

## objective

Demand for sexual health services at Magnet continues to exceed capacity. In 2010, Magnet provided 4,174 HIV antibody tests and still was unable to accommodate an estimated 2,000 additional clients. Changes within San Francisco Department of Public Health (SFDPH) in 2011 allowed for Magnet to dramatically increase capacity. Counseling is no longer required. SFDPH now recommends that all HIV-negative MSM men test for HIV twice annually regardless of risk behavior. This shift underscored Magnet's need to increase capacity.

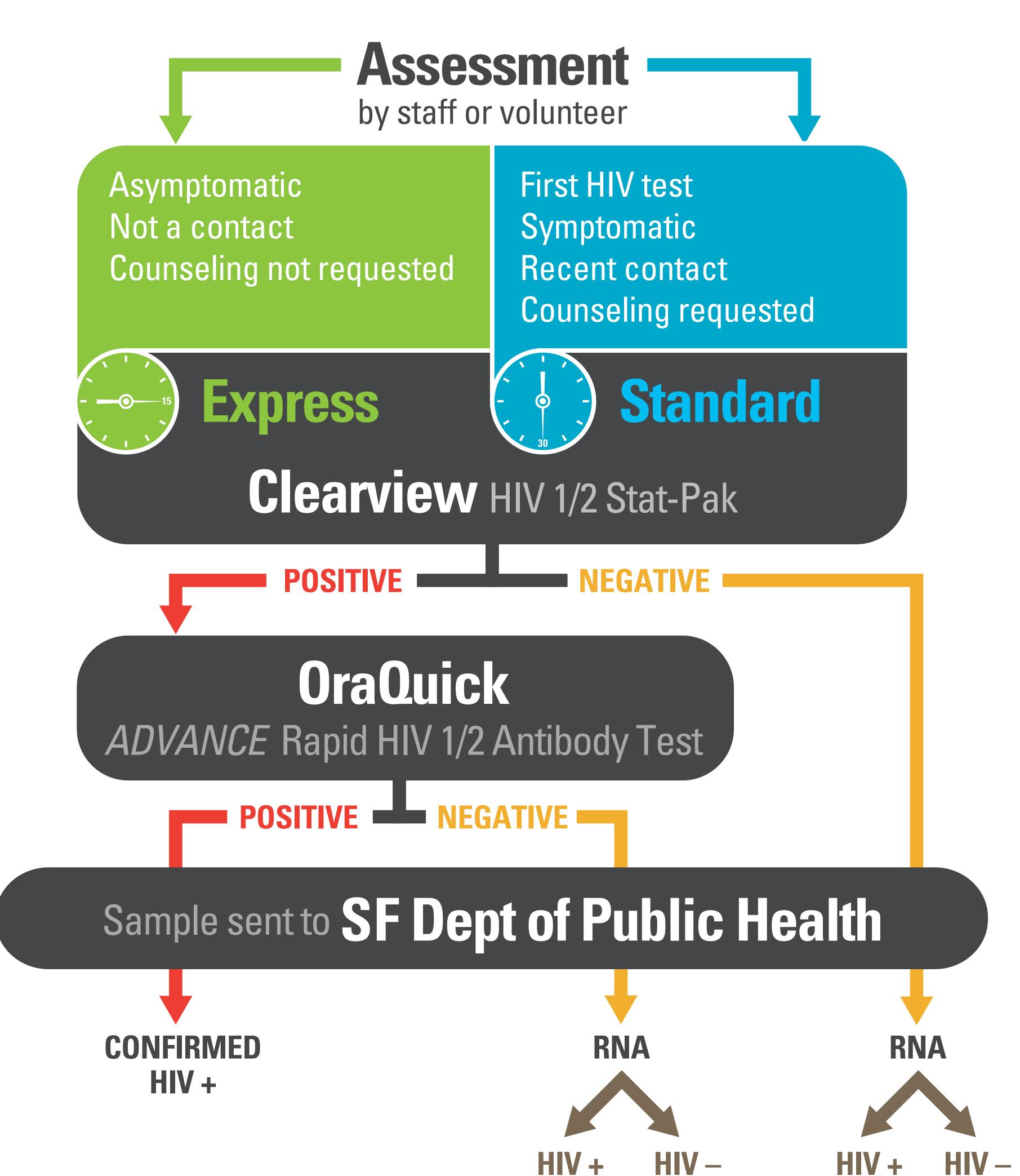
# methods

In August 2011, Magnet launched a model by which clients are triaged into either express (15-minute) or standard (30-minute) appointments. Clients are assigned to a standard session if: 1) client requests counseling, 2) client is a contact to an STI within the past 60 days, or 3) client is experiencing symptoms indicative of an STI. Others are assigned into express appointments. Magnet employs a rapid test algorithm (RTA) allowing for same-day verifications and immediate initiation of partner services and linkage to care. The Clearview HIV 1/2 Stat-Pak is the first screening tool utilized. If reactive, a second test (OraQuick ADVANCE Rapid HIV 1/2 Antibody Test) is run. If both tests are reactive, the client is informed of the positive test result. Confirmatory samples are sent to SFDPH laboratory.

# Scaling Up Community-based HIV Antibody and RNA Testing among Gay Men in San Francisco

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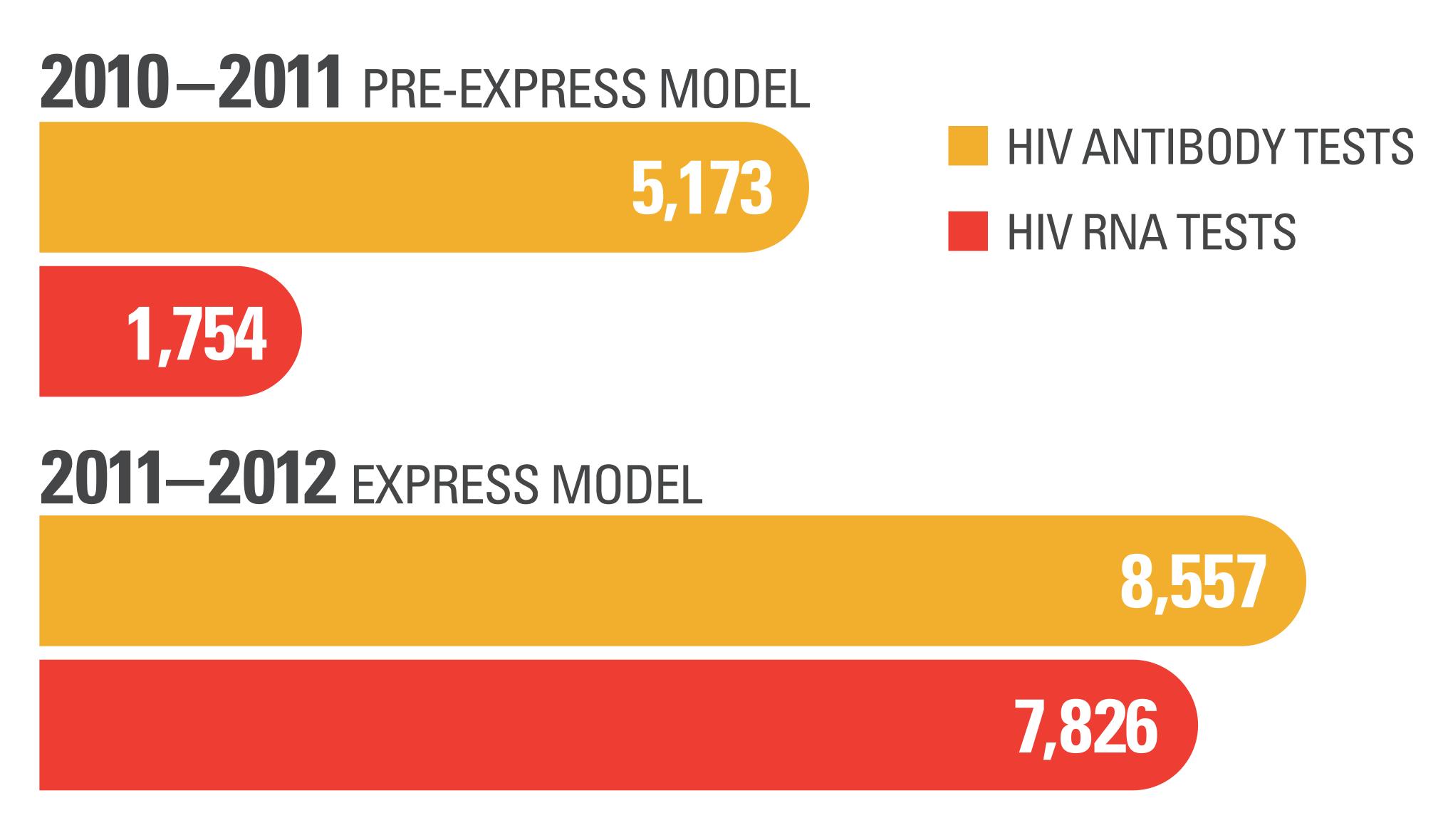
Previously, RNA tests were only conducted on men who had UAI within the previous 90-days. Now, screening for HIV RNA is conducted on all MSM testing HIV antibody negative at the current visit. Blood specimens for RNA screening are sent to the SFDPH laboratory.



- When HIV RNA is detected in
- a specimen, SFDPH notifies Magnet, and the corresponding client is contacted and scheduled for an in-person appointment. At the time of
- disclosure, linkage to care and partner services are initiated; and a confirmatory specimen is collected and sent to SFDPH.

### results

From August 2010 - July 2011, prior to the express model, a total of 5,173 HIV antibody tests were provided with 88 (1.7%) new HIV infections diagnosed. 1,754 HIV RNA tests were conducted with 10 acute infections detected. From August 2011 - July2012, after the implementation of express testing, 8,557 HIV tests were conducted with 103 (1.2%) new antibody diagnoses. RNA testing saw the greatest increase with 7,826 tests conducted and 19 acute infections detected.



## conclusions

Streamlined approaches to offering HIV testing in a community setting can dramatically increase uptake of HIV testing among gay men and lead to an increase in HIV diagnoses, including acute infections.





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