

Age and HIV in Oregon

Introduction

On average, the interval between HIV infection and diagnosis appears to be decreasing in Oregon. If true, this is encouraging because earlier diagnosis can lead to earlier treatment, longer life expectancy and reduced risk of transmitting HIV to others. Overall, the number of newly diagnosed HIV cases in Oregon has declined slightly in recent years. An increase in the number of new HIV/AIDS diagnoses in Oregon during 2004–2013 among people aged 20–24 has been offset by declines among people aged 25–49 years (Figure 1).

Age and HIV in Oregon

Although the total number of new infections in Oregon each year has not been increasing, people already living with HIV are living longer.

Because of this positive development, the number of Oregonians aged ≥ 50 years and living with HIV continues to increase. The average age of people estimated to be living with HIV/AIDS in Oregon at the end of 2013 was 47 years. However, this does not mean that more people are becoming newly HIV-infected after age 50. Most Oregonians aged ≥ 50 years and living with HIV were actually infected when they were much younger.

Recent trends (2004–2013)

An average of 43 newly diagnosed HIV/AIDS infections were diagnosed among people older than 50 years of age each year during 2004–2013 in Oregon. The average age at HIV diagnosis during 2004–2013 was 37.7 years for males and 36.8 for females. We rarely know

Age and HIV facts at a glance

- Recent trends suggest an increase in rate of HIV diagnoses among 20–24 year-old males.
- Increased numbers of diagnoses before age 25 and decreases in diagnoses among people aged 25–49 years suggest the average period of time from infection to diagnosis has been decreasing.
- The average age of people estimated to be living with HIV/AIDS in Oregon at the end of 2013 was 47 years.

HIV infection by age at diagnosis among males, Oregon 2004–2013

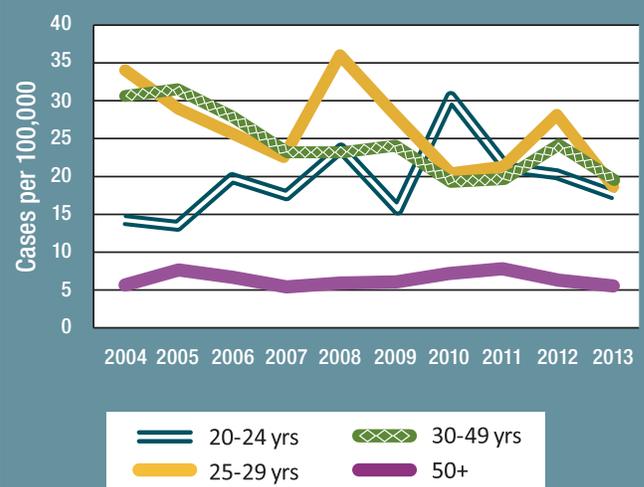


Figure 1

the actual date that people contract HIV. However, infection can occur 10 or more years before it is diagnosed. HIV continues to be transmitted mostly by sexual contact regardless of age or at-risk group. Most recently diagnosed HIV/AIDS cases among Oregonians over 50 years in age occurred in men who have sex with men (209/382).

People aged 50 years or older do have some unique challenges that might increase their risk for infection if they are exposed. These include:

- Lower rates of condom use than younger people;
- Less frequent testing for HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases than younger people;
- Inaccurate perception of infection risk by individuals and their medical providers;
- Similarity of some HIV symptoms to those of aging;
- Reduced willingness to seek testing or advice about safe sex.



PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION

Epidemiologic resources:

Oregon Health Authority, HIV/AIDS epidemiology:
<http://public.health.oregon.gov/DiseasesConditions/CommunicableDisease/DiseaseSurveillanceData/HIVData/Pages/index.aspx>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:
www.cdc.gov/hiv

This document can be provided upon request in an alternate format for individuals with disabilities or in a language other than English for people with limited English skills. To request this publication in another format or language, contact the Public Health Division at 971-673-1222, 971-673-0372 for TTY.

OHA 9986 (Rev. 05/2015)