

# ROUTINE HIV TESTING AND LINKAGE TO CARE SERVICES OFFERED AT PUBLIC AID OFFICES CAN HELP IDENTIFY UNDIAGNOSED HIV INFECTIONS AND FACILITATE LINKAGE TO HIV CARE IN URBAN HIGH RISK MINORITY COMMUNITIES

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Tomas Soto, Ph.D. MPH  
Cynthia Tucker, M.A.  
Michael Rivers, M.A.

**2012 NATIONAL SUMMIT ON HIV AND VIRAL HEPATITIS  
DIAGNOSIS, PREVENTION AND ACCESS TO CARE**

Washington, DC.  
November 2012



AIDS  
FOUNDATION  
OF CHICAGO

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# Project development

- Underlying Assumption: Selecting high risk neighborhoods would increase seropositivity rates
- Underlying Assumption: Non-clinical setting may reach different target group than clinical setting
- Worked with Chicago Department of Public Health to identify high risk neighborhoods

## Bridge Project

Top South Side Community areas: all numbers are as of 6-30-2010 with HIV rates as of 7-23-10 --- Rates (per 100,000)

Ranking	Community Area	Average # of HIV cases per year	Infection Rate (per 100,000)	Gonorrhea Cases	Infection Rate	Chlamydia Cases	Infection Rate	Syphilis Cases	Infection Rate	Poverty Rate	Crime Rate
1.	West Englewood	30	74.2	333	823.9	777	1922.4	12	29.7	50%	14,000 - 21,000
2.	South Shore	34	55.3	341	554.2	820	1,332.6	14	22.8	0-19%	11,000 - 14,000
3.	Auburn Gresham	28	52.5	316	592.0	759	1,422.0	11	20.6	0-19%	14,000 - 21,000
4.	Englewood	22	59.9	307	836.4	734	1,999.8	12	32.7	50%	14,000 - 21,000
5.	Chatham	22	61.0	193	535.4	437	1,212.3	5	13.9	0-19%	5,700 - 11,000
6.	Woodlawn	18	69.1	189	725.3	419	1,607.9	16	61.4	30-39%	14,000 - 21,000
7.	Avalon Park	8	73.9	70	647.0	117	1,081.3	-	-	0-19%	14,000 - 21,000
8.	Washington Park	10	77.2	120	926.5	271	2,092.3	-	-	40-49%	5,700 - 11,000
9.	Roseland	21	43.4	277	572.3	630	1,301.6	10	20.7	0-19%	14,000 - 21,000
10.	Grand Blvd.	21	81.5	165	640.6	401	1,556.7	-	-	30-39%	14,000 - 21,000

# HIV services data (5/11 – 9/12)

- 6,720 HIV screenings were administered across 3 public aid offices

<b>AGENCY</b>	<b># of TESTING DAYS</b>	<b># of TESTS</b>	<b>TESTS/DAY</b>
M.A.D.E. (Zone 1)	135	3,056	22.6
Beyond Care* (Zone 2)	76	1,482	19.5
Brothers Health Collective (Zone 3)	119	2,182	18.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>330</b>	<b>6,720</b>	<b>20.4</b>

# Screening demographics

- 63.5% female
- Average age: 34 (SD  $\pm$ 12.8)
- 86% African American; 11% Hispanic; 3% White; 1% other
- 45.7% were first time testers
  - Of previous tester, 47.4% had not tested within last year



# HIV+ clients

- 38 individuals screened positive (seropositivity rate: **0.57%**)
  - 35 African American (24 males & 11 females)
  - 2 Hispanic females; 1 Hispanic male
- Confirmatory HIV tests conducted on 63.2% (23/38)
  - 10 report being first time testers
  - 7 report testing negative in the past
  - 3 report previous HIV+ test result
  - 3 missing data
- 55.2% (21/38) were successfully linked to HIV care\*

\* defined as kept first medical appointment

# Lessons learned

- Offering HIV testing services at public aid offices is feasible
- Non-clinical settings located in high-risk neighborhoods will reach high risk target groups & first time testers
- Factors impacting implementation & testing acceptance rate:
  - Administrative & front-line staff buy-in
  - Public aid office layout
  - Day of the week testing offered
  - Recruitment style
  - Waiting time

# Lesson learned

- It is important to develop a streamlined & piloted processes for conducting HIV confirmatory tests & offering linkage to care services
- HIV testers can served as a source of “re-linkage to care” for clients who are already HIV positive



# Limitations

- Limited HIV refusal data
- Data on first time testers based on self-report (not confirmed)
- New positives not yet confirmed by city surveillance