

# ROUTINE 'OPT OUT' HIV SCREENING IN THE EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT AT THE U.S.-MEXICO BORDER



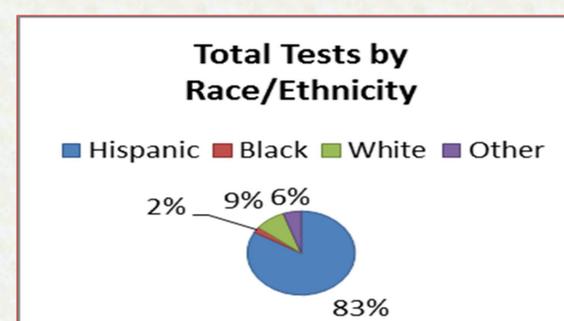
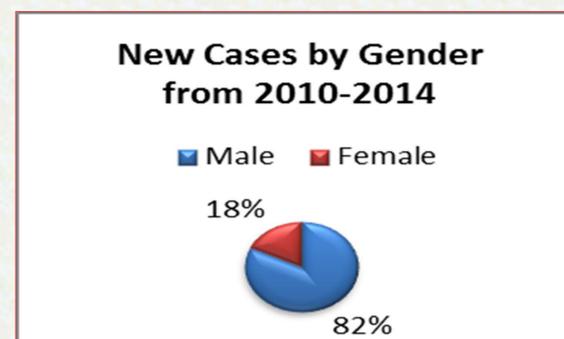
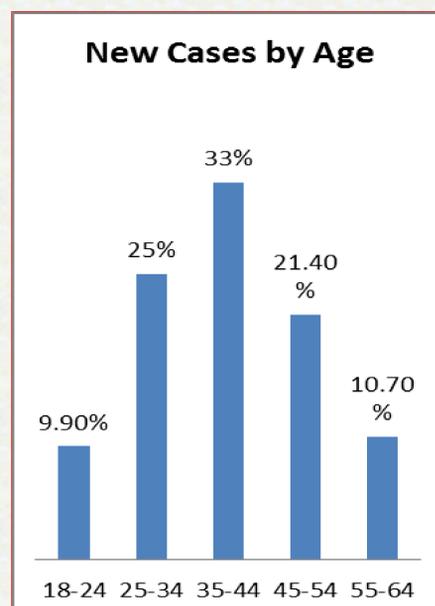
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## INTRODUCTION

### Background

- The U.S. Centers for Disease and Control and Prevention has recommended routine 'opt out' HIV testing in all healthcare settings since September 2006.
- In 2010 the Texas Department of Health and Human Services funded an HIV Opt-Out screening program in El Paso, Texas with the collaboration of University Medical Center of El Paso (UMCEP) and Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center.
- The HIV population at risk varies greatly in a community and university hospital settings, creating challenges and barriers to providing equal access to health-care services; in particular universal screening for HIV.

## METHODS



Patients having blood drawn as part of their workup (45% ED cases) are screened. On-call counselors are immediately paged by UMCEP lab 24/7 for positive patients. Patients with positive results are counseled after screening and referred to one of two HIV treatment clinics after receiving a confirmatory Western Blot. HIV positives are called at 1, 2, and 3 months to assure linkage to care.

## RESULTS

- 55,998** HIV Screening Tests performed between April 1, 2010 through June, 30 2014.
- Averaging > 1,100 tests per month.
- 124 new positives and 260 previous positives.
- 90% positives are confirmed linked to care.
- Total tests by race/ethnicity: Hispanic 83.3%, Black 2.1%, White 9.2 and other 5.4%.
- Total male new HIV + 82.1% and previous positives 82.7%.
- New HIV patients by age: 18-24; 9.9%, 25-34; 25%, 35-44; 33%, 45-54; 21.4% and 55-64; 10.7%.

## CONCLUSIONS

Implementation of the HIV opt-out screening program in the UMCEP ED is successful in detecting new HIV cases with a case finding rate of 1.6/1,000. Efforts are ongoing to increase screening and reach a goal of screening >85% of patients 13-64 who have blood drawn in the ED. Establishing a program sustainable through third party payment is a primary goal for the near future.

**ER Patients Screened for HIV April 1, 2010 to June 30, 2014**

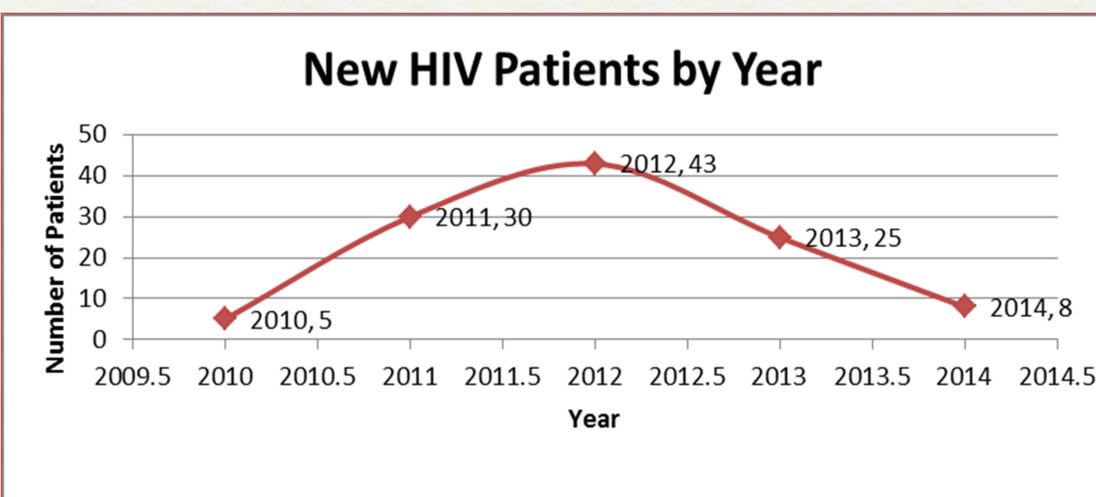
**55,998**

**Previous HIV Positives**

**260**

**New HIV Positives**

**124**



### Acknowledgements

University Medical Center of El Paso and Texas Tech University HSC  
 El Paso Public Health Department  
 La Fe Health Clinics  
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 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention