Harris Health System

How and Where Service Linkage Fits in a Routine HIV Screening Program
Project RUSH -- Background

2008-2009  Began routine opt-out screening at Ben Taub and LBJ Hospital ER’s

2010-2011  Added 12 community health centers

2012-2013  Added 11 Healthcare for the Homeless clinic sites
Project RUSH – Key Features

• We use an opt-out process
• We use standard blood testing processed on a rapid basis (ER’s only)
• We make it easy for staff:
  • No extra paperwork
  • No extra procedures
  • No requirements for extra time spent with patients
Key Features (continued)

• We work closely with the local public health authority to verify new/existing cases
• We use dedicated service linkage staff to ensure comprehensive follow-through to care
# Project RUSH Stats
August 4, 2008 – March 31, 2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Tests</td>
<td>300,037</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Positives</td>
<td>821</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prevalence</td>
<td>0.27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Previous Positives</td>
<td>3,397</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overall Prevalence</td>
<td>1.41%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Positives</td>
<td>4,218</td>
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</tbody>
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Purpose of Service Linkage

National HIV/AIDS Strategy Goal

Increase the proportion of newly diagnosed patients linked to clinical care within 3 months of their HIV diagnosis from 65 to 85 percent by 2015.
What is the service linkage role?

- Provide HIV testing services
- Conduct and document patient assessments
  - For hospitalized patients
  - For patients new to Thomas Street Health Center
- Assist patients with access and adherence
- Assure completion of referral process
- Assist patients in navigating agency procedures
Service linkage role (continued)

• Work with case managers and other clinic staff to ensure patient care plans are implemented
Model of the Service Linkage System
Results -- Linkage to Care

• Linkage to Care (1 completed primary care visit within 6 months):
  
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>47%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>62%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>58%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

• New positive prevalence is continually decreasing.
Ben Taub Inpatient

Thomas Street Testing

Thomas Street Access

11 Homeless Clinic Sites

Retention in Care SLW (TSC)

In Care at Thomas Street

Ben Taub ER

LBJ ER

Jail

12 Community Health Clinics
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