

Key Program Characteristics from Three Effective Ryan White-Funded Rapid ART Sites in the U.S.

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Tony Jimenez, Nicholas Vogenthaler, Diego Shmuels, and Patrick Salazar have no relevant financial interests to disclose.

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- National public health capacity building nonprofit organization founded in 1979
 - Began efforts to use education, training, and technical assistance (TA) to build broad-based capacity to respond to HIV/AIDS epidemic
- Currently leading 3 national Ending the HIV Epidemic (EHE) initiatives

Learning Objectives

At the conclusion of this presentation, participants will be able to:

1. Define rapid antiretroviral therapy (ART) as well as why it is important to the Ending the HIV Epidemic efforts
2. Identify key components of impactful and sustained rapid ART services among Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program (RWHAP)-funded provider sites
3. Describe models for providing rapid ART services in three RWHAP-funded provider sites

What is Rapid ART?

- Most recent clinical guidance recommend antiretroviral therapy (ART) for all people with HIV, including those with early HIV infection, as soon as possible after HIV diagnosis
- For this initiative, Rapid ART is defined as the provision of antiretroviral therapy to persons with HIV **within 7 days** of diagnosis or re-engagement in care

Rationale for Rapid ART

- Rapid ART, compared to later initiation of ART, increases rates of medication uptake, viral suppression, and retention in care
 - Markedly reduces the time from diagnosis to viral suppression
 - Shown to substantially reduce the risk of transmission during early HIV infection

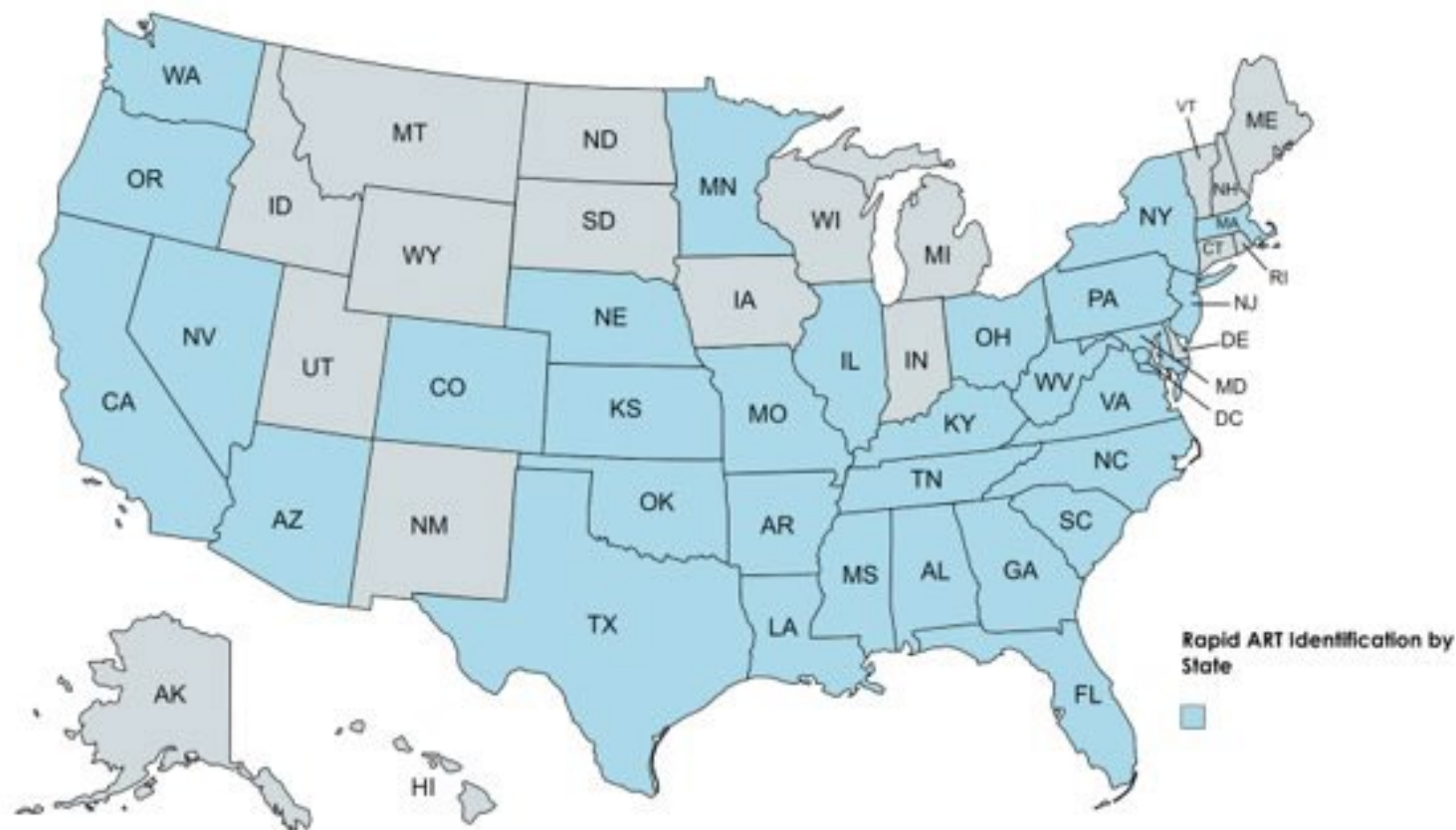
Dissemination Assistance Provider (DAP) Project

Project Goals & Objectives

- **Goal:** To make rapid ART the standard of care in RWHAP provider settings across the U.S.
- **Objectives:**
 - Identify effective rapid ART models in a variety of settings in the U.S.
 - Develop and disseminate a compendium of these models
 - Support replication of effective rapid ART models by developing materials and resources, and delivering training and technical assistance

Identification of Effective Rapid ART Practices and Models

- Comprehensive environmental scan to identify range of rapid ART practices and models (**128** rapid ART programs in **32** states)



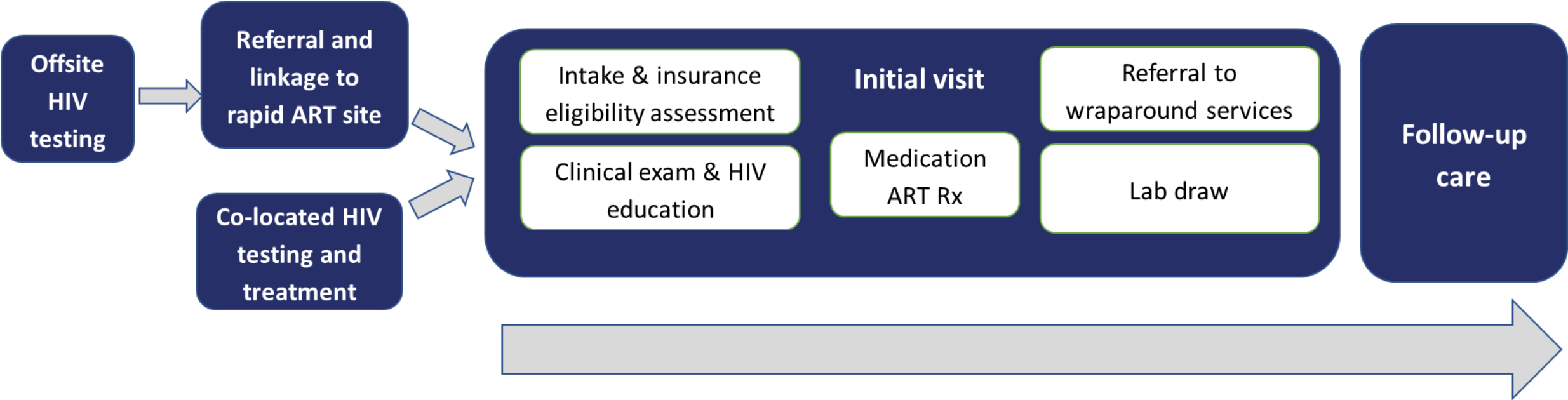
Identification of Effective Rapid ART Practices and Models

- 18 virtual field visits with rapid ART provider sites demonstrating positive client outcomes
- Qualitative analysis of virtual field visit data to identify key facilitators and barriers to providing rapid ART services

Seven Standard Components of a Rapid ART Service Delivery Model

1. HIV Testing
 1. Offsite testing with referral and linkage to rapid ART provider site
 2. Co-located HIV testing within rapid ART provider site
2. Client intake and insurance eligibility assessments
3. Clinical exam and HIV education
4. Medication ART Rx
5. Referral to wraparound services
6. Baseline lab draw
7. Follow-up care

Example of Rapid ART Service Delivery Model



Key Findings from Field Visits



- **Planning facilitators**

- Staff champions led efforts in most agencies to adopt rapid ART and were influenced by clinical research noting rapid ART effectiveness



- **Same-day provision of services**

- Almost all agencies provided starter packs or samples to ensure same-day medication access
- About three-quarters of agencies incorporated same-day appointment slots for clients during clinic sessions

Key Findings from Field Visits, Cont.



- **Payment for rapid ART services**

- More than half of agencies have developed internal processes and worked with RWHAP Part A, B, and ADAP recipients to pay for rapid ART services



- **Clinic workflow practices**

- Majority of agencies have established “warm-hand offs” among the healthcare team to reduce disruption in clinic flow

Panelist Introductions

- **Nicholas Vogenthaler, MD**; Former Medical Director at Positive Care Center in Minneapolis, MN
- **Diego Shmuels, MD, MPH**; Chief Quality Officer at Borinquen Health Care Center in Miami, FL
- **Patrick Salazar, BA**; HIV/STD Program Manager Kern County Public Health Services Department in Bakersfield, CA



Positive Care Center – Hennepin Healthcare

Nicholas Vogenthaler, MD, MPH
Former Medical Director, Positive
Care Center

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Overview

- Located in downtown Minneapolis, MN within multi-tiered Hennepin Healthcare hospital system
- Services available:
 - Primary health care, PEP and PrEP, supportive services, case management, HIV specialty pharmacy, transportation services
 - Have onsite pharmacy and lab
- Clinic serves approximately 2,600 clients per year
 - Provides rapid ART to approximately 200 newly diagnosed clients each year
- Formalized “Rapid Access” services in 2018



Planning Process

- Clinic always tried to link clients to care as quickly as possible, but formally implemented workflow in 2018
 - Received RWHAP Part B Funds from MN DHS, which supported role of Rapid Access social worker
 - Both RWHAP Part A and Part B help fund medical and nonmedical case management support
- Worked with staff members throughout implementation to solidify protocols
- Received buy-in from all staff, including pharmacists

Payment for Rapid ART Services

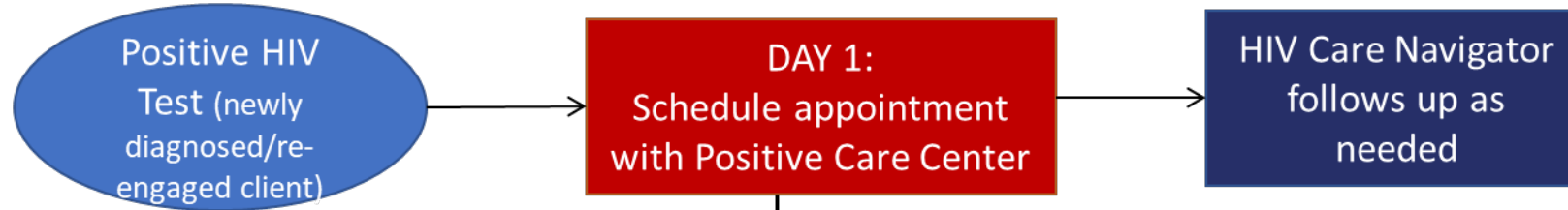
- Minnesota further expanded Medicaid with state-supported Minnesota Care (MNCare) program
 - Includes residents with incomes up to 200% of the FPL
 - Enrollment for Medicaid and MNCare is open year-round
- Benefits team establishes RWHAP eligibility for clients
 - One RWHAP eligibility application that covers multiple RWHAP Parts
 - Individuals with incomes up to 400% of FPL are eligible for Ryan White
- The pharmacy retroactively bills for medication once client is approved
 - 340B rebate funds are used to offset costs in some cases

Staffing Model

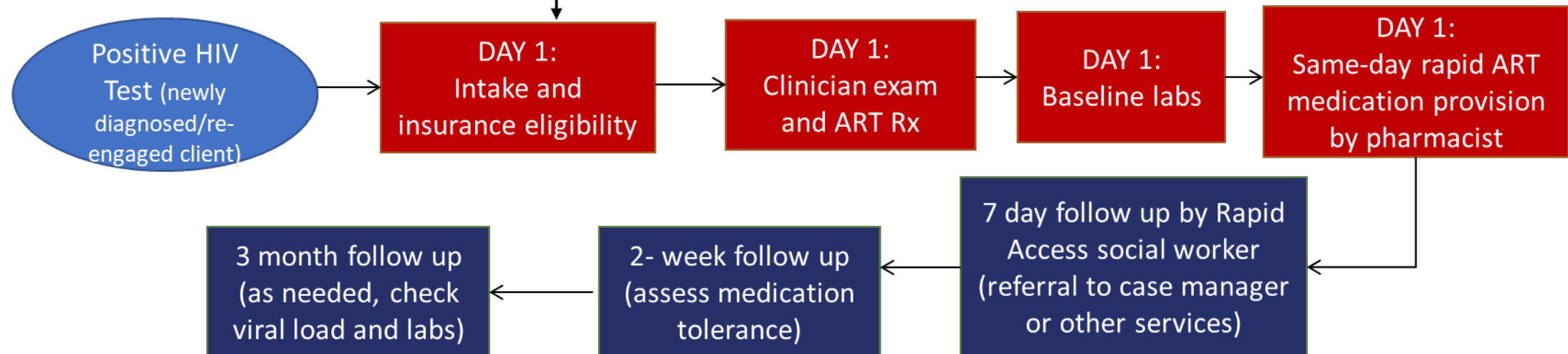
- Linkage coordination
 - Nurses are first point of contact for scheduling
- Benefits coordination
 - Benefits team assists clients with RHWAP eligibility paperwork
- Patient care support
 - Rapid Access social worker assesses for barriers to care and refers clients to wraparound services as needed
- Clinical care
 - NPs and infectious disease MDs prescribe ART and provide HIV education
 - Pharmacists are embedded within clinic and provide medication counseling

Rapid ART Workflow

Identification of Client at Red Door Clinic:



Rapid ART Services Provided at Positive Care Center:

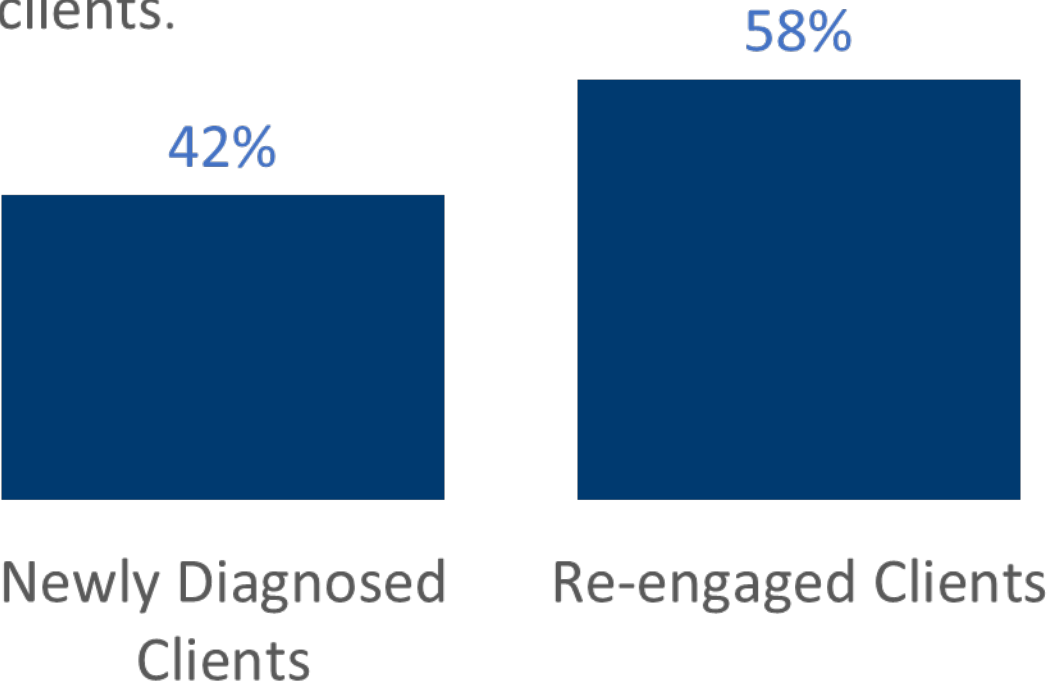


Key Facilitators for Same-Day Rapid ART Services

- Clinical appointment availability
 - Up to 10 slots each week are reserved each day as “Rapid Access” appointments to accommodate walk-ins
- Established strong referral system with Red Door Clinic, an HIV testing site
 - Testing site staff communicate via designated nurses’ pager at Positive Care Center to schedule a client for same-day appointment
- Onsite pharmacy ensures access for same-day medication for clients
 - Pharmacist-embedded structure allows them to deliver medication straight to patient in the clinic

Client Outcomes from January 2021 – December 2021

172 Rapid Access clients were served, including 72 new diagnoses and 100 re-engaged clients.



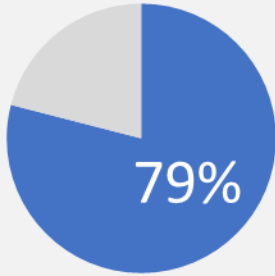
92%

of newly diagnosed clients received same-day ART

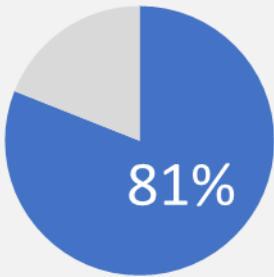
99%

of re-engaged clients received same-day ART

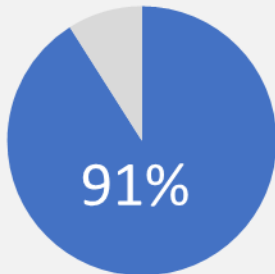
Client Outcomes from January 2021 – December 2021



79% of newly diagnosed clients were virally suppressed within 6 months time



81% of re-engaged clients were virally suppressed within 6 months time



91% of clients were retained in care within the first 6 months

Questions?

Please contact **Nick Vogenthaler**,
Nicholas.Vogenthaler@hcmed.org with questions or requests
for additional information



Borinquen Health Care Center

Diego Shmuels, MD, MPH

Chief Quality Officer, Borinquen Health
Care Center

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Overview

- Large FQHC with 9 locations located throughout Miami, FL
- Services available:
 - Infectious Disease, Family Medicine, Endocrinology, Neurology, Chiropractor, Podiatry, mental health, including Psychiatry, SUD, Women's Health, dental care, outreach and nutritionist services for RW clients
 - Have onsite 340B (discount pharmacy) and labs at all locations
- Serves approximately 1,000 clients with HIV per year
 - Provides rapid ART to approximately 80-130 newly diagnosed clients each year
- Began implementing Rapid Access services in 2016
 - Rapid Access program implemented in partnership with FL RWHAP Part B program and Miami-Dade County RWHAP Part A program



Planning Process

- Initially started as a FL Part B initiative (Test and Treat) to promote same-day access to medication
 - After successful pilot, Miami-Dade Part A program required all subrecipients to implement rapid ART – including Borinquen Health Care Center
- Test and Treat protocol helped guide providers in implementation
 - Each subrecipient adjusted protocol for their own internal processes and context
- Borinquen worked closely with Test and Treat pilot site, Jackson Medical Center
 - Continue to meet monthly to discuss client needs and outcomes

Payment for Rapid ART Services

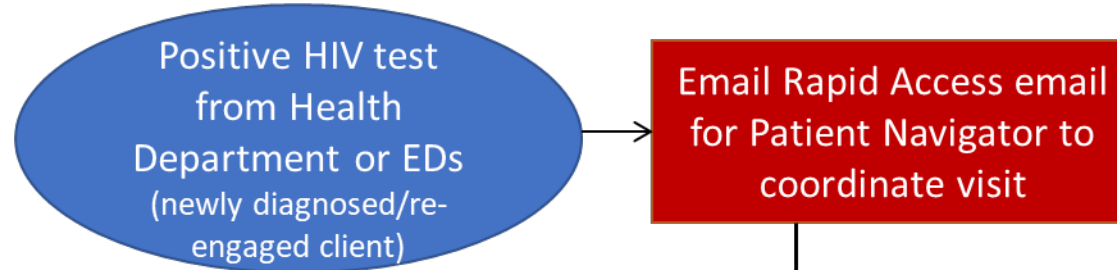
- Florida is a non-Medicaid expansion state
- Florida State Part B program covers the cost of medication for 30 days using emergency financial assistance (EFA) dollars
- Miami-Dade Part A program covers the cost of medical care for people who are uninsured
 - Includes mental health and counseling services
- Borinquen Part C funds the position of Rapid Access patient navigator

Staffing Model

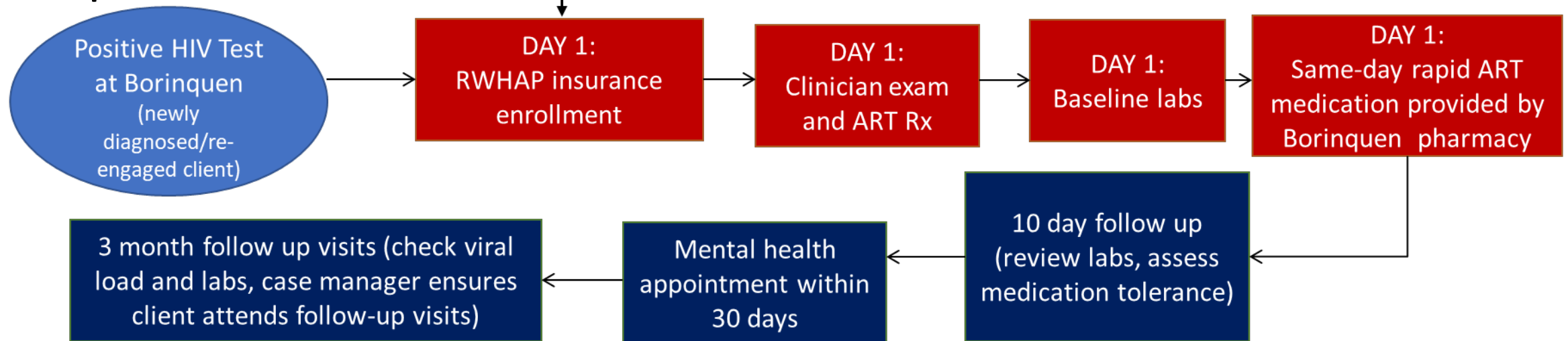
- Linkage coordination
 - Single patient navigator dedicated to linking newly diagnosed clients into care
- Benefits coordination
 - Patient coordinator or case manager assists with enrollment into RWHAP Part A, Part B, and/or ADAP applications
- Patient care support
 - Patient navigator walks client through various components of first visit and also refers clients to wraparound services (e.g. mental health, psychiatry) as needed
- Clinical care
 - NPs and infectious disease MDs prescribe ART and provide HIV education

Rapid ART Workflow

Off-site testing referrals



Rapid ART Services Provided at Borinquen Health Care Center

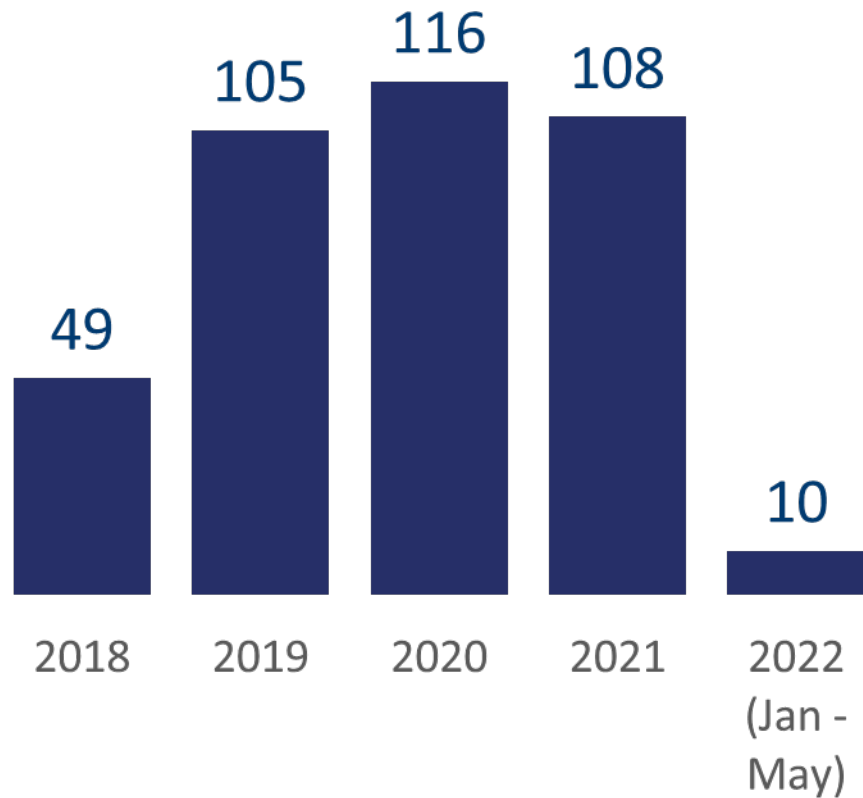


Key Facilitators for Same-Day Rapid ART Services

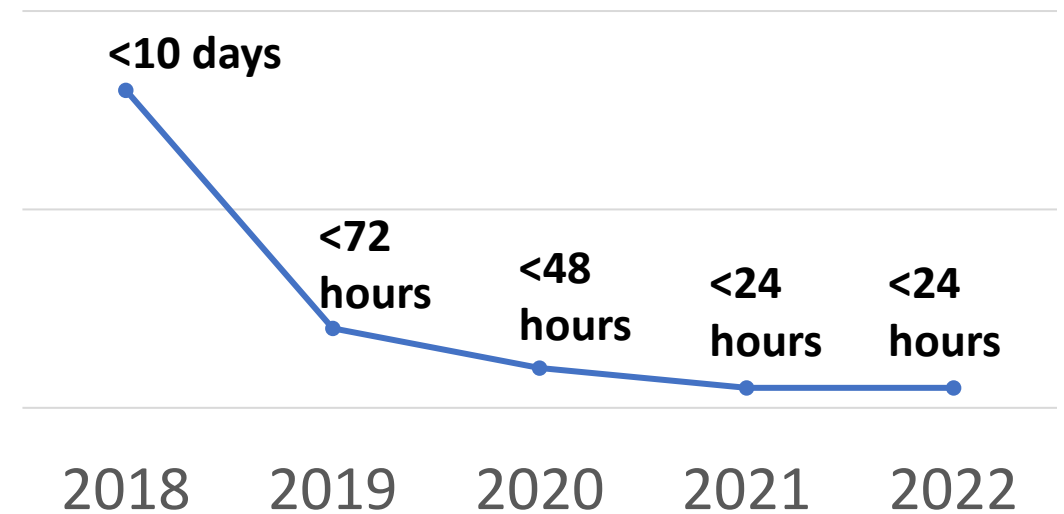
- Collaboration and synchronization between county-level Part A program and state-level Part B program
 - Implementation of Rapid Access email and protocol
- Patient navigator role is essential to the process
 - One designated navigator oversees linking clients to care, walking them through the process, and assisting with picking up the medication at the end of the first visit
- Clinic appointment availability
 - As a PCMH, same-day appointments are available, usually used for Rapid Access clients
 - If the patient is being tested late after 4 pm, appointment will be coordinated the following day

Client Outcomes from 2017 - 2021

Number of Rapid Access Clients Seen by Year

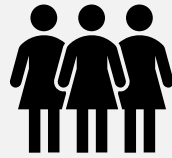
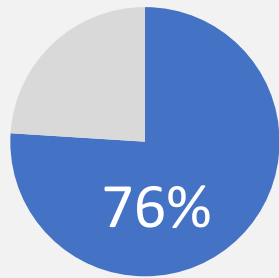


Average Number of Days to ART Initiation

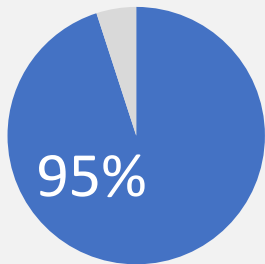


Client Outcomes from January – December 2021

108 newly diagnosed and re-engaged clients received rapid ART at Borinquen Health Care Center



76% of clients were virally suppressed within 90 days



95% of clients were retained in care*

** Retention in Care usually is associated with moving out of the county or deportation

Questions?

Please contact **Diego Shmuels**,
dshmuels@borinquenhealth.org with questions or requests
for additional information



Kern County Public Health Services Department

Patrick Salazar, BA

HIV/STD Program Manager, Kern County
Public Health Services Department

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Overview

- Located in Bakersfield, CA
- Kern County Public Health Officer's Clinic (HOC) links newly diagnosed clients to ART and refers out to HIV primary care after the first visit
- Clinic serves approximately 20,000+ clients per year
 - Provides rapid ART to approximately 51 newly diagnosed clients each year and 21 re-engaged clients each year
- Rapid ART program was implemented in late 2019



Planning Process

- Applied for and received funding from California Department of Public Health, Office of AIDS Branch specifically for rapid ART in May 2019 (*not RWHAP Part B funding*)
 - Goals were to initiate ART within 5 days of diagnosis and link clients to an HIV specialist appointment within 30 days
 - Worked on protocols and received guidance from consulting HIV physician
 - Educated patients and providers about Undetectable = Untransmittable

Payment for Rapid ART Services

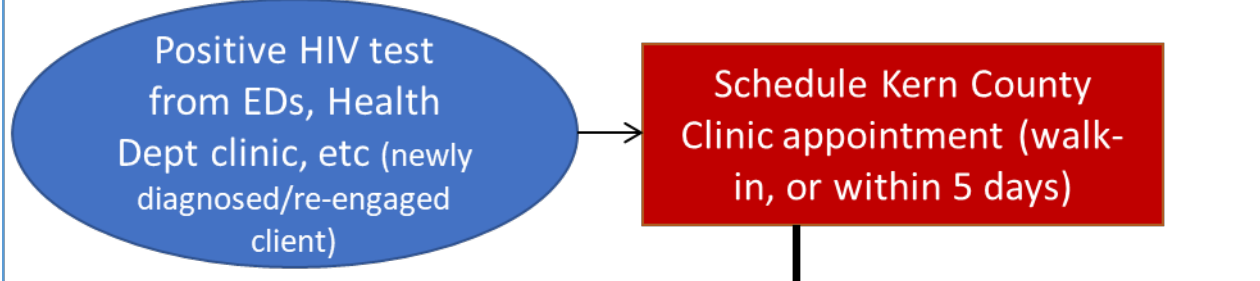
- Kern County HOC was established as a third-party insurance biller to bill insurance directly for medical care
- Funding for linkage to care work in partnership with 2 local EDs that provide routine opt-out testing comes from Gilead's FOCUS program
- Worked with pharmaceutical manufacturer, Gilead, to offer Rapid ART starter packs (Biktarvy) for clients on first visit

Staffing Model

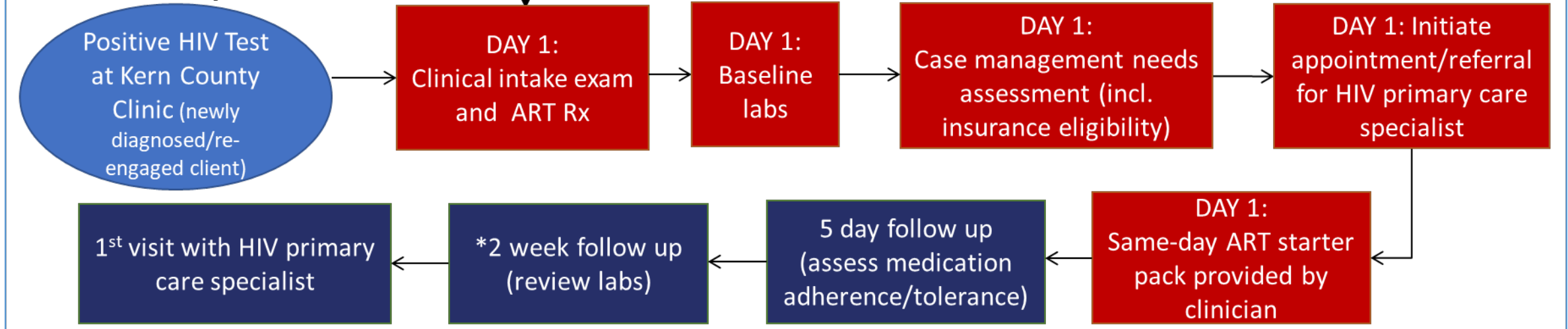
- Linkage coordination to clinic
 - Public health department workers link clients to care at ED
- Benefits coordination and linkage coordination to ongoing HIV primary care
 - Communicable Disease Investigators (CDIs) help link clients to ongoing primary care and provide HIV education
 - CDIs also assist with insurance eligibility options, including Medi-Cal and referrals to case management
- Clinical care
 - NPs prioritize ART RX and provide medication counseling

Rapid ART Workflow

Off-site testing referrals



Rapid ART Services Provided at Kern County Clinic



Key Facilitators for Same-Day Rapid ART Services

- CA has same-day ADAP eligibility processes to approve clients for medication within 1 hour
- CA created a state-wide HIV surveillance database for lab results
 - CDIs at Kern County can check for new cases to help link clients into care daily
- Partnership for routine opt-out testing in Emergency Departments
 - Diagnosed 27% of clients who would not have received diagnosis otherwise
- Clients are also assessed for any supportive services and are linked to one of two Ryan White case management providers
- Offers transportation assistance to help clients attend first ART appointment

Questions?

Please contact **Patrick Salazar**, salazarp@kerncounty.com with questions or requests for additional information

Next Steps for DAP Project

- For more information on the DAP initiative, please visit:
<https://targethiv.org/ta-org/rapid-art-dap>
- Coming Soon in Fall 2022 on TargetHIV!
 - Rapid ART Compendium of Best Practices
 - Rapid ART Site Profiles
 - Rapid ART Cost Estimate Tools
 - Rapid ART Jurisdiction Playbook

Thank you!

Please contact **Kendall Brooks**, Project Manager at kbrooks@caiglobal.org with questions or requests for additional information

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