

HIV Rapid Testing in a Jail Setting: Establishing a Successful Program

THE ATLAS PROGRAM
ASSESS, TEST, LINK: ACHIEVE SUCCESS
CARE ALLIANCE HEALTH CENTER
CLEVELAND, OHIO
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Background: Care Alliance

- Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC)
- Primary populations:
 - Homeless
 - Public Housing
 - HIV/AIDS
 - Uninsured/Underinsured
- Services:
 - Primary Health Care for All Ages
 - Comprehensive Dental Care
 - Substance Abuse & Mental Health Counseling
 - Confidential HIV Testing, Treatment & Counseling
- 2007: 7,500 Patients through over 25,000 Encounters

Establishing the Program

- Received SPNS Grant to establish rapid HIV testing and linkage case management program in the Cuyahoga County Corrections Center.
- Brand new program-no other program has presence in the jail related to HIV testing in Cleveland.
 - Testing was only done in the Corrections Center when court ordered or requested by inmate.
 - In 2007: 386 tests were done by medical staff with 9 positives identified.
- Initial Goal: Establish relationship with the Corrections Center.

Establishing the Program

- **Met with Corrections Center staff to discuss testing program**
 - Need within jail for testing
 - Rules and regulations
 - Staff access to inmates
 - Areas of jail to conduct testing
 - Office space within jail
 - Protocols for testing and medical care follow up

Establishing Community Partnerships

- **Contacted local medical clinics, ASOs, Ryan White Planning groups, and the Cleveland Department of Public Health for support**
 - Opened referral system for medical care and community social services for inmates identified as positive
 - Established resource support from Department of Public Health
 - Test kits
 - Received support from Ryan White planning groups
 - Ryan White Part A, Part B, Part C, Case Management Network

ATLAS Testing Program

- **Testing program available 5 days/week, 4 hours/day**
- **Offering voluntary HIV testing to all male inmates upon intake**
 - All male inmates are housed in intake pods (or dormitory style units) after initial incarceration. Offer tests to entire pod.
- **Offering testing also during routine health assessments for all male inmates**
 - All male inmates have a health assessment while in the intake pod. Jail medical staff have incorporated the offering of the test into this process. Tester housed in same room as health assessments.
- **Offering to general population pods via signups**
 - Staff target different general population pods, including female pods, to offer testing, as time permits.
- **Offering to female participants of HIV 101 education sessions conducted by outside community agency**
 - Sessions occur once a month

Current Statistics: 2/20/08-7/31/08

Total Number of Inmates Offered Test	8092
Total Number of Tests Completed	1000
Total Number of Positives	3
Total Number of False Positives	4
Average Number of Tests Completed Per Month	200
Average Number of Tests Completed Per Day	10
Total Number of Retests Completed	21
Overall Acceptance Rate for Testing	12.35 %

Current Statistics: 2/20/08-7/31/08

Where Test Was Offered	Total Number of Inmates Offered Test	Total Number of Tests Completed	Acceptance Rate
Health Assessments	1495	415	27.75%
Intake Pods	6132	414	6.75%
General Population Pods	1287	186	14.45%
Female Education Sessions	66	40	60.6%

**We have also had personal requests for tests come through the internal communication system. In total 36 tests have been completed for inmates by personal request.

Current Statistics: 2/20/08-7/31/08

Average Age of All Inmates Tested	Race Breakdown of Inmates Tested
34 (range 18-67)	Black/African American: 72.73%
	White/Caucasian: 20.12%
	Hispanic: 3.98%
	Native American: 0.31%
	Other/Multi-Racial: 1.74%
	Not Identified: 1.13%

Conclusions

- HIV rapid testing program is feasible and can be successful in a jail setting
- Networking with corrections, community agencies and public health key to establishing a successful program
- Personally offering tests through health assessments and during women's education sessions show highest acceptance rates
- However, with testing incorporated into the intake process (health assessments/intake pods) we have been able to reach the largest number of inmates
