



No Patient Left Behind: A Case for Universal HCV Screening

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Acacia Network Overview

Acacia Network's mission is to partner with communities, lead change, and promote healthy and prosperous individuals and families.

Services Include

7 Article 28 Health Centers, including 4 FQHC's
2 Article 31 Mental Health Centers
1 Mobile Medical Unit, 1 Mobile Testing Unit
Health Care,
Substance Abuse
Housing
Economic Development

CDC HCV Statistics

There are 2.7 – 3.9 million persons living with HCV in the United States

Most are unaware that they are infected

45% of persons ever infected with HCV reported no known exposure risk

Although persons born during 1945 – 1965 comprise an estimated 27% of the population, they account for approximately 75% of all HCV infections in the United States

Introduction

The objective of this study is to provide evidence to support a case for annual universal HCV screening in comparison to the current New York State mandate to provide a singular lifetime screen for the baby boomer population. With data support, the current NYS mandates leave great room for missed opportunity.

Methods

The methods of this study involved an analytic review of data collected across a network of community health centers for 12 months (January 2014- December 2014). Acacia Network integrated a routine HIV/HCV testing workflow in 7 health centers in the South Bronx and Central Harlem, New York, that expanded upon the state minimum testing requirement. The workflow prompted providers to screen all previously known HCV negative or previously untested individuals (ages 13+) at a minimum of once a year and/or upon expressed risk. Among the total of 11,000 unique patients in the network, 4,686 HCV screens were administered. Data was captured and monitored through the electronic health record.

46% Number of individuals that would remain undiagnosed with current mandate

30% Number of HCV Ab Positive individuals under 35 years old

10% Number of HCV Ab Positive individuals under 30 years old

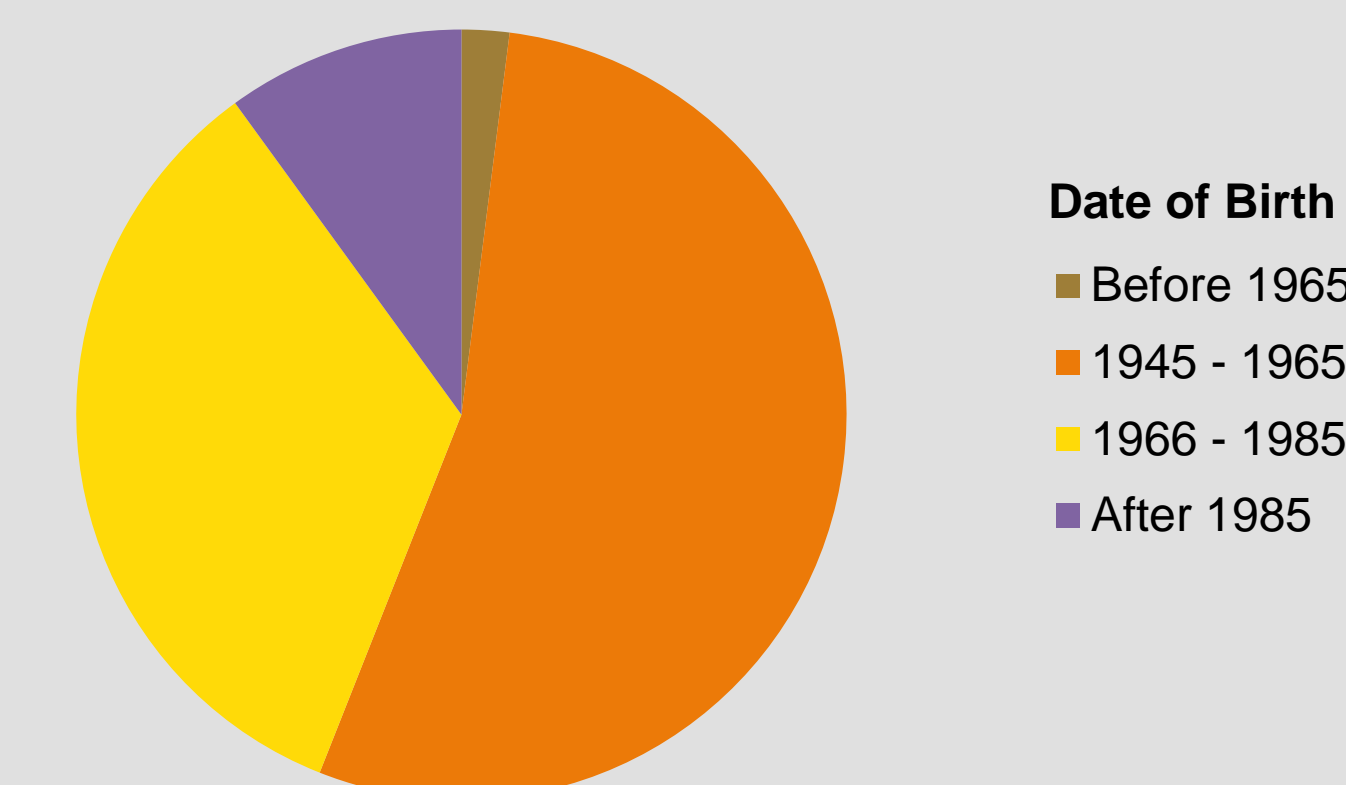
95%

Chance for an individual to achieve SVR with appropriate treatment

Results

Over 12 months, 4,686 HCV Screens were administered. Results show 749 HCV Ab Positive individuals in the network (16% of tested population). 345, or 46%, of the individuals fall outside of New York State targeted testing range (individuals born between 1945 and 1965); the majority of these individuals (44% of total Ab Positive population) are younger than the Baby Boomer age group. To continue to breakdown the data, 31% of total Ab Positive population is 45 years old or younger, 30% of the positive population are 35 years old or younger, and 10% of the positive population are 30 years old or younger.

Acacia Network HCV Ab Positive Individuals - 2014



Conclusions

If Acacia Network were to solely follow New York State guidelines on HCV screening, 46% of our HCV Ab Positive population would not have been identified unless risk was expressed to prompt testing. While the current state policies provide a movement to express the urgency and need to increase HCV screening, they do not cover the full extreme to which the pandemic is growing. While this illness has greatly impacted the Baby Boomer population, with the current trends in substance use and other high risk activities, levels of HCV infection are increasing in the younger population. With what is now a curable disease, there is great benefit to increasing the mandate to universally screen individuals on an annual basis to ensure knowledge of diagnosis and access to care for treatment.