases were among African Americans
- 33% of new HIV/AIDS cases were among women

Highly effective HIV therapy has decreased HIV death rates, decreased mother-child transmission and improved quality of life.



Overview: Health Care Services Division HIV Outpatient Services

- 7 HCSD HIV clinics serve 37 southern Louisiana parishes, containing 82% of the 15,812 persons in Louisiana living with HIV/AIDS.
- 4331 HIV/AIDS patients received care (49,664 visits) at HCSD facilities in 2007.
- HCSD clinics employ HIV specialists, who also provide TB and Hepatitis C care.
- All clinics follow Public Health Service HIV treatment guidelines and perform at or above average for HIV-specific clinical indicators.

2007 LSU HCSD Total HIV Population (n=4331)

By Race, Gender, and Age

