

SUSTAINING VITAL LINKAGES BETWEEN COMMUNITY AND CLINICAL SETTINGS FOR MSM

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OBJECTIVES

The MALE Center is a storefront HIV prevention program serving gay, bisexual and other MSM in Boston's South End, a neighborhood that has the city's highest rates of HIV, syphilis, and Hepatitis B infections.



The program is designed to increase testing among MSM by making it accessible in a community setting, ensuring connection to care and treatment for those infected, and engaging those at risk in services that can help prevent new HIV infections.

METHODS



Create an easily accessible environment for MSM to get tested and connected to care

Offer extended hours of STI & viral hepatitis screening and vaccination through community partnerships

Immediate on-site linkages to mental health counseling; including flexible meeting times and clinicians specializing in gay and bisexual men's health

Create a community support network for high risk MSM who are not consistently engaged in the health care system

RESULTS



The MALE Center has the **highest** seroincidence of all Massachusetts Department of Public Health-funded community based and clinical providers.

1,740 MSM have been tested for HIV at AIDS Action between 2010-2012.

90% of the men confirmed positive between 2010-2012 were linked to care and attended their first appointment **within 3 months**.

436 HIV positive MSM have been linked to case management and support services at AIDS Action.

95% of those men have been linked to HIV-related care.

CONCLUSION

Massachusetts has reduced new HIV infections by 54% in the last 10 years, saving \$2B in projected health care costs through these combined strategies:

1. Access to care and treatment.
2. A robust community-based support service network
3. Evidence-based behavioral interventions and programs

- The MALE Center implements these strategies by offering easily accessible testing and strong linkages to clinical care.
- These on-site support services are designed to increase the well-being of our clients and reduce risky behaviors.