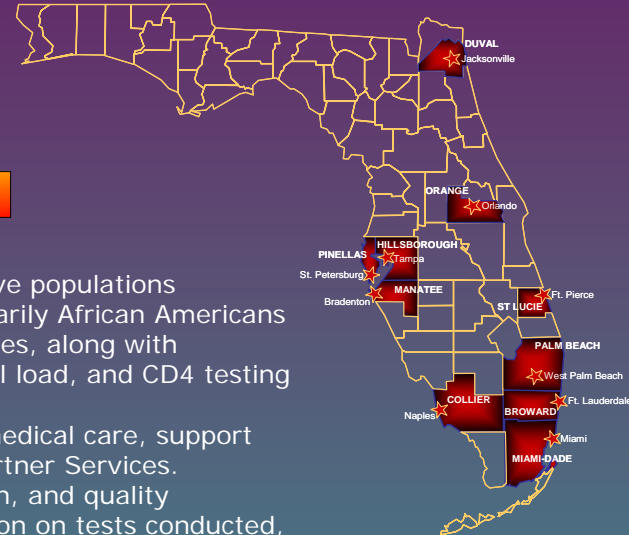


## Objectives

The African American Testing Initiative (AATI) focuses on reaching HIV-infected persons, primarily blacks who are unaware of their infection, through the expansion of HIV testing in medical settings. These are primarily in:

- hospital emergency rooms (ER)
- community health centers
- correctional settings
- specialty clinics
- non-medical community testing centers

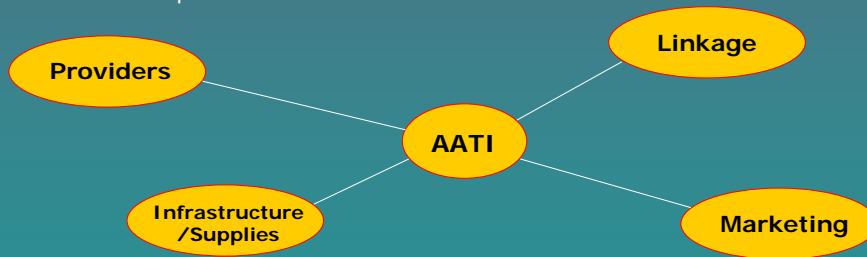


## Methods

The Florida Department of Health (DOH):

- partners with providers most likely to serve populations disproportionately affected by HIV – primarily African Americans
- provides infrastructure support and supplies, along with laboratory support for hepatitis, STD, viral load, and CD4 testing for participating sites.
- links persons testing positive for HIV to medical care, support and prevention services, and HIV/STD Partner Services.
- develops strong data collection, evaluation, and quality assurance systems that capture information on tests conducted, new infections, receipt of test results, linkage to care, and demographics of those tested.

Our initiative also includes a social marketing component that includes radio, posters, public relations, and outdoor advertising targeting populations likely to access services at our AATI provider locations.



## Successes

- Greater acceptance of routine HIV testing within hospital ERs
- Increase in number of African Americans aware of their HIV status
- Collaboration between public and private sector health agencies
- Raised awareness among African American communities
- Linked nearly 700 newly identified HIV-positive individuals into care
- Increased collaboration among public health services within communities in need

## Challenges

- Hospital staffing
- Buy-in from key stakeholders
- Restrictions on when a rapid HIV test could be offered in the ER (liability issues)
- Training
- Adopting the culture of rapid HIV testing in private clinical settings
- Culture shift for DOH staff of testing in the private sector versus testing in the public sector.
- Funding limitations

### Officials urge routine HIV testing for all

By Mike Stobbe  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

#### Routine HIV testing recommended

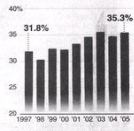
ATLANTA — Federal health officials Thursday recommended regular, routine testing for the AIDS virus for all Americans ages 13 to 64, saying an HIV test should be as common as a cholesterol check.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines are aimed at preventing the further spread of the disease and getting needed care for an estimated 250,000 Americans who don't yet know they have it.

"We simply must improve early diagnosis," said CDC Director Dr. Julie Gerberding. "Nearly half of new HIV infections are discovered when doctors are trying to diagnose a patient who already has grown sick with an HIV-related illness," CDC officials said.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is recommending routine HIV testing for all Americans ages 13 to 64.

Percentage of adults 18 and older who have ever been tested for HIV ...



... and breakdown by age and gender of those tested by 2005

## Results

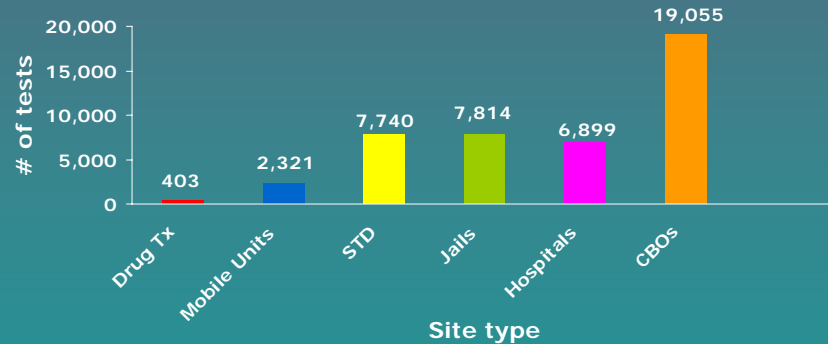
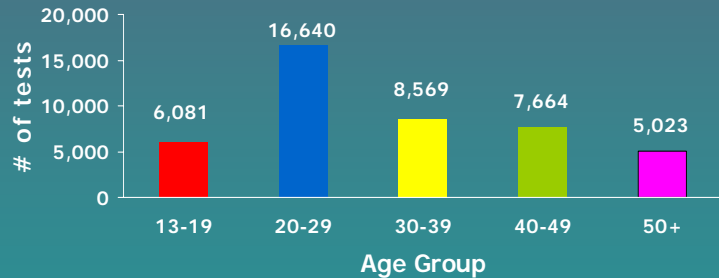
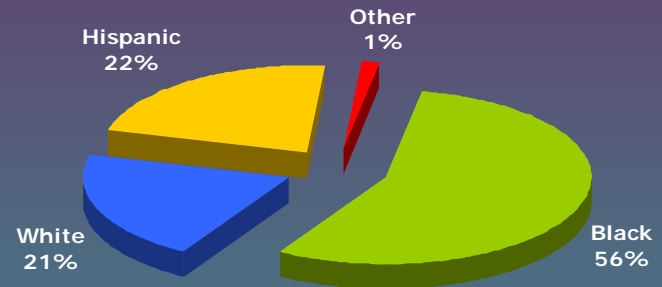
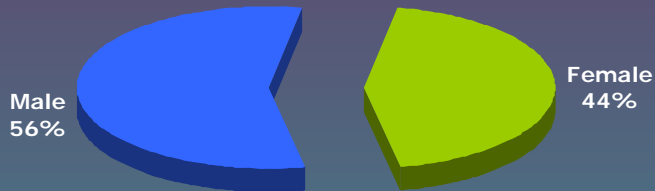
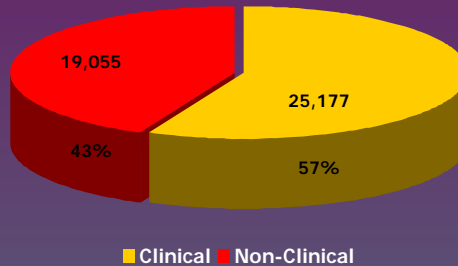
**Total Tests: 44,232**  
**Positives: 1,052 (2.4%)**  
 Period: 10/01/2007 - 07/31/2008

### Non-Clinical Sites

- 8 community-based organizations (with a historical positivity rate of 2% or greater).

### Clinical Sites

- 9 major hospitals
- 3 community health centers
- 10 STD clinics
- 10 correctional facilities



## Conclusion

In the first project year, Florida successfully:

- Implemented rapid HIV testing in a variety of clinical settings
- Expanded rapid HIV testing in non-clinical settings
- Proved that expanded HIV testing opportunities, especially in medical settings, is achievable, productive, and beneficial.



# Expanded HIV Testing in Medical Settings in Florida: Challenges and Successes

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