

Implementation of a Jail-Based Rapid HIV Testing Pilot Program

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Introduction

- Jail detainees are at increased risk for HIV and other infectious diseases due to frequent occurrence of risky behaviors including substance use and risky sex prior to incarceration
- Jails are an important venue for delivering HIV counseling & testing (C&T) services to at-risk persons since jails act as the portal of entry to the correctional system
- Rapid HIV testing provides new opportunities to expand HIV testing services to this transient population

Objective

- To conduct a pilot program of routine, **rapid** HIV testing upon jail intake in a facility that has historically performed routine standard HIV testing

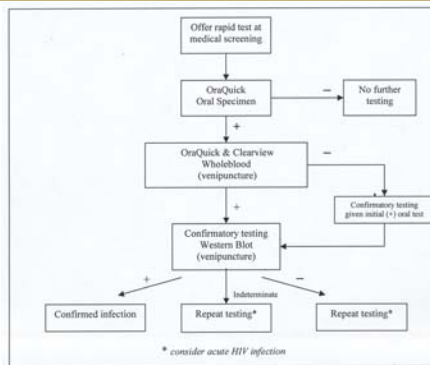
Setting

- Rhode Island Department of Corrections (RIDOC) Intake Service Center
 - Central jail for Rhode Island (males only)
 - 16,000 intakes per year
- Routine standard HIV testing program upon intake since 1991
 - Results available in 7-14 days
- Comprehensive HIV care provided for HIV-infected detainees with linkage to community-based care

Methods

- Rapid HIV Testing Pilot Program:
 - Routine rapid HIV testing offered one day per week at jail intake
 - OraQuick® Advance HIV 1/2 assay used with oral transudate specimen
 - Confirmatory algorithm includes repeat rapid testing with wholeblood specimens (OraQuick® & Clearview®)
 - Detainees with **any** preliminary positive rapid test have a specimen sent for western blot confirmatory testing
 - All detainees with any preliminary positive rapid HIV test meet with the RIDOC clinical HIV nurse for counseling
 - Negative results not routinely delivered but detainees can access results

Rapid HIV Pilot Testing Algorithm



Results to date

Testing Week	# Detainees Tested	# Detainees Not Tested*
Week 1	30	1
Week 2	32	3
Week 3	27	2
Week 4	17	1
Week 5	31	3
Week 6	24	4
Week 7	21	0
Week 8	18	1
Totals	200	15 (7% of detainees)
Median # detainees tested per session		26
Projected number of detainees tested during 6 month pilot program (estimated 30 testing sessions)		780

*Released prior to testing on bail or home confinement

Results to date

- Of the 200 detainees tested to date, there were **3 preliminary positive** rapid tests
 - All 3 were subsequently identified as chronic infections that were not disclosed at time of testing
 - One individual had never been in HIV care
 - All three were referred for linkage and referral services through **COMPASS**, a demonstration program of "Enhancing Linkages to Primary HIV Care in Jail Settings"; funded through a HRSA Special Project of National Significance

Discussion

- Rapid HIV testing appears to be feasible upon intake at the RIDOC jail
- Rapid testing has been easily integrated into the intake process and has been well accepted by the RIDOC staff
- Further work during the pilot program will include:
 - Cost analysis study** comparing the costs of a routine rapid HIV testing program upon jail intake compared to a routine standard HIV testing program
 - A qualitative study** exploring the HIV testing experiences of jail detainees
 - Expansion of the rapid testing pilot to the Women's Facility of the RIDOC
 - Development of improved systems for HIV test result delivery and HIV counseling for at-risk detainees

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