

## Notification of Increase in HIV Diagnoses in Prosperity Region 2

### Summary

A review of statewide HIV data identified a significant increase in new HIV diagnoses that is impacting Prosperity Region 2 (PR2) in the northwest region of the lower peninsula (includes Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, Benzie, Leelanau, Manistee, Wexford, Missaukee, Antrim, Charlevoix, and Emmet Counties). Historically, this region has had a low incidence of new HIV diagnoses. However, recent HIV diagnoses in PR2 are approximately **2.5 times the average number of new diagnoses seen pre-2019**. Additionally, PR2 has experienced a **214% increase in new HIV diagnoses** when comparing the period from 2014-2018 (N=14) to 2019-2023 (N=44).

Focusing on new HIV diagnoses since 2021 (N=27), there are some specific characteristics worth highlighting:

- There are several factors that **indicate possible missed opportunities for diagnoses**.
  - **44%** of these new diagnoses were **diagnosed at stage 3** (stage 3 = AIDS diagnosis)
  - There is a **very low HIV testing history** (only 4 individuals out of 27 new diagnoses since January 2021).
  - Many ER/outpatient diagnoses (**67%**).
- Of the new diagnoses **almost 41% do not have an identified risk**.
  - Currently there is no indication of Injection Drug Use (IDU) among new diagnoses, but whenever HIV enters a new population that is a potential risk.
- Of the new HIV diagnoses since 2021, **48% were diagnosed in 2023 (N=13)**.
- The vast majority of new diagnoses (**78%**) are among those **over the age of 30**, with the majority over the age of 40.

This data is reinforced by qualitative data gathered by MDHHS that indicate individuals did not know about HIV testing or Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP). Additional interviews showed patients were dissuaded from getting HIV testing despite presenting with symptoms indicative of an HIV diagnosis during appointments with regular care providers (PCP, OB/GYN, Dentist).

### Recommendations for Clinical and Non-Clinical Providers

- Routine Universal Screening
  - HIV screening **at least once** in a lifetime for **all adolescents and adults aged 15-65 years old** – [HIV Testing Guidelines | USPSTF](#)
- Assess behavioral risk by routinely obtaining sexual histories and addressing risk reduction strategies
  - Promote condom use and open conversation with sexual partners
  - [Sexual History Guide | CDC](#)
- Provide education and support to patients regarding the availability and benefits of PrEP – [PrEP | MDHHS](#)
- HIV screening should be performed on an opt-out basis as part of routine clinical care in all healthcare settings – [Screening for HIV | CDC](#)
- Educate the community about HIV and the increase in HIV in the community
  - Share safer sex strategies
  - Promote condom usage

For additional guidance related to the diagnosis and management of HIV, please contact the [Henry Ford Health HIV Consultation Program](#) at 313-575-0332. For additional information and questions related to this data, please email [MDHHS-HIV-STI-Monitoring@michigan.gov](mailto:MDHHS-HIV-STI-Monitoring@michigan.gov).

Thank you,  
Michigan Health Alert Network