Demographics and HIV Care among New Yorkers Living with HIV by Diagnostic Cohort

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BACKGROUND

- HIV diagnoses in New York City (NYC) have been steadily decreasing over time, but the city continues to have a large epidemic with over 2,500 new diagnoses each year.
- Surveillance data can be used to characterize people living with HIV (PLWH) and highlight areas that could be addressed.

Objective: To characterize the demographics and clinical care indicators of all people living with HIV (PLWH) in NYC in 2013 by diagnostic cohort. To compare long-term survivors of HIV (diagnosed 1981-1994) with people more recently diagnosed (1995-2013).

METHODS

- The NYC HIV Surveillance Registry includes all cases of HIV/AIDS diagnosed and reported in NYC.
- The Registry is regularly updated with electronic lab counts.
- Demographic distributions by sex, age at diagnosis, and transmission risk category differ by diagnostic cohort. The majority of PLWH from more recent diagnostic cohorts are Black, while the majority of PLWH from earlier diagnostic cohorts are White. The most highly represented race/ethnicity group differs by diagnostic cohort. The majority of PLWH from earlier diagnostic cohorts are White, while the majority of PLWH from more recent diagnostic cohorts are Black. People of color represent over 75% of PLWH diagnosed in 2010-2013.
- Diagnostic cohorts of NYC PLWH in 2013 have similar race/ethnicity distributions by sex, age at diagnosis, and transmission risk category.
- The majority of PLWH in each diagnostic cohort are male, younger at diagnosis (20-39 years old), and categorized as men who have sex with men.
- However, the most highly represented race/ethnicity group differs by diagnostic cohort. The majority of PLWH from earlier diagnostic cohorts are White, while the majority of PLWH from more recent diagnostic cohorts are Black. People of color represent over 75% of PLWH diagnosed in 2010-2013.

RESULTS

- Viral suppression rates for PLWH in care in 2013 were generally high, ranging from 71-82% across cohorts. Highest suppression was seen for PLWH from more recent diagnostic cohorts.
- However, the most highly represented race/ethnicity group differs by diagnostic cohort. The majority of PLWH from earlier diagnostic cohorts are White, while the majority of PLWH from more recent diagnostic cohorts are Black. People of color represent over 75% of PLWH diagnosed in 2010-2013.
- This reflects a need to address health inequities among people at risk for and newly diagnosed with HIV.
- Viral suppression rates for PLWH in care in 2013 were relatively high, regardless of diagnostic cohort.

CONCLUSIONS

- Strengths: Population-level data covering a period of over 30 years. Large analytic dataset of over 100,000 cases.
- Limitations: Unable to explore CD4 and VL indicators at diagnosis among earlier cohorts due to absence of laboratory reporting at that time. Additionally, possibility of detection bias due to differences in testing and diagnosis for the earlier cohorts, as compared to more recent cohorts (leading to possible misclassification of cohort).

STRENGTHS AND LIMITATIONS

- This reflects a need to address health inequities among people at risk for and newly diagnosed with HIV.
- Viral suppression rates for PLWH in care in 2013 were relatively high, regardless of diagnostic cohort.
- When examined by CD4 interval in 2013, the earlier diagnostic cohorts had higher suppression rates, possibly reflecting a survival advantage or additional time to initiate and remain on treatment.
- Next Steps: Additional research exploring resilience among earlier diagnostic cohorts is needed. Factors associated with long-term survival will be further analyzed.