Problem

What

When

Where

Impact to the Goals

Problem(s)

Date

Facility, site

Task being performed

Public health emergency declared

Resources are required to fight HIV epidemic

~80 tested positive for HIV

~80 HIV cases in rural Indiana

A public health emergency has been declared after 79 cases of HIV were confirmed in rural Indiana, the worst outbreak of HIV the state has ever seen. Individuals potentially at risk have been encouraged to get tested and the number of cases is expected to rise as more cases are identified. The epidemic has been tied to intravenous drug use, although other risky behaviors may also have spread the disease.

“I do not support needle exchanges as anti-drug policy, but this is a public health emergency…I’m going to make a decision on the best science and the best way to stop this virus and this outbreak in its tracks.”

-Indiana Governor Mike Pence

Analysis

~80 tested positive for HIV

Exposed to bodily fluids containing HIV virus

Unprotected sex

Evidence: Statement by public health officials. Additional testing is underway and this number is projected to increase.

Healthcare officials are working to reduce the risk of future HIV cases by providing treatment. One physician is even driving door to door, offering free HIV testing and trying to educate residents on drug addiction and HIV treatment. Austin, Indiana has established its first ever HIV clinic to provide testing, counseling and treatment. Targeted resources to help educate residents on drug use and to assist addicts seeking to get clean are also being provided. The governor of Indiana has approved a short-term needle exchange program. Indiana has also created a public awareness campaign to help inform people about the risks of intravenous drug use.

Evidence: Significant percentage of population is uninsured and/or living in poverty.

Evidence: Sustained HIV treatment reduces the likelihood of passing on the infection by 96%.

Solutions

Now that the HIV epidemic has been identified, healthcare officials are working to reduce the risk of more infections by providing treatment. One physician is even driving door to door, offering free HIV testing and trying to educate residents on drug addiction and HIV treatment. Austin, Indiana has established its first ever HIV clinic to provide testing, counseling and treatment. Targeted resources to help educate residents on drug use and to assist addicts seeking to get clean are also being provided. The governor of Indiana has approved a short-term needle exchange program. Indiana has also created a public awareness campaign to help inform people about the risks of intravenous drug use. Drug addiction is a notoriously difficult problem to battle, but the additional resources should help reduce the rate of future HIV cases.

Evidence: Sustained HIV treatment reduces the likelihood of passing on the infection by 96%.

Evidence: Significant percentage of population is uninsured and/or living in poverty.

Evidence: These cases have been associated with Opana use.

Evidence: Statement by public health officials. Additional testing is underway and this number is projected to increase.

Evidence: Statement by individuals who have tested positive indicate that the majority of cases are associated with the use of intravenous drug use.

Evidence: Opana is an opioid analgesic used for the management of moderate to severe pain. It is highly addictive and can lead to dependence and abuse. High doses of Opana can cause respiratory depression, hypotension, and death.

Evidence: These cases have been associated with Opana use.

Evidence: Significant percentage of population is uninsured and/or living in poverty.

Evidence: Sustained HIV treatment reduces the likelihood of passing on the infection by 96%.