



## Human Immunodeficiency Virus and Hepatitis C Virus Programs



### Why are HIV and HCV programs important to Iowans?

The HIV and HCV programs fund prevention and testing services for people at risk for HIV or hepatitis C, as well as supportive services and access to treatment for people diagnosed with HIV. Disease intervention specialists help people newly diagnosed with HIV learn about the disease, talk to their partners about being exposed and learn how to get into care.

There are an estimated 3,337 Iowans living with HIV, and over 18,000 Iowans diagnosed with chronic hepatitis C. Over 450 Iowans with HIV don't know they have it, and potentially many thousands of Iowans with HCV are unaware of their infection. The number of Iowans under 40 diagnosed with HCV has increased significantly since 2009, likely due to increases in injection drug use. Among Iowans diagnosed with HIV, 81% have achieved viral suppression, meaning the level of HIV in their blood is very low. This is the ultimate goal of HIV treatment. (cont.)

### Did you know?

There are over 450 Iowans with Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) and likely thousands of Iowans with Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) who don't know they have it.

### A focus on health equity

There are some populations of Iowans which are disproportionately affected by HIV, including those who are black/African American or Latino, men who have sex with men, and people who inject drugs. Strategies to address disproportionate burden of disease include utilizing a trauma-informed approach in prevention and care programming, partnering with substance use treatment facilities and working with the Queer Health and Disrupting Racism committees to address heterosexism and racism.

### What does the department do?

- Increases the number of Iowans who know their HIV and HCV statuses by supporting HIV and HCV testing initiatives.
- Increases the number of Iowans with a HCV-positive screening test who receive confirmatory testing through outreach to providers and patients.
- Supports HIV and HCV testing at local health departments, Federally Qualified Health Centers and some local pharmacies.
- Helps Iowans with HIV stay engaged in medical care by providing case management and support services at local agencies across the state.
- Provides HIV medications and assistance with health insurance costs for Iowans with HIV.
- Prevents transmission of HIV by making condoms available and accessible to Iowans.
- Prevents transmission of HIV by increasing awareness of and linkage to biomedical interventions, such as pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP).
- Studies and investigates ways to decrease transmission among disproportionately affected populations of Iowans.
- Provides education and training on HIV and HCV to healthcare providers, substance use treatment facilities, corrections and other agencies in rural areas of the state.



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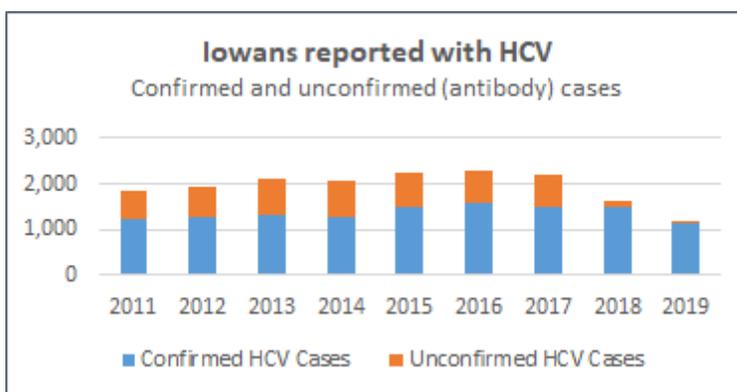
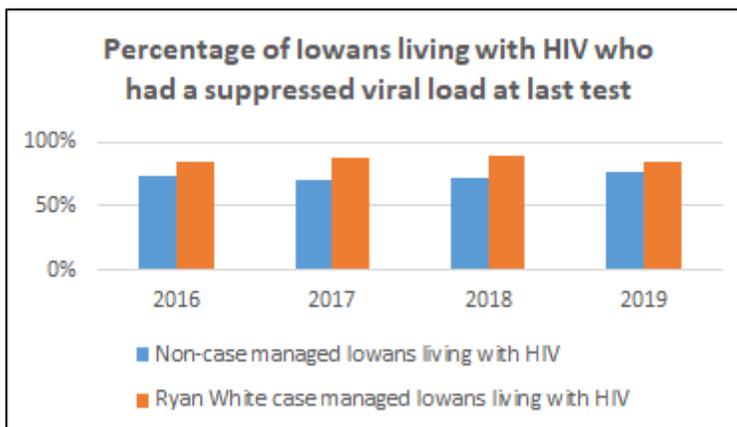


Why are HIV and HCV programs important to Iowans? (cont.)

Although there is no cure for HIV, it is now treated much more like a chronic disease. Early treatment of HIV infection means an individual is less likely to transmit the virus to partners. It also decreases the number of hospital visits, reduces overall health care costs and increases the quality of life. There is now an effective cure for hepatitis C with few side effects. This means it is important for Iowans living with HCV to receive appropriate testing to get diagnosed.

The IDPH Ryan White Part B program provides case management and support services for Iowans diagnosed with HIV. This program is effective in helping Iowans stay in medical care, which increases the likelihood of becoming virally suppressed. In addition, the AIDS Drug Assistance Program provides life-saving medications and helps with insurance premiums and copays for Iowans.

How do we measure our progress?



What can Iowans do to help?

- All Iowans ages 15-64 should be tested for HIV at least once in their lifetime.
- All Iowans born between 1945 and 1965 and anyone who has ever injected drugs should be tested for HCV.
- All Iowans can avoid using language that stigmatizes HIV. For more information, visit <https://hiveonline.org/language-matters/>.

Resources	SFY 2019 Actual	SFY 2020 Actual	SFY 2021 Estimate
State Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0
Federal Funds	\$17,987,453	\$16,031,292	\$15,648,392
Other Funds	\$6,140,894	\$6,599,709	\$10,026,974
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>\$24,128,348</b>	<b>\$22,631,001</b>	<b>\$25,675,366</b>
FTEs	17.99	16.74	20.70