

Extent of Hepatitis C and HIV Testing & Linkage to Care Services among Substance Use Treatment Programs in New York City

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Background: HIV and Hepatitis C Testing at Substance Use Treatment Programs

■ Testing at Substance Use Treatment Programs

- An opportunity to screen persons at-risk for HIV and hepatitis C and connect them to care.
- On-site testing leads more treatment clients to receive their results (Metsch et al. 2012).
- In New York City, and U.S., declining HIV diagnosis among injection drug users but increased concern with sexual risk for various types of substance users.

■ Policy context: New York State Law

- (1) HIV testing must be routinely offered in primary medical care settings, including substance use treatment programs that offer medical services
- (2) Methadone maintenance treatment programs must offer hepatitis C testing

Study Purpose and Objectives

■ Purpose

To assess the extent of hepatitis C screening and HIV testing and linkage to care services at substance use treatment programs in NYC

■ Objectives

1. Determine patterns of HIV and hepatitis C prevention, testing and care services at substance abuse treatment programs.
2. Inform an effort by NYC Department of Health and established treatment providers to expand and improve these services.

Methods

- **Study Design:** Online survey of treatment programs licensed by New York State Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS).
- **Eligibility:** 395 OASAS-certified treatment programs in NYC.
- **Sample Size:** 154 responses provided data for 225 licensed programs.
- **Response Rate:** 225/395 eligible programs = 57%
- **Analysis:** Univariate and Bivariate

Extent of HIV and Hepatitis C Services

Rates of On-Site Testing & Aspects of Linkage to Care	N = 154	
	%	(n)
On-site HIV Testing	49%	(76)
On-site Confirmatory HIV Testing*	58%	(44)
Established Method for HIV Linkage to Care	80%	(123)
Staff Experienced in HIV Linkage to Care	91%	(140)
On-site Hepatitis C Testing	42%	(65)

*Among 76 programs offering on-site HIV testing

Relative Likelihood of On-Site Testing by Program Characteristics

Program Characteristics	N	On-Site HIV Testing			On-Site Hep C Testing		
		%	(n)	p-value	%	(n)	p-value
# of Clients Served							
Up to 250	56	14%	(25)	.0001	18%	(10)	.0001
251 and more	98	62%	(63)		56%	(55)	
Affiliation							
Hospital/health center	35	83%	(29)	<.0001	80%	(28)	<.0001
Independent/CBO	119	40%	(47)		31%	(37)	
# of Treatment Programs							
Multiple (2-4)	47	72%	(34)	<.0001	74%	(35)	<.0001
Only 1	107	39%	(42)		28%	(30)	
Treatment Type at Agencies with 1 Program							
Only Outpatient (ref)	72	25%	(18)		15%	(11)	
Only Inpatient	11	36%	(4)	.65	0%	(0)	.99
Only Methadone	18	89%	(16)	<.0001	72%	(13)	.001
Only Detox	6	67%	(4)	.16	67%	(4)	.10
Hepatitis C Testing at Programs with or without Methadone Maintenance							
MMTP	45				78%	(35)	<.0001
No MMTP	109				27%	(29)	

Conclusions

- **In 2011, about half of NYC substance abuse treatment facilities offered on-site HIV testing.**
 - This is higher than the national rate of 30% (SAMHSA 2010).
- **58% of agencies offering on-site testing provided on-site confirmatory HIV testing.**
- **Accessible HIV and hep C testing is less available at:**
 - Smaller programs
 - Independent programs and those affiliated with CBOs
 - Agencies that offer only outpatient treatment
- **On-site hepatitis C testing offered by few programs beyond those providing methadone maintenance.**

Discussion

- **This study provides a baseline assessment of hepatitis C and HIV testing and HIV linkage to care at NYC substance use treatment programs.**
- **Results will guide NYC Department of Health efforts to expand on-site testing and refine linkage to care at treatment programs.**

Limitations

- Respondents may not be representative of all treatment programs (57% response rate).
- Survey did not assess hepatitis C linkage to care services.
- Limited to bivariate analysis.

References

1. Metsch LR et al. 2012. Implementing Rapid HIV Testing With or Without Risk-Reduction Counseling in Drug Treatment Centers: Results of a Randomized Trial. *Am J Public Health, 102: 1160-7.*
2. Pollack HA & D'Aunno T. 2010. HIV Testing and Counseling in the Nation's Outpatient Substance Abuse Treatment System, 1995–2005. *J Sub Abuse Treatment, 38: 307-316.*
3. Substance and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). 2010. The N-SSATS Report: Infectious Disease Screening. Rockville, Maryland.

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