Hepatitis C in North Philadelphia

Danica Kuncio, MPH
Viral Hepatitis Program Manager
Philadelphia Dept. of Public Health

HepCAP Community Meeting
June 20th, 2019
What Does the HepC Work at the Health Department Look Like?

PDPH works to help all Philadelphia residents, especially the low-resourced and most vulnerable

**Viral Hepatitis Program**

- Build citywide capacity to prevent infections & test, refer, & treat people living with HepC

- Use data to guide programs & projects:
  - Info reported from labs, providers, PA, interviews...
National Hepatitis C Epidemic

- **4.1 million people** in US with HepC
  - 2.4 million have current infection

- PA is 1 of 9 states with 52% of people living with HepC

- **1 in 29** Baby-Boomers are HepC-positive

- Recent increases driven by opioid epidemic

Source: HepVu.com
Philadelphia’s Hepatitis C Epidemic

- 1 in 80 people in US have HepC
- 1 in 39 Philly residents have HepC
- Enough Philadelphians have HepC to fill Lincoln Financial Field

*Data Courtesy of the Viral Hepatitis Program, Philadelphia Department of Public Health*
Drug use epidemic driving rapid increase in new cases, particularly in young people.

*Data Courtesy of the Opioid and Viral Hepatitis Programs, Philadelphia Department of Public Health*
North Philly’s Hepatitis C Epidemic

• **1 in 20 people** living in North Philly have HepC
  • In 19132, its 1 in 13 people
  • In 19140, its 1 in 16 people

• **18,972** new diagnoses of HepC in North Philly alone, since 2013

*Data Courtesy of the Viral Hepatitis Program, Philadelphia Department of Public Health*
North Philly is very diverse, and every group is affected by the HepC epidemic:

- **1 in 17** Baby-Boomers have HepC
  - ~55% of diagnosed are Baby-Boomers

- Majority of residents are Non-Hispanic Black, but high rates among Hispanic residents

- 83% of those interviewed are publicly insured

- **High rates (>70%) of drug use** in less than 60 age group
  - Not all injection drug use! 1 of 5 people interviewed snort, take pills, or smoke only

*Data Courtesy of the Viral Hepatitis Program, Philadelphia Department of Public Health*
Are people in North Philly receiving care and getting cured of their HepC?

• Baby Boomers more likely to get HepC RNA than younger residents

• 11 out of 13 people still need treatment and can be CURED

*Data Courtesy of the Viral Hepatitis Program, Philadelphia Department of Public Health*
What we know, and what we don’t…

• HepC is on the rise in North Philly

• We only know about who has been tested
  • Who is not tested? Why?

• Every Baby Boomer & person at risk should be tested!

• HepC is not a disease of only one group
  • Is there a misperception in North Philly about who is at risk?
What we know, and what we don’t...

• Over 400 people CURED in North Philly, BUT most not
  • Specific barriers? Are there enough treating providers?

• There are many providers who can test and either refer or treat
  • Why are providers not testing? Not getting patients treated?

• Harm reduction is key to prevent infections and spread
  • Are providers comfortable with the messages?
HepC Action Items for South Philly

✓ Screen all Baby-Boomers and people at risk for HepC!
✓ Need to build infrastructure for HepC care and cure
✓ This is not one provider/institution responsibility
✓ Harm Reduction should be a part of care
✓ Tell us what you know!
Thank you for your time!

Danica Kuncio, MPH
Danica.Kuncio@phila.gov
Viral Hepatitis Program Manager

Phillyhepatitis.org
Hip.phila.gov

Acknowledgments
Eman Addish
Jack Hildick-Smith
Kendra Viner
Alexandra Shirreffs
Dana Higgins
Caroline Johnson
HEP Program
Opioid Program
• Provide education to patients and providers

• Help navigate to HCV care: Phillyhepatitis.org