Culturally Appropriate Interventions of Outreach, Access, and Retention Among Latino[a] Populations

Clinica Bienestar

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Disclaimer

This project was supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) under grant number H97HA28894, Culturally Appropriate Interventions of Outreach, Access and Retention Among Latino/a Populations, awarded at $1,500,000 over 5 years, with 0% non-governmental sources used to finance the project. This information or content and conclusions are those of the author and should not be construed as the official position or policy of, nor should any endorsements be inferred by HRSA, HHS or the U.S. Government.
Presentation Outline

- Overview
- Capacity
- Implementation
- Sustainability
- Lessons Learned and Recommendations
- Resources
Background

- 65% of Philadelphia’s Latino population identifies as Puerto Rican
- Philadelphia has the second largest Puerto Rican population in continental United States after New York (US Census Bureau, 2010)
- After African Americans, Latinos represent the racial/ethnic group most burdened by HIV in the United States
- Latinos have lower levels of retention in HIV care and lower HIV viral suppression rates compared to non-Hispanic Whites (CDC MMWR, 2017)
- HIV-related mortality among Latinos is almost 3 times greater than that for non-Hispanic Whites (Clark H, et al. J Racial Ethn Health Disparities, 2015)
- Latinos in Philadelphia are more likely than non-Hispanic Whites to have acquired HIV through IDU (Chysanthus, N, et al. HIV Surveillance Report, PDPH, 2017)
HIV in Philadelphia


Source: https://www.phila.gov/
Overview

- Built on decades of Prevention Point Philadelphia’s (PPP) expertise in harm reduction strategies and established trust in the community that we serve
- Built on decades of Philadelphia FIGHT’s expertise in providing high quality HIV primary care
- Location within PPP’s harm reduction service center located at the epicenter of the co-occurring HIV, HCV, and opioid epidemics in Philadelphia
- Collocation of medical services, social services, syringe exchange, and other harm reduction services
- Delivery of these services in a culturally competent and nonjudgmental manner
Capacity

- We enrolled 53 participants living with HIV of Puerto Rican descent and a history of injection drug use into our demonstration project.
- Participant referrals came from in-reach, outreach, and word-of-mouth.
- We did not exclude anyone who needed our services based on their ethnicity.
- Clinica Bienestar now has a patient population of about 150.
- Our future goals include continuing to expand our clinical services by adding additional clinic sessions and starting a PrEP program for individuals who inject drugs.
Implementation

- Clinica Bienestar team includes a medical provider, nurse, practice coordinator, and four medical case managers
- Offer both scheduled medical appointments and walk-in appointments
- We have huddle meetings at the end of each clinic day to review patient lists
- We also have quarterly staff meetings to discuss programmatic concerns
Implementation Challenges and Successes

- Collaboration between two different organizations
- Seamless establishment of medical and laboratory services
- Provide many of the medical services provided at the Philadelphia FIGHT’s main offices
- Refer patients to FIGHT’s main offices for services that we do not currently provide like dental and nutrition services
Transnational Approach

• Many medical and case management staff members are of Puerto Rican descent and a few grew up in neighborhood surrounding Clinica Bienestar.

• Help coordinate medical and case management services for our patients who travel between Philadelphia and Puerto Rico.
Sustainability

- Became satellite FQHC of Philadelphia FIGHT Community Health Centers in Summer of 2018
- Participate in 340B Drug Pricing Program
- Pursuing funding opportunities to support PrEP program for individuals who inject drugs
  - Planning to submit a grant proposal with Gilead Pharmaceuticals to provide PrEP in special populations
Lessons Learned & Recommendations

- The onset of the opioid crisis required us to reallocate resources to scale up naloxone trainings, safer injection practices education, referrals to housing and substance use disorder treatment programs, and medication assisted treatment prescription.
- High prevalence of incarceration amongst our patient population prompted our partnership with the Institute for Community Justice.
- Increasing street homelessness amongst our patients impacting engagement in medical care.
1217 total overdose deaths in 2017 in Philadelphia.

88% involved opioids.

Latinos in Philadelphia had the largest increase in opioid-related overdose deaths in 2017 (60 percent) compared to 2016, as compared to non-Hispanic whites (47 percent) and non-Hispanic Blacks (34 percent).
Population Characteristics

- Average age was 43.2 years
- 81% identified as male
- 40% reported being homeless in the previous month
- 44% reported that they went hungry in the previous week
- 51% reported feeling very depressed in the previous week
- 15% of participants were incarcerated in any given month
- 89% were out of HIV care and 11% were newly diagnosed with HIV
Outcomes Data

TABLE 2—Progress in HIV Continuum of Care Comparison Between Clínica Bienestar (Wellness Clinic) at 12-mo Follow-Up Assessment and the City of Philadelphia HIV Surveillance Data: Philadelphia, PA, September 2013–May 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Domain in HIV Continuum of Care</th>
<th>Clínica Bienestar Philadelphia, % (95% CI)</th>
<th>City of Philadelphia 2016 Rates, % (95% CI)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Linkage to care</td>
<td>88.6 (81.1, 96.0)</td>
<td>87.3 (84.3, 90.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retention in care</td>
<td>85.4 (76.7, 94.3)</td>
<td>46.4 (45.7, 47.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Viral suppression</td>
<td>82.9 (72.9, 93.1)</td>
<td>50.9 (50.1, 51.5)</td>
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*Note.* CI = confidence interval. We used the City of Philadelphia’s definitions for the HIV continuum of care measures.

Resources

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Philadelphia FIGHT - www.fight.org

Prevention Point Philadelphia - www.ppponline.org