

Engaging African and Caribbean Immigrants in HIV Testing and Care

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Learning Objectives

- Describe available data on foreign-born PLWH in the US
- Discuss the African Diaspora Health Initiative, a program to engage African and Caribbean immigrants in HIV testing and care
- Consider key strategies for success in engaging and retaining African and Caribbean immigrants

Overview

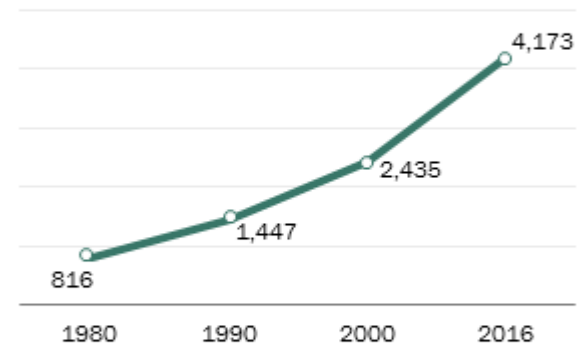
- African and Caribbean persons living with HIV in the US – what do we know?
- Barriers and cultural considerations
- Best practices for improving engagement in the HIV Care Continuum

Black Immigration to the US

- Black immigration to the US has increased 5-fold since 1980
- Roughly 1 in 10 Blacks in the US are foreign-born (American Community Survey)

Black immigrant population in the U.S. rose to 4.2 million in 2016

Total foreign-born black population in the U.S., in thousands



Note: In 2000 and later, foreign-born blacks include single-race blacks and multiracial blacks, regardless of Hispanic origin. Prior to 2000, blacks include only single-race blacks regardless of Hispanic origin since a multiracial option was not available.
Source: Pew Research Center tabulations of the 2016 American Community Survey (1% IPUMS) and the 1980, 1990 and 2000 censuses (5% IPUMS).

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Anderson M, Lopez G. Pew Research Center. 2018.

Data deficit on Black immigrants with HIV in US



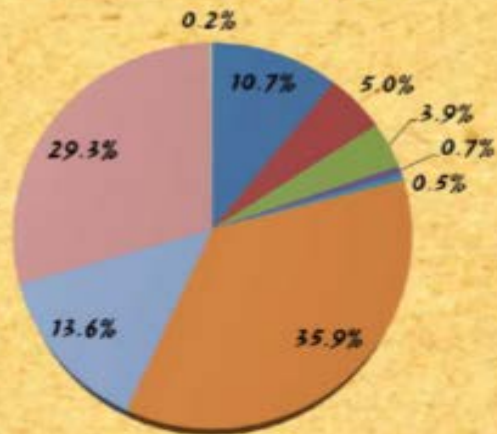
HIV in US foreign-born population: CDC

HIV in Foreign-Born CDC 2009

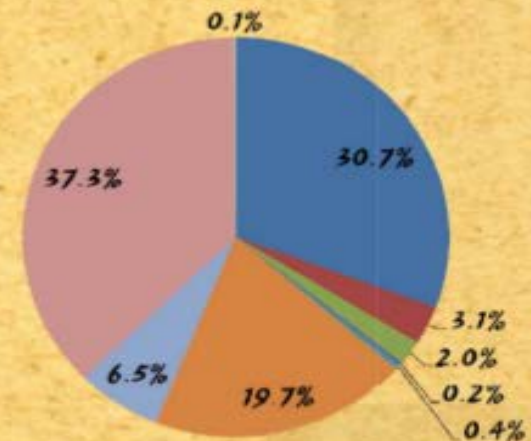
✦ Data from 31 States from 2002-2007.

✦ 162,367 new diagnoses. Of those 24,913 (15.3%) were FB.

World region of birth of foreign-born males diagnosed with HIV, 31 U.S. States, 2002-2007
n=16,620

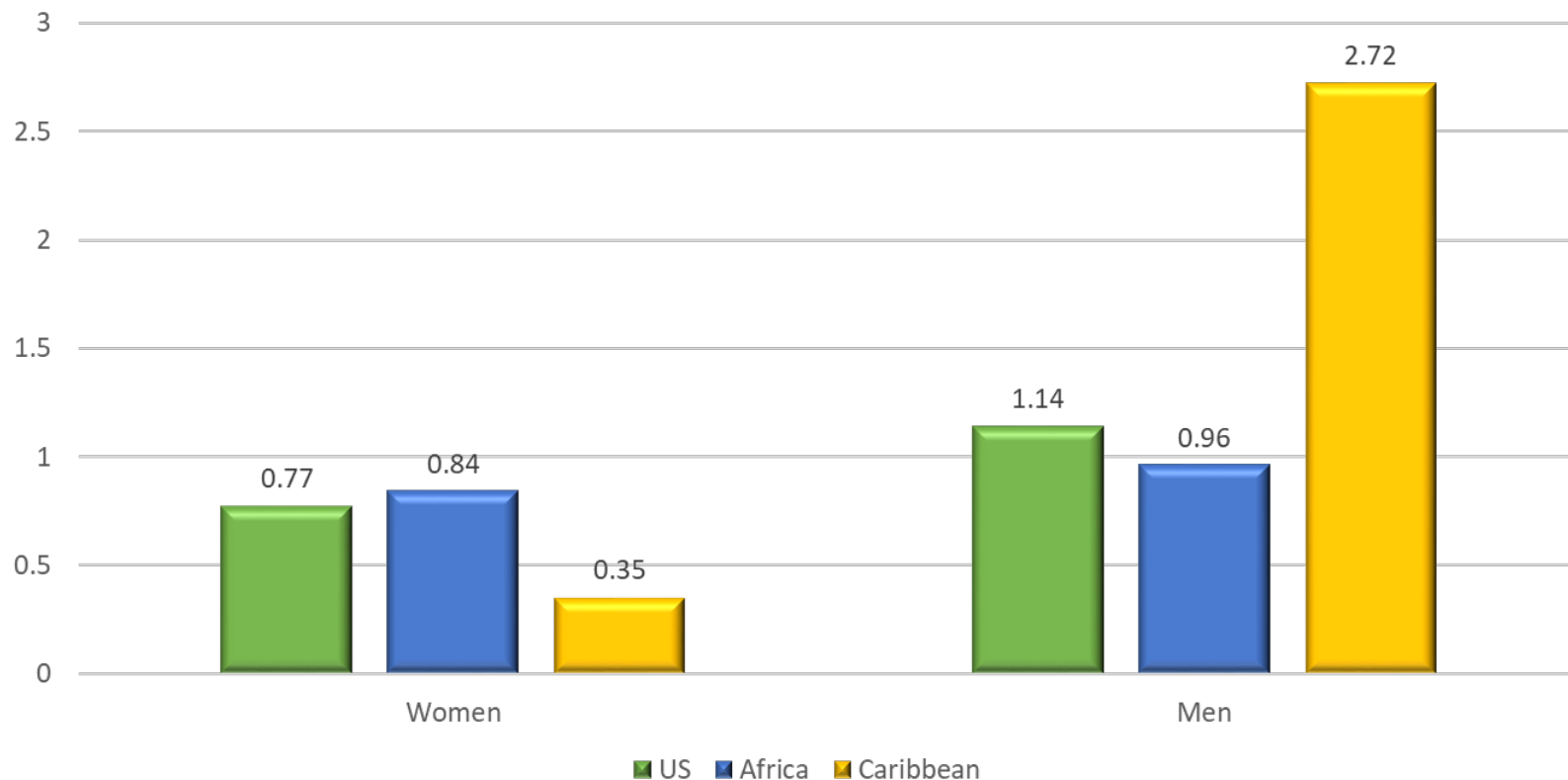


World region of birth of foreign-born females diagnosed with HIV, 31 U.S. States, 2002-2007
n=7,663



Prosser et al. 17th CROI, 2010.

HIV Testing at Philadelphia City Health Centers, 2007-2011



Differences in epidemic among foreign born Blacks vs US Blacks

Mode of transmission

More heterosexually acquired infection in foreign-born

Age group

Among foreign born: 13.9% of adults and 73.2% of perinatal and pediatric were African

Region of birth

3.3% of Whites
10.0% of Blacks
42.2% of Hispanics
64.3% of Asians
Foreign-born

Foreign-born Blacks and HIV in the US

Kerani et al,
2008

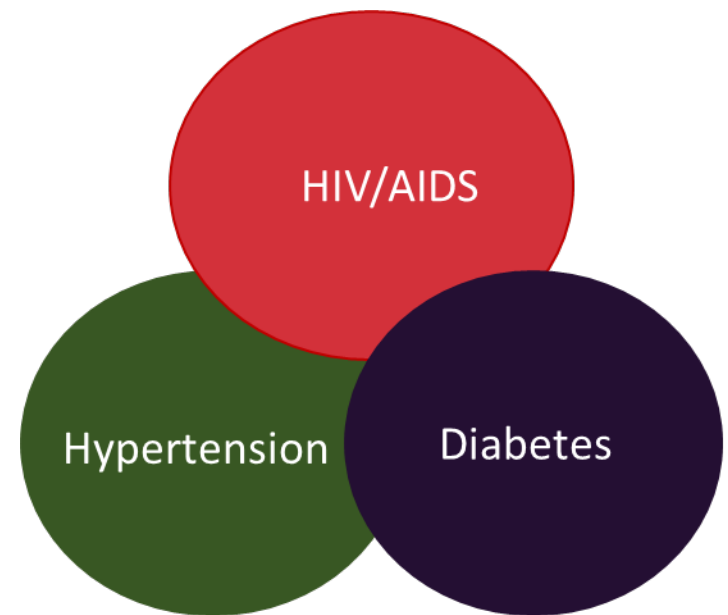
- Africans 0.6% population, 3.8% of HIV+
- Disparities in all 8 jurisdictions studied

Satcher-
Johnson et
al, 2010

- FB blacks more likely to diagnosed late
- FB blacks more likely to survive 1 & 3 yrs after dx

A Non-traditional Approach to HIV Testing

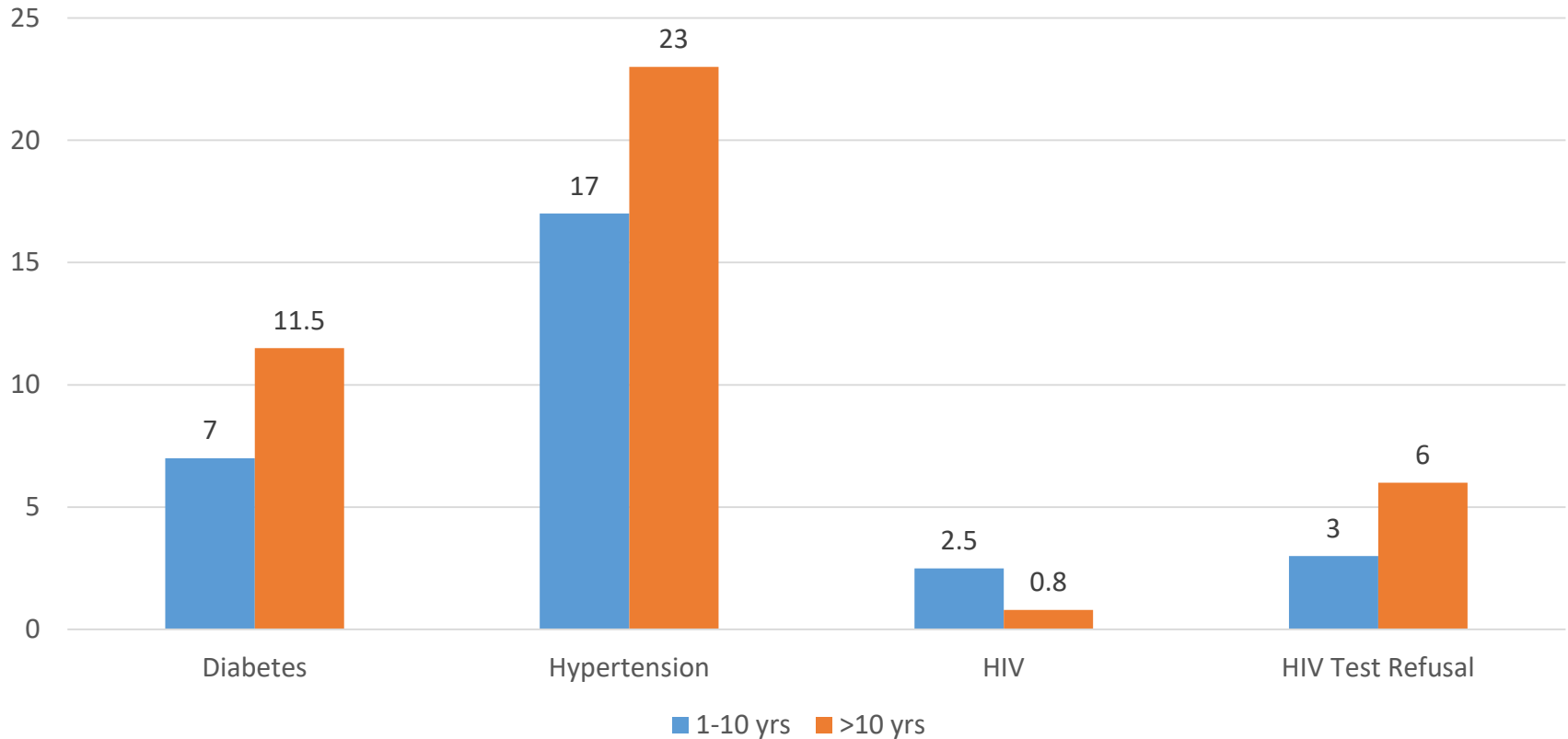
- Clinics without walls
 - Collaborative effort with various African and Caribbean orgs to provide education and testing
 - Advisory board includes key members of the immigrant communities
- Questionnaire
 - Length of stay in US, country of origin, HIV risk behaviors, last visit home
- Culturally Competent Staff
- Holistic screening model
 - 92% acceptance rate on HIV testing
 - Reduce HIV testing related stigma



ADHI Outcomes, 2011-2015

Condition	African Women	African Men	Caribbean Women	Caribbean Men
Hypertension	22.3	21.0	26.4	23.6
Diabetes	7.2	7.7	9.8	14.2
Pre-diabetes	6.8	8.6	4.9	9.8
HIV	1.9	1.3	0.4	8.4

Select disease prevalence by length of time in US, ADHI 2011-2015



Urgency in Immigrant HIV Outreach

In January 2010, HIV entry ban was lifted

HIV testing no longer required for new immigrants coming to the US through permanent residency

Overall, those who came into the US after 2010 reported lower previous HIV testing rates than those who have been in the US longer (53.8% vs 63.3% $p=0.04$).

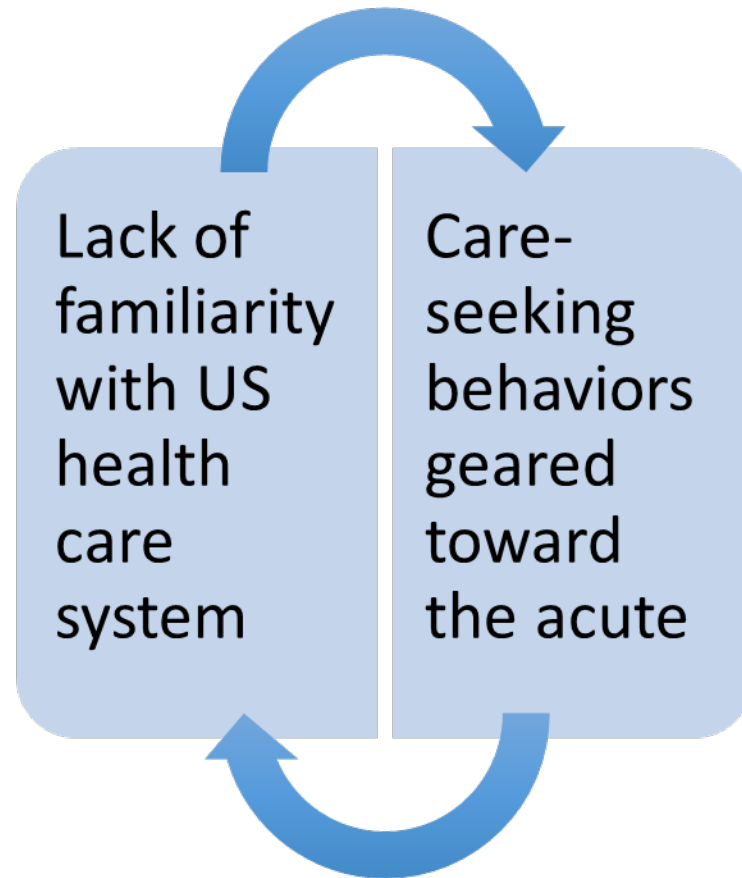
HIV prevalence was highest among those who had recently moved to the US (4.2% vs 2.4% $p=0.01$).

Need to create more intervention programs to capture missed opportunities in testing for new immigrants

Kwakwa HA et al. *J Natl Med Assoc* 2012 Jan-Feb;104(1-2):14-19.

Barriers, Cultural Considerations & Best Practices

An Unfamiliar Health Care System



Engaging African and Caribbean Communities: Barriers

Risk perception

Underestimation of risk

Closely linked with stigma, denial, lack of HIV knowledge, experience of HIV, fear of HIV

Lack of trust of health care system/providers

Closely linked with concern about confidentiality, lack of familiarity with US health care system

Deep rooted stigma in the community

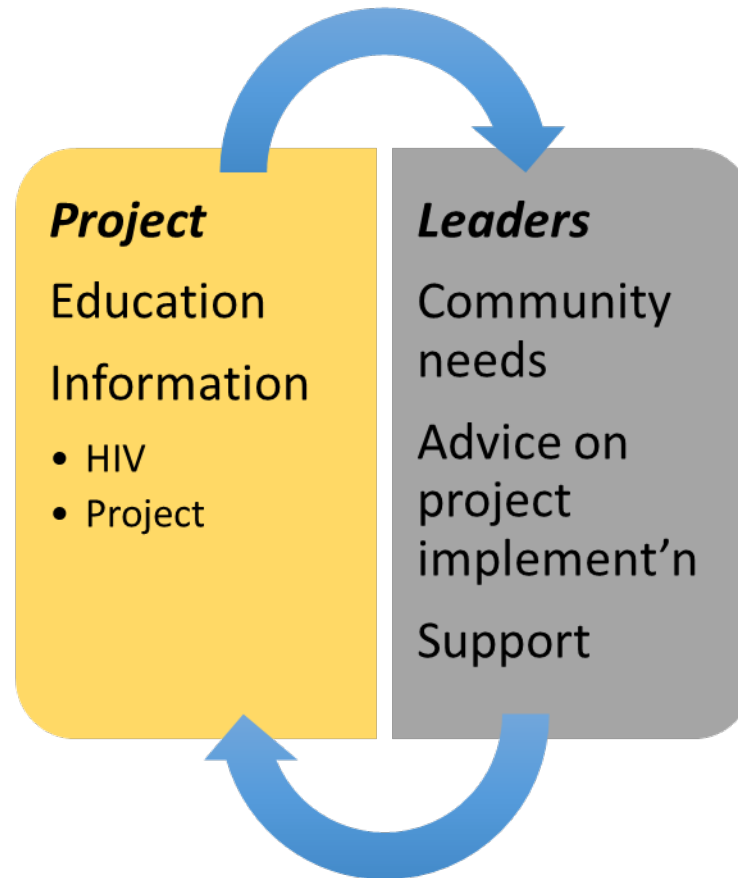
Engaging African and Caribbean Communities: Challenges



- Common view of outsiders as predatory
- Language
 - 86 different languages spoken (ADHI)
- View of HIV as a moral failing or a punishment
 - Rejection

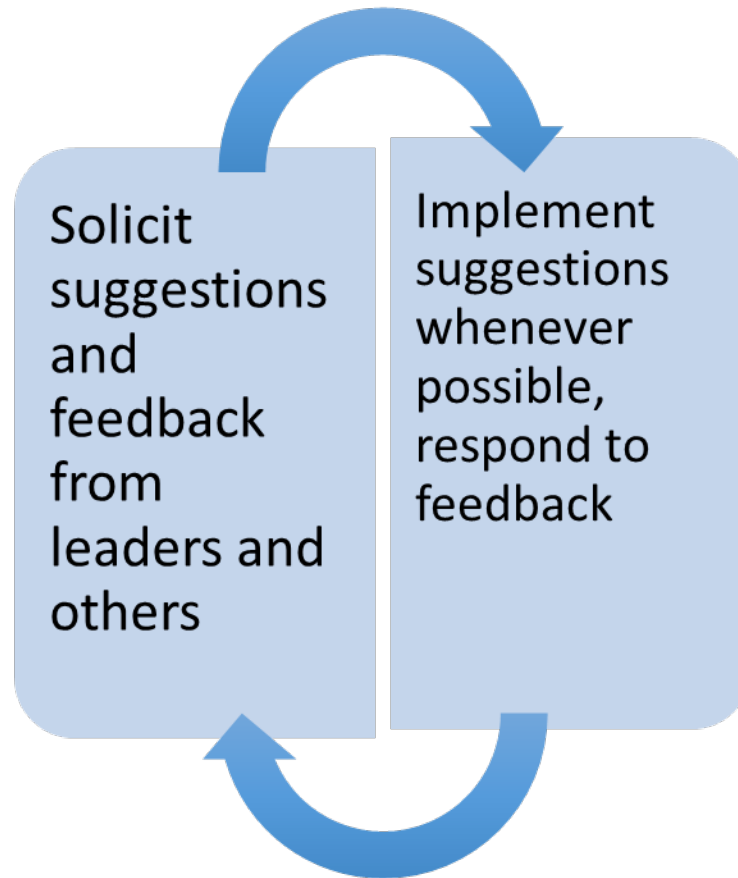
Best Practices

Engage
community
leaders
from the
beginning



Best Practices

Listen to the suggestions of the community



Combating Myths in African and Caribbean Communities, ADHI



“Even if you feel well,
you could still be
HIV-positive.”

Get tested

-Results in 20 minutes

Dr. Xxx Xxxxxx, Nigeria
Clinical Director

Philadelphia Health Department, PA

Combating Myths in African and Caribbean Communities, ADHI

HIV is a virus that causes a chronic lifetime infection. For many years after acquiring HIV, one may feel well. When one feels sick it is often in the late stages of disease. That is why it is important, even if you feel well, to get tested.

For more information, please call ***-***-****



Best Practices

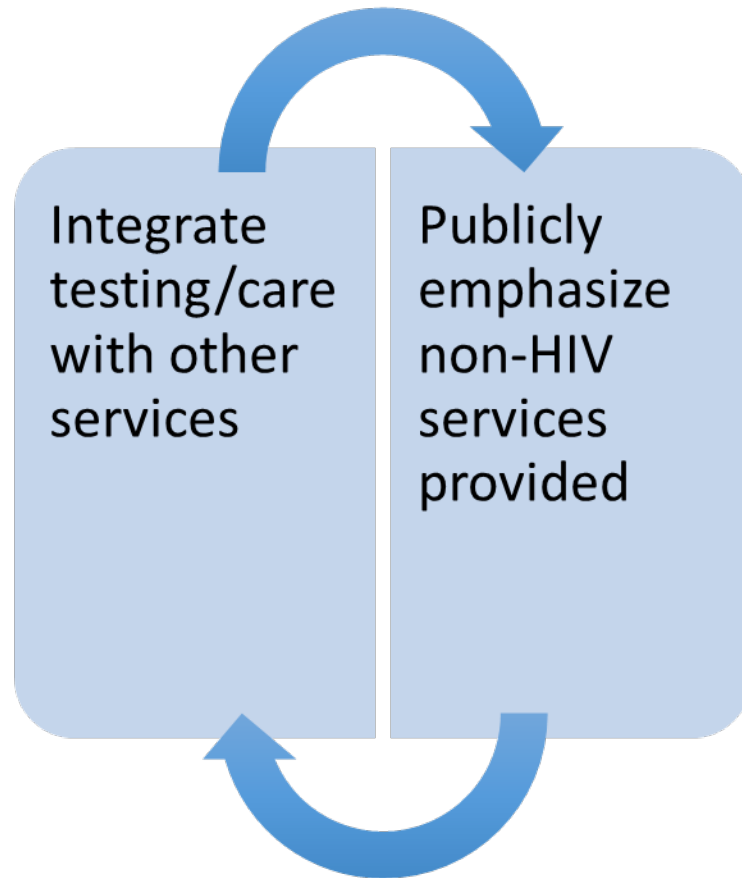
Engage the community at different levels





Best Practices

Present package of bundled services



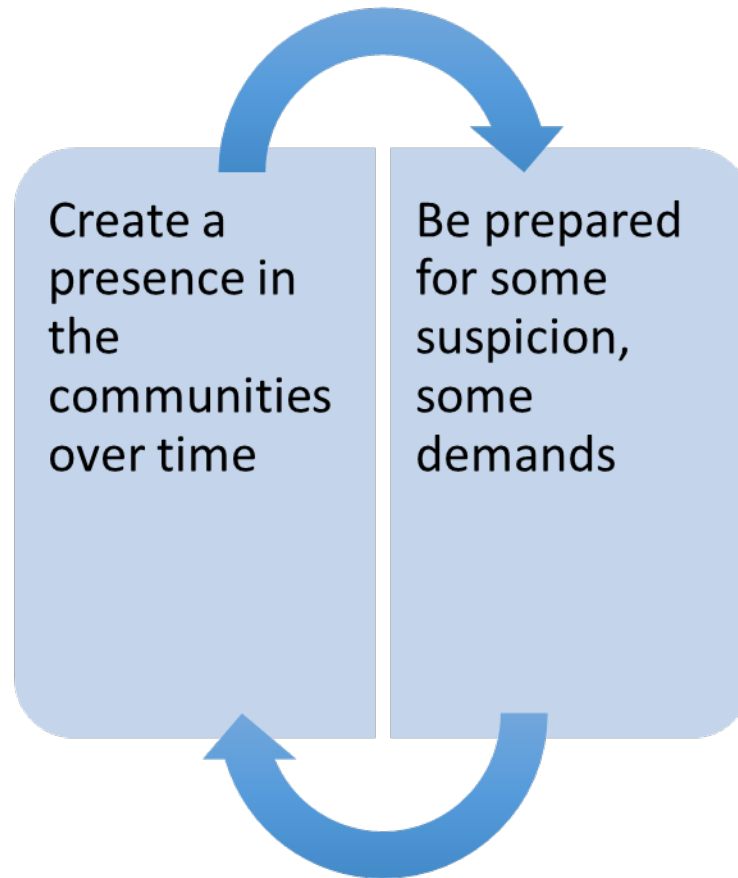
Best Practices

Address fears about HIV, confidentiality



Best Practices

Persistence
and patience



Best Practices

Cultural fluency
in staff and in
program
development



Conclusions

Data on the foreign-born are essential to our understanding of the domestic HIV epidemic

Country of origin information is critical to understanding disparities

Community-based outreach efforts are more important than ever in reaching foreign-born populations and engaging them in HIV testing and care

Caribbean and African populations, given the relatively high rates in their regions of birth, are important allies in optimizing prevention and care

Novel strategies for reaching these populations are urgently needed



Thank You!