

BACKGROUND

- The Division of HIV Prevention (DHP) funds health departments to provide HIV prevention services
 - HIV prevention services include HIV testing, linkage to HIV medical care, and referral to and provision of essential support services
- Many organizations have reported interruptions in their programs during the COVID-19 pandemic
- Aim: To describe the changes in HIV testing outcomes in CDC-funded health departments from 2019 to 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic

METHODS

- Data sources
 - National HIV Prevention Program Monitoring and Evaluation (NHM&E) system
 - Provisional 2020 data
 - CDC COVID-19 Case Surveillance Public Use Data with Geography Data Profile
- Analysis
 - CDC-funded HIV tests (#)
 - Percent change
 - Persons newly diagnosed with HIV (#)
 - Percent change
 - Newly diagnosed positivity (%)
 - Rate ratio
 - Persons with new diagnoses linked to HIV medical care in 30 days (%)
 - Rate ratio

Compared to 2019, health departments in 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic reported:

- Over one million fewer CDC-funded HIV tests
- Fewer persons identified with newly diagnosed HIV

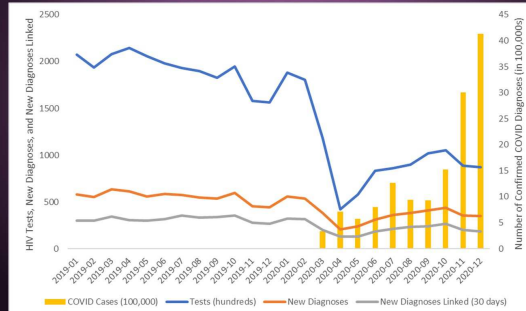


Figure. Numbers of CDC-Funded HIV Tests, Persons Newly Diagnosed with HIV, and Persons with New Diagnoses Linked to HIV Medical Care in 30 Days and Number of Confirmed COVID Diagnoses, By Month, 2019-2020

RESULTS

- # of CDC-funded HIV tests: reduction of 46.6%
 - 2019: 2,301,669 tests
 - 2020: 1,228,142 tests
- # of persons newly diagnosed with HIV: reduction of 29.7%
 - 2019: 7,692 persons
 - 2020: 5,409 persons
 - However, % positivity was higher in 2020 (0.4%) than in 2019 (0.3%) (RR=1.32, 95% CI: 1.02-1.70)
- % of persons with new diagnoses linked to HIV medical care in 30 days: non-significant increase
 - 2019: 68.9%
 - 2020: 71.6%
 - RR=1.04 (95% CI: 0.91-1.19)

CONCLUSIONS

- The decrease in the number of tests poses a challenge to *Ending the HIV Epidemic in the U.S. (EHE)*—a national initiative that aims to end the HIV epidemic by 2030
- Testing strategies need to be ramped up to cover this decrease in testing while adapting to the continuing COVID-19 environment
 - Expanding self-testing
 - Increasing routine screening in healthcare
 - Awareness campaigns

CONTACT INFO

Dhecha Patel
mnc12@cdc.gov

