



Epi Watch

A Monthly Epidemiology Newsletter



September, 2011

Pinellas County Health Department
 205 Dr. M.L King Street North
 St. Petersburg, FL 33701
 (727) 824-6900
www.PinellasHealth.com

Director
 Claude Dharamraj, MD, MPH, FAAP
claude_dharamraj@doh.state.fl.us

Assistant CHD Director
 Patricia L. Ryder, MD, MPH
pat_ryder@doh.state.fl.us

Epi Watch Editor
 Andrea M. Castillo, MPH
andrea_castillo@doh.state.fl.us

Epi Watch is a monthly newsletter from the Pinellas County Health Department. For more information, or to add your e-mail address to the distribution list, please contact the Editor.

For additional information on HIV/AIDS and MSM please visit: <http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/topics/msm/index.htm>

For additional information on National Gay Men's HIV/AIDS Awareness Day please visit: <http://www.napwa.org/>

"The reason for collecting, analyzing and disseminating information on a disease is to control that disease. Collection and analysis should not be allowed to consume resources if action does not follow."

Foege, W.H. et al. (1976). Int. J of Epidemiology, 5:29-37.

To report diseases by phone call:
(727) 824-6932

To report diseases by fax (other than HIV/AIDS) use:
(727) 820-4270

HIV & Syphilis: In Bed Together

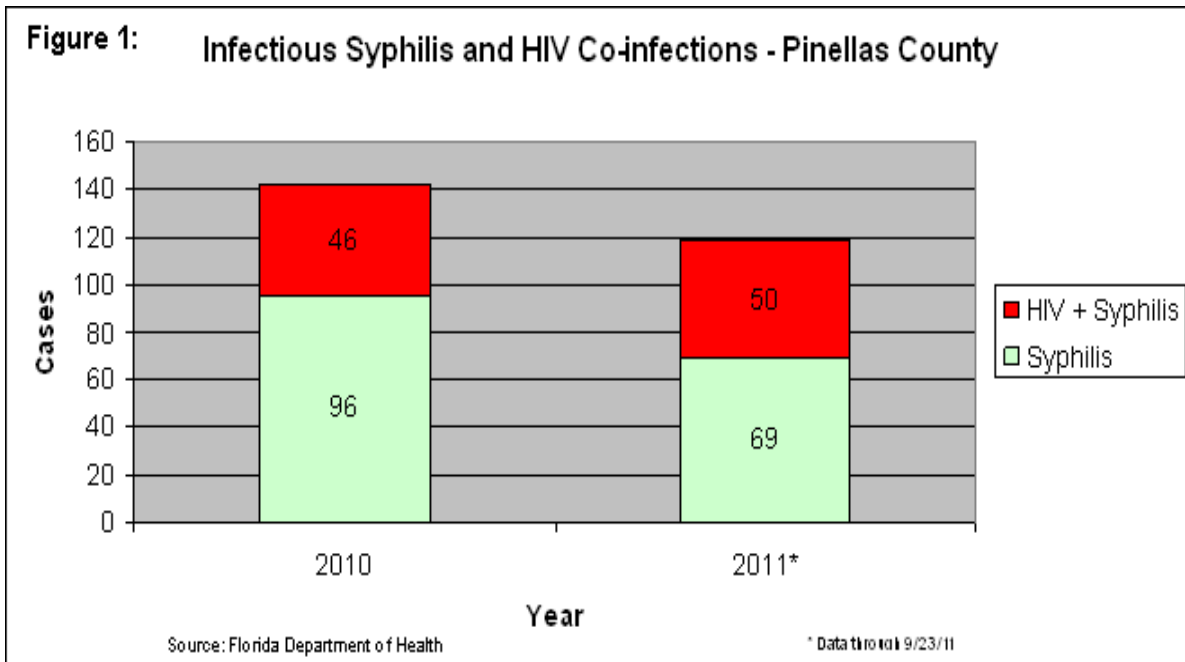
The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report that as many as 19 million new sexually transmitted infections occur in the United States each year. Syphilis has been a constant public health nuisance for decades, and is now back in the spotlight against the backdrop of the HIV/AIDS pandemic.

Data released by CDC in March of 2010 highlight the disproportionate impact of HIV and syphilis among Men who have Sex with Men (MSMs) in the U.S. A recent study indicates that syphilis incidence is increasing and persons newly infected with syphilis are also likely to be co-infected with HIV.

According to the CDC, the rate of new HIV infections among MSMs is more than 44 times higher compared to other men and more than 40 times higher than women. The rate of primary and secondary syphilis among MSMs is more than 46 times that of other men and more than 71 times that of women. A separate study conducted by CDC, resulted in MSMs having a rate of HIV and syphilis co-infection of more than 50%. (Source: <http://www.cdc.gov/nchhstp/newsroom/HIVincidenceResources.html>)

Florida data for 2010 indicate that 63% of individuals identified as an MSM and infected with an STD were also co-infected with HIV. Overall, 37% of early syphilis cases were also HIV infected, with the highest proportion among MSMs.

Pinellas County has seen an increase in HIV and syphilis co-infected cases from 2010 to year-to-date 2011 (Figure 1).



September 27th, 2011 marks the third annual National Gay Men's HIV/AIDS Awareness Day in America. Established by The National Association of People Living with HIV/AIDS (NAPWA), this observance seeks to heighten and maintain awareness on the sustained epidemic of HIV/AIDS among gay, bi-sexual and other MSMs.

The Florida Department of Health Bureau of HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis selected the following theme for this year's observance: **Take the Test: For You, For Your Partner, For Your Life.**

This day should be used to promote the importance of combining multiple strategies, targeting both the community and clinicians, on improving the sexual health of MSMs.

Selected Reportable Diseases in Pinellas County

Disease	2011 August	2011 Year to date	2010 Year to date	2010 Total
AIDS**	21	99	84	122
Animal Rabies		1		
Arboviral Illness (Human):			1	1
Dengue				
EEE				
SLE				
WNV				
CA/LaCrosse				
Campylobacteriosis	14	55	27	37
Chlamydia	339	2637	2572	3843
Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (CJD)	1	1		
Cryptosporidiosis	1	14	20	24
Cyclosporiasis		2	3	4
<i>E. coli</i> O157:H7				
<i>E. coli</i> Shiga Toxin (+)				
Giardiasis	5	19	23	44
Gonorrhea	107	690	861	1329
<i>H. influenzae</i> : Invasive Disease		7	10	11
Hansen's Disease			1	1
Hemolytic Uremic Syndrome (HUS)				
Hepatitis, Acute Viral:		2		2
A				
B	3	10	4	8
C	1	8	5	11
Hepatitis B: Pregnant Woman +HBsAg	3	22	19	26
Hepatitis, Chronic Viral				
B	20	132	172	229
C	154	1115	1025	1496
HIV**	31	177	131	179
Lead Poisoning: Children < 6 years:		3	1	3
Legionellosis	1	10	8	12
Listeriosis		2		1
Lyme Disease	2	6	2	4
Malaria		1	1	2
Meningitis: Bacterial, Cryptococcal, Mycotic	2	4	8	10
Meningococcal Disease		2	4	4
Mercury Poisoning		2	1	2
Mumps			1	1
Pertussis		4	10	10
Rabies, possible exposure	21	117	67	95
Salmonellosis	37	134	134	257
Shigellosis	9	82	7	47
Streptococcal Disease, Inv. Group A		3	5	6
<i>S. pneumoniae</i> , Inv. Disease (DR)		16	11	16
<i>S. pneumoniae</i> , Inv. Disease (Suscept)		8	11	15
Syphilis: Total	6	83	73	121
Infectious (P and S)	4	48	29	57
Early Latent	1	19	19	28
Congenital				
Late Syphilis (Late Latent; Neurosyphilis)	1	16	25	36
Tuberculosis	3	21	27	33
<i>Vibrio</i> Infections		10	7	12

Provisional cases reported by the Pinellas County Health Department. Blank cells indicate no cases reported. For a complete list of reportable diseases and guidelines for reporting, please visit: http://www.doh.state.fl.us/disease_ctrl/epi/index.html

** Current HIV Infection data reflect any case meeting the CDC definition of "HIV infection" which includes all newly reported HIV cases and newly reported AIDS cases with no previous report of HIV. Previous reports of HIV data reflected *only* newly reported HIV cases, which were HIV (not AIDS) at the time of report. Newly reported HIV Infection cases do not imply they are all newly diagnosed cases. For a more detailed explanation on changes in reporting and changes in trends, please contact the Pinellas County Health Department HIV/AIDS Program: 727-824-6932.