Successes and challenges of delivering hepatitis C nursing care in the Top End

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Disclosure of interest

No conflicts of interest

Registration, travel and accommodation kindly supported by:
ASHM (Conference, Sponsorship & Events Division)
Merck Sharp & Dohme (Australia) Pty Limited
- Population of the Northern Territory – 240,800
- Population of Greater Darwin – 136,200
- Median age 31.6
- Working age population (15-64 yrs) – 171,900
- Children (<15 yrs) – highest proportion in Australia
- Aged (over 65 yrs) – lowest proportion in Australia
- More males than females
- One third of people are Indigenous
Notification rates of HCV by year, category and States/Territory (per 100,000 population)

Source: National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System

[Graph showing notification rates of HCV]

Notification rate of Hepatitis C virus infection by district, NT, 2013

Source: National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System

[Graph showing notification rates by district]

Drugs last injected at NTAHC Primary NSPs 12 months to February 13 2013
(courtesy Damon Brogan, Manager NTAHC)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District/Location</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Injection NSPs</th>
<th>Alice Springs NSP</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Injection NSPs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Darwin</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grafton</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Katherine</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Groote Eyland</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Numbung</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nhulunbuy</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nhulunbuy Town</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern Territory</td>
<td>5</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pine Gap</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tiwi Islands</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>130</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent of total</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>86.7%</td>
<td>80.0%</td>
<td>13.3%</td>
<td>10.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Percentages rounded to nearest whole number

Our successes

- Portable Fibroscan
  - Since late 2012
- Remote outreach
  - Katherine, Gove, Maningrida, Galiwinku, Tiwi Islands
- Flinders MDT
- Referrals to visiting hepatology clinic
- Telehealth
- Links with consultant psychiatrist
- Transfer of CNC position (0.8 FTE)
- Nurse-coordinated clinics

Our challenges

- Mental health services
- Referral quality
- Correctional facility operations
- Links with support services
- Clinical capacity
- Limited data on hepatitis C treatment outcomes among Indigenous Australians

Acknowledgments

- Jiunn-Yih Su, Centre for Disease Control, Northern Territory Government.
- Damon Brogan, Northern Territory AIDS & Hepatitis Council (NTAHC).
Thank you