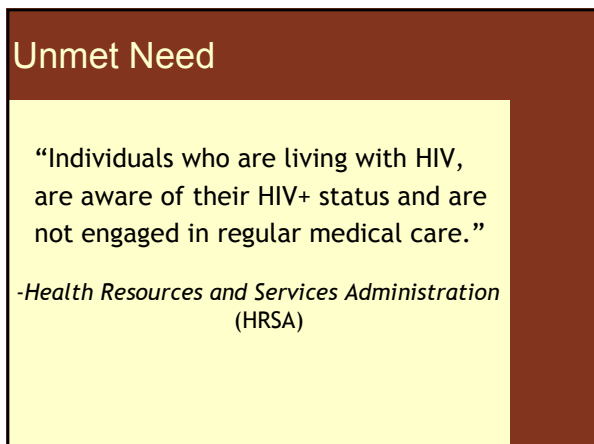


Connecting to Care: Addressing Unmet Need in HIV





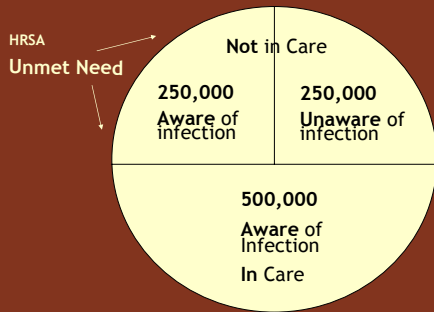


Connecting to Care: Addressing Unmet Need in HIV

Regular Medical Care Means:

- Receiving regular primary HIV-related medical care (clinical evaluation and clinical care), including:
 - Access to HAART
 - Access to prophylactic care
 - Treatment of opportunistic infections and medication side effects

1 Million People Living with HIV in US



History of Connecting to Care

- HRSA funded AIDS Action Foundation to conduct national research on interventions that successfully connect HIV+ people to medical care
- Over 250 organizations were researched over the course of 4 years
- The result of the research led to the development of two workbooks that outline successful strategies for engaging and keeping people living with HIV/AIDS consistently engaged in medical care

Connecting to Care: Addressing Unmet Need in HIV

Populations Impacted by Unmet Need

1. Members of target populations that are not being reached by strategies currently being used in their service areas
2. Individuals who have inconsistent relationships with their medical care
3. People in the community who are not being prioritized or factored into service planning (i.e. refugees, undocumented immigrants, migrant workers, suburban wives)
4. People for whom existing systems of care or reimbursement are insufficient

Connecting to Care Workbooks

Workbook I Format

- Cover
- Introduction
- Unmet Need
- Reading the Workbook
- Timeline
- The Cities "At a Glance"
- Selection of Workbook Content
- Selection of Workbook Content

Connecting to Care: Addressing Unmet Need in HIV

Workbook Format

- Quick Reference:
 - Name
 - Brief Description—Key Characteristics
 - Current Activity Setting
 - ✓ list of “how close to connecting to care”

Workbook Format

- Description
- Logistics
- Strengths and Difficulties
- Outcomes

Workbook II

- Cover
- Table of Contents
- Introduction
- Special Populations
 - 25 activities:
 - 11 activities for HIV+ people living in rural communities (green)
 - 14 activities for HIV+ people currently or formerly in incarceration (blue)
 - Color Coded Index of Activities
 - Green represents rural
 - Blue represents Formerly/Currently Incarcerated

Connecting to Care: Addressing Unmet Need in HIV

Why Workbook II Prioritizes Rural Communities

- Average roundtrip drive to infectious disease doctor in rural communities may be 86 miles or more
- 38% of HIV+ people in rural areas see doctors who have treated fewer than 10 HIV patients impacting quality of care

Why Workbook II Prioritizes Formerly or Currently Incarcerated Individuals

- 2% of state prison inmates and 1.1% of federal prison inmate reported to be HIV+
- Infection rates among prison and jail inmates can be as high as 7.6% (New York and D.C.)

Workbook Objectives

- To bridge understanding between the federal strategy to address unmet need and what is actually happening in the field
- To identify successful activities that help engage a person in care services
- To identify key elements of successful activities
- To link the lessons in the workbook to other service settings across the US (best practices)

Connecting to Care: Addressing Unmet Need in HIV

Principal Questions

- “What activities are truly helping individuals to connect to health care and stay connected?”
- “What are the key elements of the activity?”

Four Ways to Use the Workbooks

1. Replication of workbook activities
(Adaptation and Tailoring)
2. Incorporation of key elements of workbook activities into existing interventions
3. Utilization of workbook format to analyze existing interventions
4. Creation of new interventions using workbook format as a template
(Workbook I, Activity 18)

Activity: Let’s Flag It!

- Read the entire activity
- As you read, “flag” elements that help connect or keep people connected to care
 - Examples of elements: client-centered, culturally competent, maintains confidentiality
- Choose three key elements that you think are essential in connecting people to care in your community

Connecting to Care: Addressing Unmet Need in HIV

Successful Connecting to Care Elements

Provider is:

- Respectful and non-judgmental
- Unconditionally acceptant
- Empathetic
- Confidential
- Client-centered
- Flexible
- Culturally competent
- Knowledgeable

Strong provider-client relationships help clients connect and stay connected to medical care

Unanticipated Benefits

- Connecting to Care has elements of:
 - Needs assessment
 - Program planning
 - Program development
 - Program evaluation
- Connecting to Care can help lay the foundation for grant writing, resource development and collaborations

Connecting-to-Care Collaboration

- Think of this Workbook as a form of collaboration
- Thank you! You are now part of the Connecting to Care collaboration!

Connecting to Care:
Addressing Unmet Need in HIV

For more information:

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