HIV INFECTION and PERINATAL HIV EXPOSURE

Abstract
The BPSU reporting system is a key part of paediatric reporting of HIV in the UK and Ireland. All children presenting with HIV infection, regardless of place of birth or mode of acquisition of infection, should be reported, as well as all infants born to HIV positive women in the UK and Ireland, regardless of infection status. The BPSU provides case notifications to the National Study of HIV in Pregnancy & Childhood (NSHPC), thereby facilitating data collection for national HIV paediatric surveillance. Such data contributes to a wide range of epidemiological and clinical analyses and publications, including assessments of the impact of antenatal screening and the uptake of interventions in pregnancy and the monitoring of developments in the management of infected and exposed children.

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Paediatric HIV surveillance is carried out at UCL GOS ICH in London, along with a parallel obstetric reporting scheme administered under the auspices of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists.

Background
Surveillance in the UK and Ireland began in 1986 to monitor the incidence and prevalence of paediatric HIV infection and perinatal HIV exposure. Data is collected by the National Study of HIV in Pregnancy and Childhood (NSHPC), based at the UCL GOS Institute of Child Health, and combines paediatric and obstetric reporting schemes. A summary dataset is sent by the NSHPC every three months to Public Health England (PHE) and (Health Protection Scotland) HPS. The NSHPC team produces a quarterly newsletter and bi-annual slide sets which are available at www.ucl.ac.uk/nshpc.

Most cases of paediatric HIV are children born to HIV infected women. Active follow up by the NSHPC of all infants born to women known to be HIV infected at the time of their baby’s birth is conducted to establish whether or not the child is infected. Infection status in exposed infants can now usually be confirmed or excluded within the first six months of life. Guidelines on the management of infected and exposed children are available on the Children’s HIV Association (CHIVA) website (www.chiva.org.uk).

Follow-up data are sought for all infected children annually through the Collaborative HIV Paediatric Study (CHIPS) (www.chipscohort.ac.uk), a collaboration between the Medical Research Council Clinical Trials Unit, the clinics providing care, and the NSHPC.

Website
www.ucl.ac.uk/nshpc & www.rcpch.ac.uk/bpsu/hiv

Coverage
United Kingdom and Ireland

Duration
Surveillance began in June 1986 and is ongoing.

Case definition
1) Any child under 16 years of age who has HIV infection (regardless of country of birth)

OR

2) any child born to a woman known to have been diagnosed with HIV by the time of that child’s birth (regardless of the child’s infection status).

Reporting instructions
Please report children seen in the last month (or that you have not previously reported to the BPSU) who meet the case definition.

Methods
Reporting paediatricians are asked to complete an NSHPC notification form shortly after the reporting card is received by the BPSU; follow-up information is sought by the NSHPC to establish infection status; subsequent annual follow up of infected children is carried out through CHIPS.

Ethics approval
The London Multicentre Research Ethics Committee approved the NSHPC and the associated CHIPS study (London MREC/04/0/2009; MREC/04/0/210); annual reports are submitted. Data can be provided to the NSHPC by PCTs and NHS Trusts under the exemption specified in the STD Regulations 2000; NIGB (Ref: PIAG/BPSU 2-10(a)/2005) has approved data collection from sources other than PCTs and NHS Trusts. For further details see http://www.ucl.ac.uk/nshpc/ethics

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References

Selected NSHPC publications 2013-2017, and other key papers Full list at http://www.ucl.ac.uk/nshpc/publications

Pregnancy incidence and outcomes in women with perinatal HIV infection. L Byrne, R Sconza, C Foster, PA Tookey, M Cortina-Borja, C Thorne. AIDS 2017

UK national clinical audit: management of pregnancies in women with HIV. S Raffe, H Curtis, PA Tookey, H Peters, A Freedman, Y Gilleece and on behalf of the British HIV Association Audit and Standards Sub-Committee. BMC Infectious Diseases. 2017


Further Information

NSHPC data are also presented widely at national and international conferences.
Summary tables and reports are published regularly by the PHE and the HPS.
The NSHPC Newsletter, slide sets, and full study information are available at www.ucl.ac.uk/nshpc.