

Engaging Youth in Care

Lara Tannenbaum, Director of Health Services

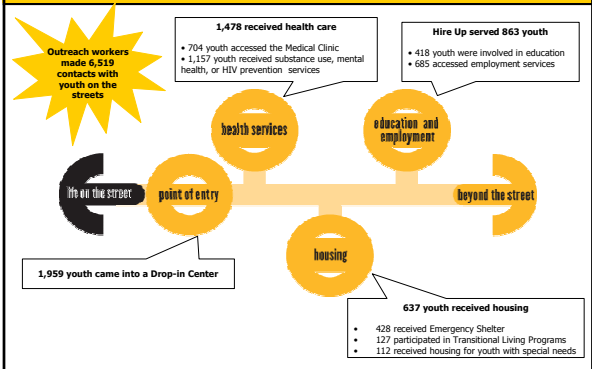
HRSA All Titles Meeting, August 26, 2008



Larkin Street Youth Services

The mission of Larkin Street Youth Services is to create a continuum of services that inspires youth to move beyond the street. We will nurture potential, promote dignity, and support bold steps by all.

Range of Needs



Homeless Youth and HIV

- More than half of new HIV infections in the United States occur in individuals under the age of 25
- Homeless youth have disproportionately high rates of HIV infection
- National estimate is 4%, San Francisco estimated at 8%
- High degree of participation in survival sex, sex with risky partners, and IV drug use

Keeping Youth Connected to Care

- Youth-centered continuum of care services model
- Multiple points of entry and re-entry
- Housing as an intervention
- Harm reduction principles
- Multi-service “one stop shopping”

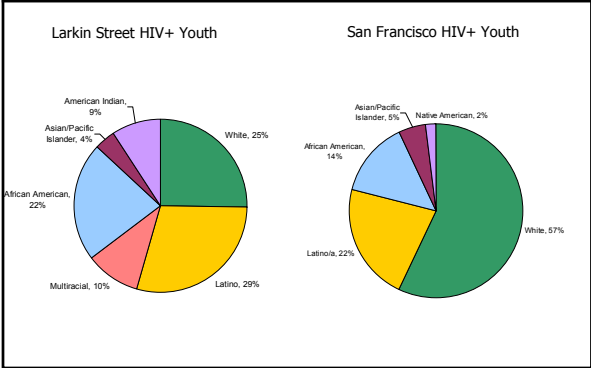
Larkin Street’s HIV Services: Continuum of Care

- HIV services continuum: connection between prevention, testing, housing assistance, medical care, case management, and behavioral health services reduces barriers to care and assists youth in accessing services

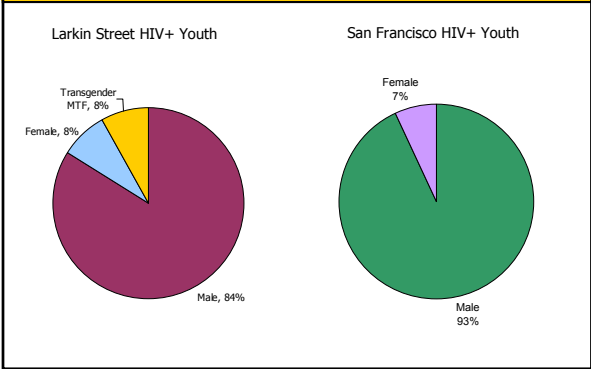
Outreach/Case Finding

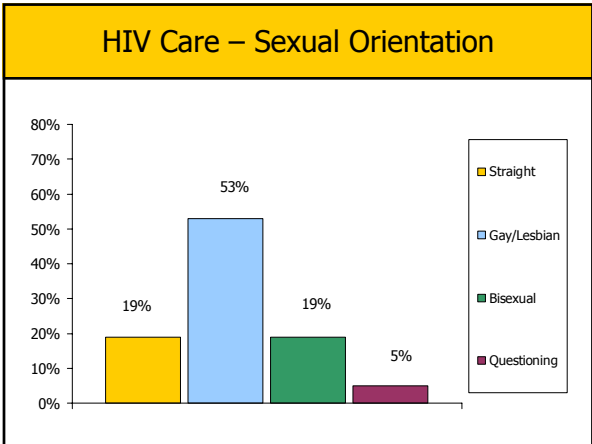
- Outreach
 - Information; Prevention supplies; Referrals to testing; Linkages to services
- Testing
 - Provides youth specific rapid HIV testing at 5 locations in San Francisco
 - Referrals of positive youth to Larkin Street HIV services
- Part D Collaboration
 - Partner agencies providing outreach to specific communities; referrals to testing, referrals of positive youth to Larkin Street HIV Services

HIV Care – Ethnicity



HIV Care – Gender





HIV Care - Ages

Positive youth in Larkin Street services:

- 18% are age 19 or younger
- 82% are between 20-25 years old

Positive youth in San Francisco:

- 14% are 19 or younger
- 86% SF are between 20-24 years old

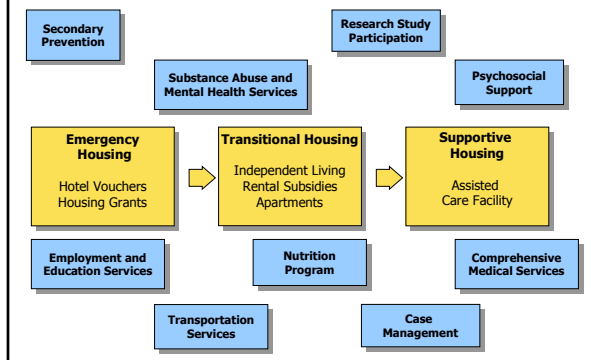
Youth Profile: Mental Health & Substance Use

<p>Mental health issues at intake:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 68% have been in counseling • 48% have seen a psychiatrist • 41% have been prescribed psychiatric medications • 30% have been hospitalized for psychiatric reasons • 54% of youth report having felt seriously depressed in the previous 30 days 	<p>Level of substance use is high:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 82% have used drugs • Average age of first drug use is 12 • 37% have used cocaine/crack • 38% have used speed • 78% have used pot in the last year • 17% have injected drugs • 53% have tried to stop using drugs • 25% have been in substance use treatment
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Barriers to Staying Healthy for HIV+ Youth

- Fear of disclosing HIV status
- Dealing with stigma
- Inability to decrease substance use
- Failure to practice safer sex activities
- Unaddressed mental health issues
- Challenge of navigating multiple service delivery systems

Integrated Care Model



Assisted Care and After Care

- **Assisted Care**
 - Licensed Residential Care Facility
 - On Site Medical Care
 - 24/7 On-site Staff Support
 - Intensive Case Management

Assisted Care was the first licensed residential care facility for youth living with HIV/AIDS.

- **After Care**
 - Emergency and Long-Term Subsidized Housing
 - Intensive Case Management
- **HIV Specialty Clinic**
 - provides adolescent-centered outpatient care and treatment for HIV+ youth in San Francisco

Support Services

- Harm Reduction Model
- Food and nutritional planning
- Intensive Case Management
- Assistance with medication management
- Milieu Support: Individual, Peer and Group Counseling
- Prevention for positives
- Mental health and substance abuse services
- Access to Larkin Street's education and employment services
- Focus on Productive, Purposeful Activity

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Contact Information



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YOUTH SERVICES
