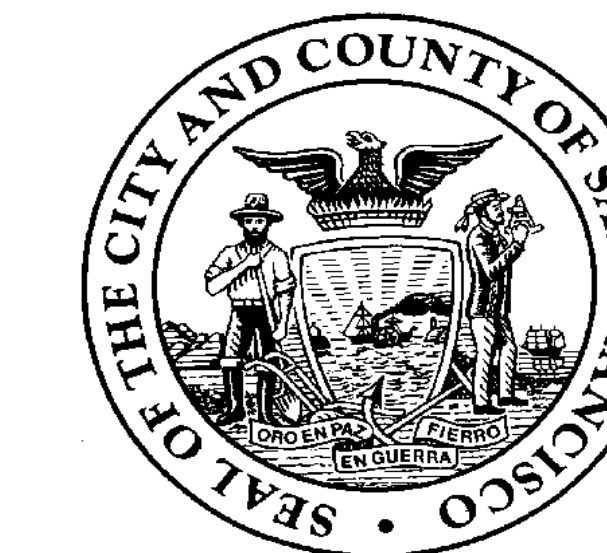




# Expanding HIV Testing in the San Francisco Jails - 2008



J Yuan, I Gonzalez, K Monico Klein, T Dowling, M Estes, J Goldensen, and JD Klausner  
San Francisco Department of Public Health, San Francisco, CA

## Background

- HIV epidemic in the United States disproportionately affects the poor and minority populations overrepresented in jails and prisons.
- ~25% of people living with HIV in the United States pass through the correctional system each year
- Jails and prisons are uniquely positioned to identify people at risk for HIV infection who may not know their status, test them and connect them to care.

## Objectives

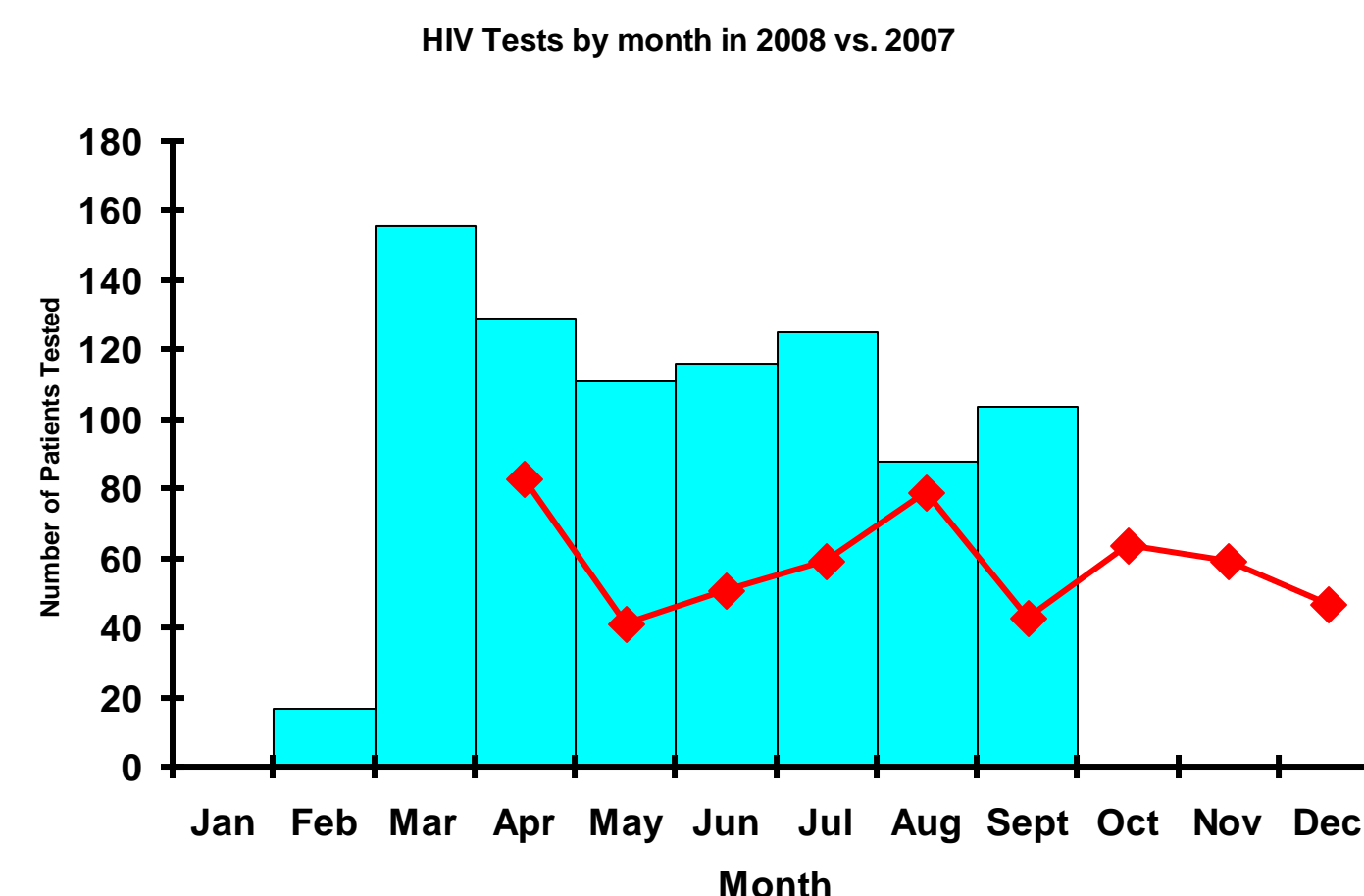
- Expand HIV testing in the San Francisco county jail facilities
- Improve uptake through continuous quality improvement

## Methods

- Established a voluntary clinic-based screening program
  - 2 San Francisco County Jail facilities
  - All patients presenting to clinical services
  - Routinely offered HIV testing
  - Testing via OraSure® HIV-1 Oral Specimen Collection Device
- Offered testing to all inmates requesting testing
- Used Palm-IT technology to gather information including
  - Ethnicity
  - Sexual risk behaviors
  - Injection drug use
- Eligible patient = a patient not known to be HIV positive who has not been tested within the last six months
- Staff met monthly to review and discuss testing data, to determine program penetration, and to identify measures to increase testing acceptance
- Record review and focus groups with inmates to help guide outreach strategies

## Results

### HIV Testing



- From Mar - Sept 2008, we tested 846 patients
- Monthly, doubled the number of HIV tests compared with 2007
- 82% of eligible patients agreed to test
- Identified 3 (0.3%) patients with previously unrecognized HIV infection and all were linked to comprehensive care

### Patient Characteristics

- Of patients tested between April and September (n=673), 84% identified as heterosexual, 5% identified as homosexual, and 1% as transgender
- 27% had injected drugs
- Race/Ethnicity –

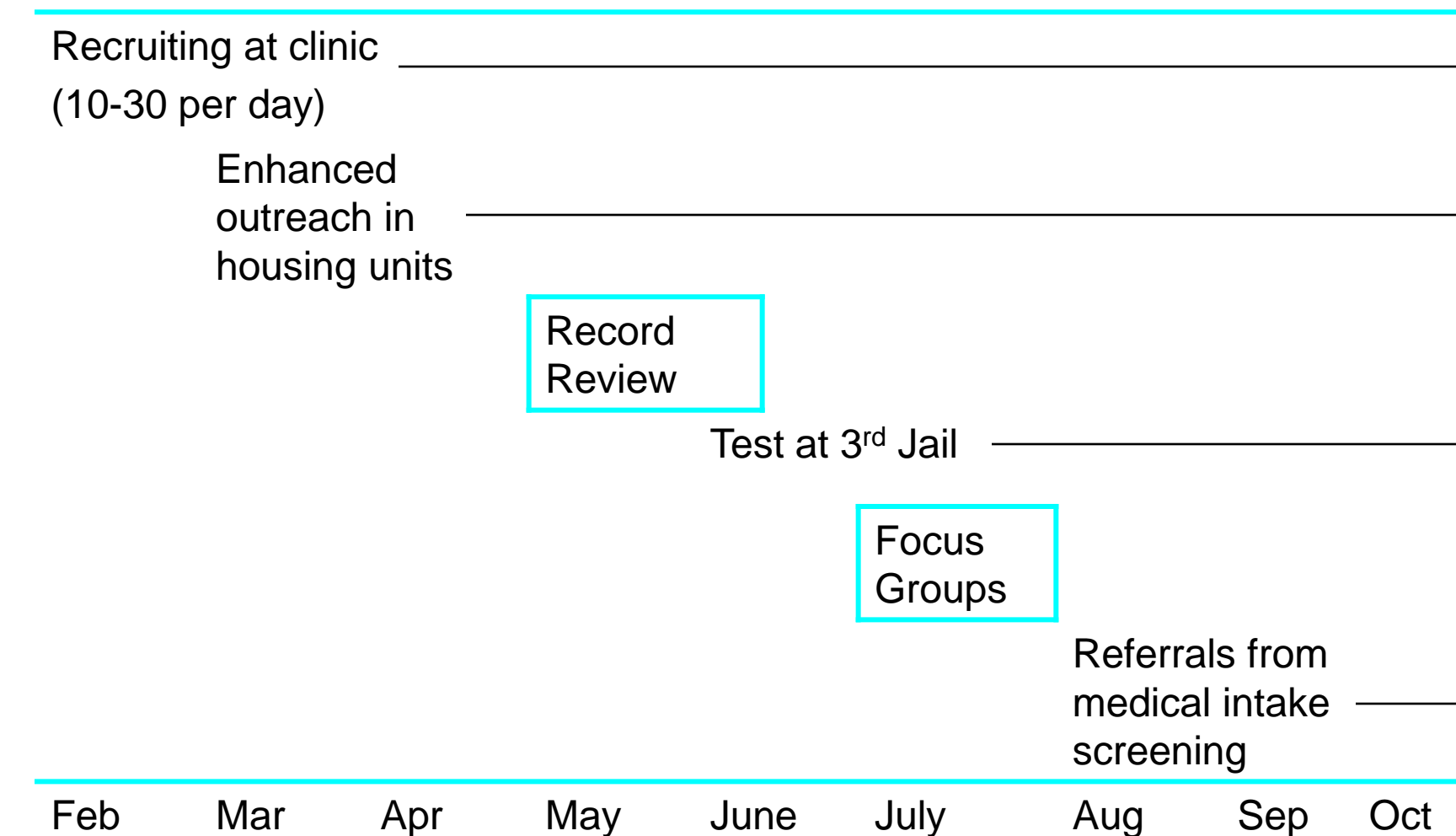
	n (%)
African-American	306 (54)
White	121 (21)
Latino	97 (17)
Asian	16 (2)
Native American	11 (2)
Pacific Islander	9 (2)
Other	23 (4)

### Case Summaries

	Age	Race	Sexual risk behavior	IDU	Last test (yrs)	PMH	Partners notified	Linked to care
<b>A</b>	23	AA	MSM	No	2	---	Yes	Yes
<b>B</b>	55	AA	MSW	Yes	3	Hep C, homeless	Yes	Yes
<b>C</b>	53	Latino	MSW	Yes	10	Hep C, homeless	No	Yes

### Program Evaluation and Modification

- Responded to monthly data evaluation with project improvements aiming to reach a greater segment of the jail population



- Within 2 mo of start of program, 25% more of the patients approached at the clinic had been recently tested
- Used record review to determine that, on a given day, the HIV status known for only ~ 30% of population
  - Decrease in eligible patients approached not because program had already reached majority of population

### Program Evaluation and Modification (cont.)

- Focus group findings supported consistent enhanced outreach and education at the targeted jail facilities
- To access greater jail population, enhanced outreach, expanded to 3rd jail facility, and added routine question to intake screening
- Social marketing to further increase awareness in the jail of HIV and HIV testing methods including stickers, pamphlets, pens and folders

## Conclusions

- An enhanced voluntary clinic-based screening program successfully increased HIV testing in the San Francisco County Jail. However, screening those who seek clinical services may not provide access to the majority of the jail population.
- Palm-IT technology and rapid and routine data evaluation allowed for timely adjustment of the program to reach a broader segment of the population.
- Future programs should consider using continuous quality improvement methods to guide program development.

## Acknowledgements

Thank you to Anja Bircher, Caycee Cullen, Sylvia Guatemala, Noah Carraher, and San Francisco Jail medical and custody staff. This work was supported by Gilead grant #3122.