

Connections

BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

From the Director of the National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention (NCHHSTP)

July - August 2021



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CDC's [2019 Viral Hepatitis Surveillance Report](#) includes new data for hepatitis B and C. The report now provides demographic characteristics of persons with chronic [hepatitis B](#) and chronic [hepatitis C](#), including age, sex, race/ethnicity, urbanicity, and U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) regions. There was a 51% increase of hepatitis A infections, from 24,900 estimated infections in 2018 to 37,700 estimated infections in 2019, primarily due to [person-to-person outbreaks](#) occurring among [people who use drugs](#) and [people experiencing homelessness](#). The report points out notable increases in acute hepatitis C incidence. Injection drug use remains the primary risk behavior identified among persons with acute hepatitis C. The number of reported acute hepatitis B cases remained stable from 2018 to 2019, as it has over the last decade.

Additionally, CDC's [2021 National Viral Hepatitis Progress Report](#) provides information on progress in implementing the recommended interventions and the impact these interventions are having on preventing viral hepatitis transmission, disease, and associated mortality. The incidence of new hepatitis B virus infections met the annual target for the first time in 2019, moving closer to the national goal. However, incidence of new hepatitis C virus infections increased.

New HIV Surveillance Reports

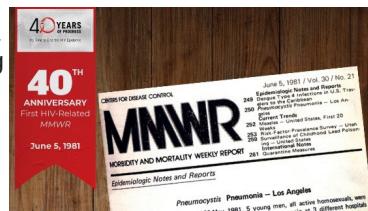
CDC published three new reports: [Estimated HIV Incidence and Prevalence in the United States, 2015-2019](#), [Monitoring Selected National HIV Prevention and Care Objectives by Using HIV Surveillance Data—United States and 6 Dependent Areas, 2019](#), and [Diagnoses of HIV Infection in the United States and Dependent Areas, 2019](#).

Data show hopeful signs of progress in HIV prevention in recent years, with new HIV infections falling 8% from 2015 to 2019, after a period of general stability in new infections in the United States.

Reflections on 40 years of HIV

Although the CDC museum in Atlanta, Georgia is still closed to the public, I invite you to visit the virtual [exhibit](#) marking the 40th anniversary of the first MMWR reporting HIV. Along with updates to the 40 Years of Progress exhibit, other activities honoring this anniversary include the following:

- Director of CDC's Division of HIV/AIDS, Dr. Demetre Daskalakis's commentary titled "[The Lack of Equitable Access to HIV Prevention and Treatment](#)";
- Dr. Daskalakis and White House Office of National AIDS Policy (ONAP) Director, Dr. Harold Phillips on the current state of HIV on [I-heart Radio](#), and;
- My [Live with Leadership discussion](#) with Dr. Laura Cheever, the Associate Administrator for the HIV/AIDS Bureau of the Health Resources and Services Administration.



New from CDC

- [CDC's Molecular Detection of TB Drug Resistance Service: Rapid Test Results for Real-Time Patient Care](#)
- [CDC's Safe and Supportive School Environments](#)
- [HIV Prevention Materials for Healthcare Providers](#)
- [Questions and Answers about Tuberculosis](#)
- [Under the Microscope: A Closer Look at CDC's Tuberculosis Laboratory](#)
- [Whole Genome Sequencing \(WGS\) – New Lab Technology Health Fight an Old Disease](#)

Upcoming Events

- [July 18 - 21: 11th Annual International AIDS Society \(IAS\) Conference on HIV Science](#)
- [July 28: World Hepatitis Day](#)
- [August 20: Southern HIV/AIDS Awareness Day](#)

On the Web

- [Round-up of Recent HIV-related Funding Announcements - Application Deadlines Approaching](#)

