

# Sustaining Vital Linkages Between Community and Clinical Settings for MSM

## OBJECTIVE

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

The program is designed to increase testing among MSM by making it easily 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 infections.



## METHODS

Core strategies currently being implemented at the MALE Center include:

- 1 Create an easily accessible environment for MSM to get tested and connected to care.
- 2 Offer extended hours of STI & viral hepatitis screening and vaccination through community partnerships.
- 3 Immediate on-site linkages to mental health counseling; including flexible meeting times and clinicians specializing in gay and bisexual men's health.
- 4 Create a community support network for high risk MSM who are not consistently engaged in the health care system.

## 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:

Access to care and treatment

A robust community based support service network

Evidence based behavioral intervention 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.

## RESULTS

The MALE Center has the **highest seroincidence rate** of all MA Dept. 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 health care.

