

## Objectives

In the wake of Hurricane Katrina, New Orleans saw an enormous influx of undocumented, Latino workers who have helped with recovery efforts. In reaction to this new population, the NO/AIDS Task Force has collaborated with other agencies to provide HIV services, including HIV Testing using a mobile medical unit, *The CareVan*



- In the Metro New Orleans Area in 2004, Latinos made up 2% of new HIV diagnoses
- Post Katrina, in 2007, Latinos contributed to 9% of new HIV diagnoses in the New Orleans Metro Area



# Testing Latinos in New Orleans Using a Mobile Medical Unit

## Methods

### *The CareVan*

- Mobile Medical Unit donated by Elizabeth Taylor AIDS Foundation after Hurricane Katrina
- Two comprehensive exam rooms
- Has been approved as its own site for testing (no pre-approval of new locations necessary)



### *Collaboration:*

The NO/AIDS Task force provides HIV screening and helps clients access HIV care, while other agencies offer additional services including:

- Blood Pressure Check
- Glucose/Diabetes Screening
- Examination of minor wounds and injuries by M.D.
- Distribution of Health Kits (wash-cloth, soap, razor, tooth brush and paste etc)

These additional services and kits are often seen as incentives for HIV and other routine health screenings



## Results

Since receiving the CareVan and funding for a full time driver/maintenance-person, the NO/AIDS Task Force has provided HIV testing to over 500 Latinos throughout the greater New Orleans Area. While the number of confirmed positives to date is low, this program has created valuable links and built strong relationships with an at-risk community that can be challenging to access.

In recent months, NO/AIDS has identified:

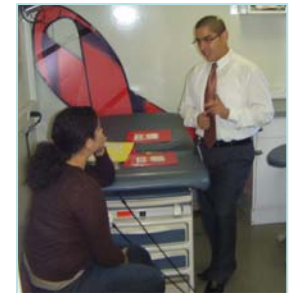
- 3 newly diagnosed undocumented, Latino males
- 2 newly diagnosed undocumented, Latino females

### *Challenges:*

- Establishing trust and rapport within the community and ensuring deportation will not result from HIV testing
- Documentation: HIV infected clients who are undocumented may encounter barriers when accessing HIV care (the agency works with clients to surmount these barriers)
- Priorities may not put an emphasis on HIV care in this population
- Cultural Paradigms exist: *Machismo*, gender inequality, etc.

## Conclusions

By creating a chain of cultural competency—working with Latino outreach workers, providing testing in the community, having bilingual HIV testing staff and links to bilingual medical care and supportive services—it is possible to implement an effective program to bring Latinos, both legal and undocumented, into care.



Outreach Worker informs client of services

Client Accesses Medical Care

Medical Professional Recommends HIV and Other Screenings

Client gets HIV Test with NO/AIDS

Clients Receive HIV+ Result and referred to NO/AIDS for Care

Clients receive HV- Result. Referred to retest or other preventive services



Jean Redmann  
Allison Vertovec  
NO/AIDS Task Force,  
New Orleans Louisiana