

MODELING THE POPULATION AND ECONOMIC IMPACT OF FLORIDA'S NEW AIDS DRUG ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (ADAP) ELIGIBILITY RESTRICTIONS ON HIV INCIDENCE AMONG PEOPLE WHO INJECT DRUGS (PWID) IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

Authors

Goyal R¹, Nguyen K¹, Schackman B², Little SJ¹, Martin NK¹

Affiliations

Division of Infectious Diseases and Global Public Health, University of California San Diego, La Jolla, CA, USA. Weill Cornell Medicine, New York, NY, USA.

Background

In response to a projected \$120 million budget shortfall, Florida recently restricted eligibility for its AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) from 400% of the federal poverty level to 130%, meaning thousands may lose access to antiretroviral treatment (ART). We projected the health and economic impact of this policy change on HIV in Miami-Dade County (one-third of Florida's new HIV diagnoses).

Methods

We developed and calibrated an agent-based network general population HIV transmission model in Miami-Dade County. The model simulates sexual and injection risks among PWID, men who have sex with men, and heterosexuals, including stratification by 13 health districts. We simulated the impact of the ADAP eligibility change by removing ART access for currently diagnosed individuals on treatment who become newly ineligible under the policy and for the estimated proportion of newly diagnosed individuals who would no longer be eligible. We compared this to a counterfactual of no change in eligibility. We estimated HIV infections overall and for PWID over 5 years, and the resulting economic impact using a lifetime cost of HIV care of \$1.08 million per person.

Results

Approximately 7,394 people in Miami-Dade have ADAP-funded HIV treatment, with 50% falling above the new income threshold, leading to 3,697 individuals newly ineligible. Modeling indicates this could lead to 992 additional HIV infections over 5 years compared to no change. Among PWID, modeling estimates an 18% relative increase in HIV infections over 5 years (from 118 to 139 infections with the change). This could result in \$1.07 billion in lifetime HIV care costs associated with additional infections over 5 years, including \$22.7 million associated with HIV care for newly infected PWID.

Conclusion

Florida's ADAP income eligibility change will result in substantial health and economic harms, both among PWID and other populations. Interventions will be required to offset these harms.

Disclosure of Interest Statement

The authors declare no conflicts of interest.