

INCORPORATION OF HIV TESTING INTO ROUTINE HEALTHCARE

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Abstract

In an effort to deliver on our mission to provide high quality comprehensive healthcare, and in accordance with the 2006 recommendations issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), we (Central Care) have implemented routine HIV testing as part of our comprehensive healthcare plan. These tests are voluntary and recommended for all patients between 13-64 years of age. The tests are fast, simple, and confidential, and are no charge as part of the regular medical care.

Objectives

- To foster earlier detection of HIV Infection
- To Identify and Counsel Persons with unrecognized HIV Infections, and link them to clinical and prevention services
- To increase HIV Screening of patients, including pregnant women, in all healthcare settings
- To further reduce perinatal transmission of HIV transmissions in the United States

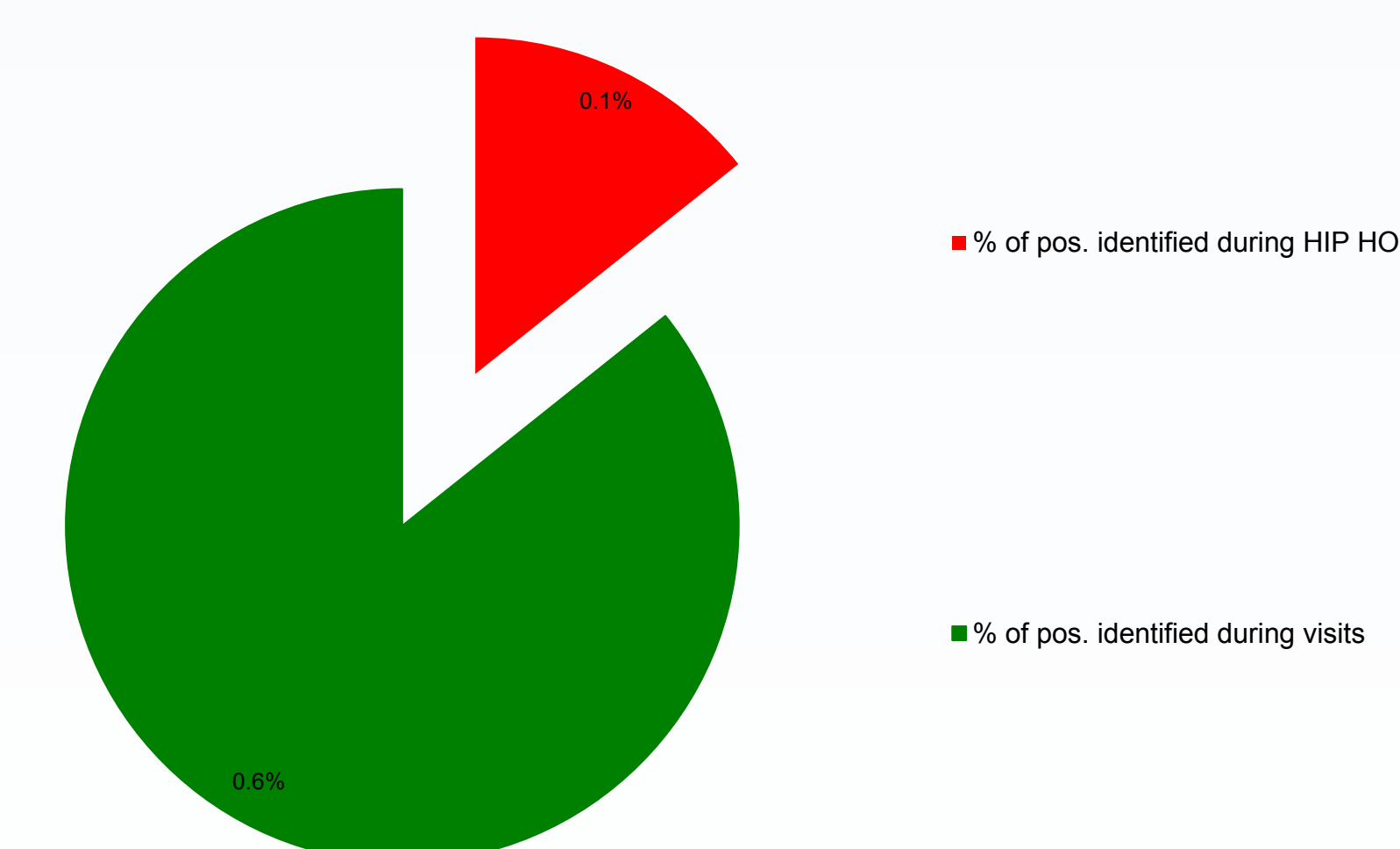
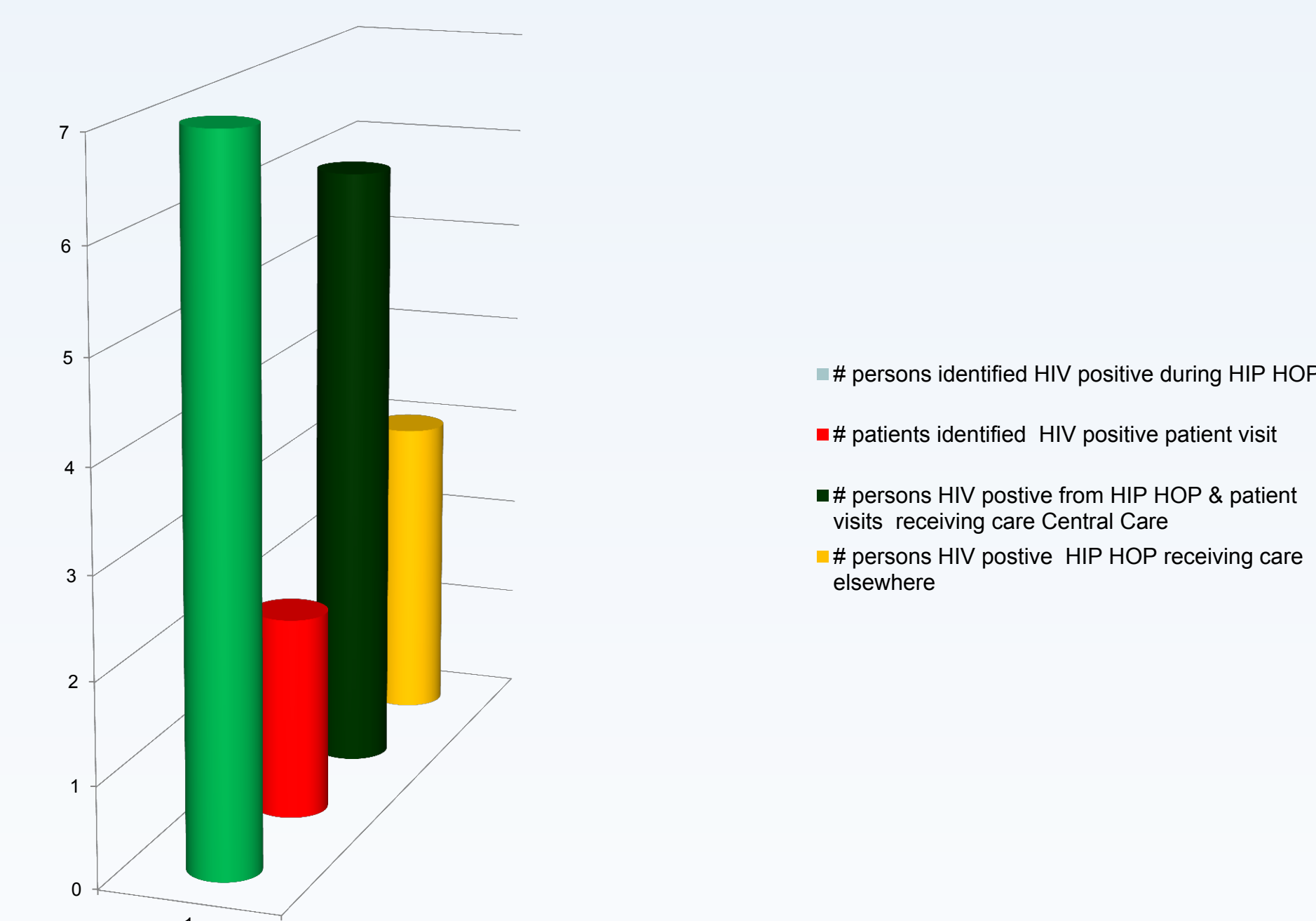
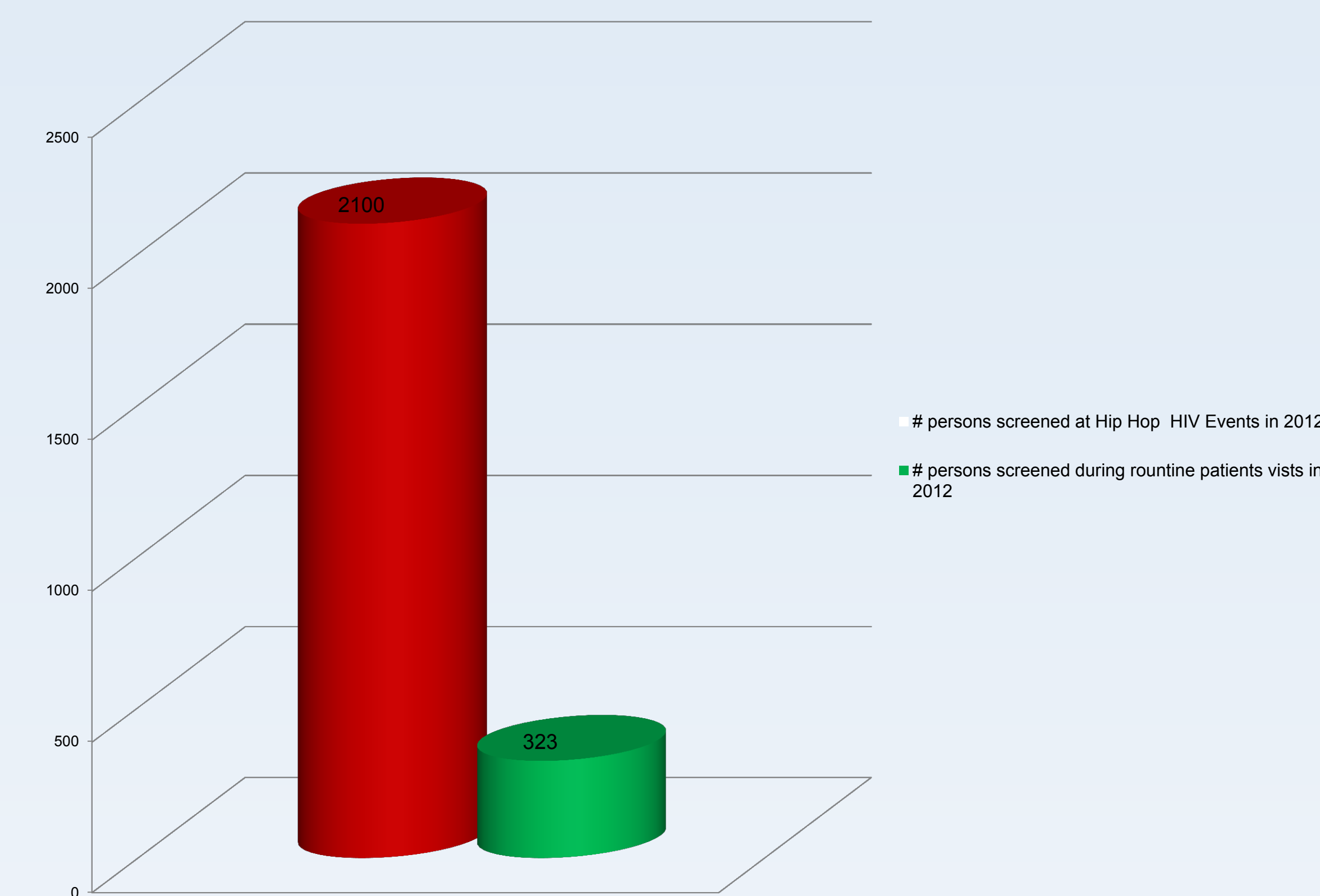
Methods

- HIP/HOP for HIV Screening Event(s)
- Incorporation of Rapid HIV Screens for all patients ages 13-64 as part of routine healthcare
- In-house Dental Department performs HIV screenings on all new patients and those receiving their 6 month checkups

Results

- 2100 Individuals were screened at the HIP-HOP for HIV Testing Events during 2012
- 7 Individuals were identified as positive during these Testing Events
- 4 of the identified HIV positive individuals are currently being treated at Central Care
- 3 of the individuals identified as being HIV positive during the HIP-HOP for HIV testing event are being treated elsewhere.
- 323 patients were screened during routine visits at Central Care during the year of 2012
- 2 patients were identified as HIV positive as a result of routine screenings at Central Care thus far in 2012

Graphics



Conclusion

Routine HIV and STD screenings not only provide the opportunity to educate patients about transmission of HIV and STD's, but also allow people who are infected to receive care and services. Research shows that individuals who are aware of their HIV status are more likely to modify their behavior and take precautions to protect their health and to avoid infecting others. Yet it is also known that the behavioral changes are not always maintained and that some people continue in risky behavior. Given these realities, it is clear that widespread use of HIV screening coupled with post test counseling and treatment offer real potential for reducing the spread of HIV. Central Care Community Health Center plays a critical role in advancing these efforts. We believe that routine rapid HIV tests facilitates the integration of testing into the primary care visit. This is an important benefit for the patients we serve.

Central Care plans to increase its scope of care by increasing the efficiency in the identification of HIV, and in the management of the identified patient's care

References

- Centers for Disease Control (CDC)
- Texas Association for Community Health Centers (TACHC)
- National Association for Community Health Centers (NACHC)