

Implementing a Multi-Level HIV Care and Prevention Intervention for Young Men of Color in the Deep South: Lessons Learned from the Louisiana Integrated Center for Care, Supportive Services and Community Health

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BACKGROUND

Significance and Need:

- In 2014, New Orleans and Baton Rouge Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) ranked in the top 4 for HIV and AIDS case rates (CDC, 2015)
- In 2013, 70% of new HIV diagnoses occurred among African Americans (Louisiana Office of Public Health, 2013)
- In 2013, men who have sex with men accounted for 61% of all new HIV diagnoses with a high burden among Black men who have sex with men (BMSM) (Louisiana Office of Public Health, 2013)
- In Louisiana, 72% of new HIV diagnoses among BMSM in 2014 occurred among BMSM, 18-34 years of age (Louisiana Office of Public Health, 2015)
- Incarceration history, layered stigma, employment discrimination, limited financial resources, and housing discrimination serve as barriers to HIV/STI services

Louisiana Integrated Center Goals:

- Enhance access to HIV/STI care, preventive and supportive services
- Strengthen collaboration and coordination among agencies via the creation of 2 virtual integrated centers
- Address the social determinants of health (e.g., stigma, housing, and employment discrimination)

Priority Populations:

- Young African American males, 20-29 years of age including BMSM living with and at risk for HIV infection

Location:

- New Orleans and Baton Rouge MSA

PRIMARY APPROACHES

Job Creation/Skills Building

2 Job Coordinators link clients to employment, skill building, and educational opportunities

Access to HIV/STI services

Pre/Post Release Case Manager and Health Navigator link formerly incarcerated individuals to HIV/STI care and supportive services

Asset Building

CLEAR Intervention
"Out of the Box" monthly holistic health sessions

Reduce Employment Discrimination

Conduct anti-discrimination trainings with large employers

Stigma Reduction

Engage HBCUs in HIV/STI awareness and prevention efforts
Conduct statewide HIV stigma summit

Reduce Housing Discrimination

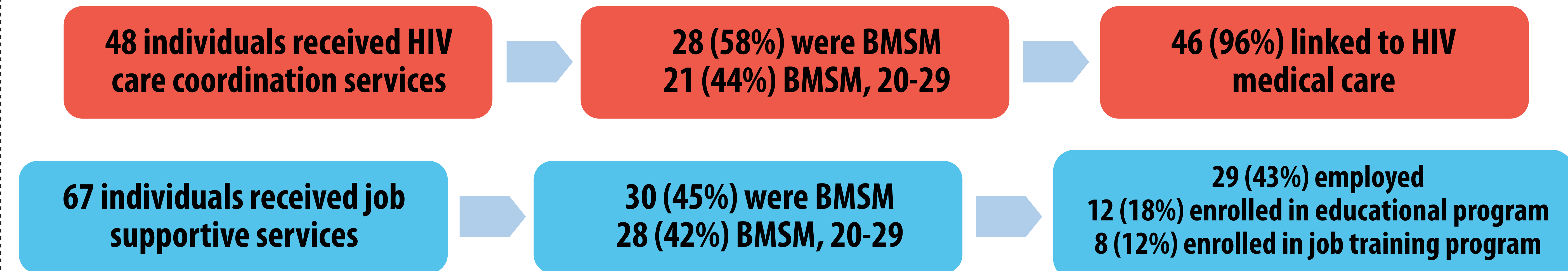
Conduct mystery shopping with housing providers
Implement communications campaign

Louisiana Integrated Center Partners and Roles:

- Louisiana Public Health Institute, (lead agency)
- Louisiana Office of Public Health, STD/HIV Program (data collection and evaluation support)
- NO/AIDS Taskforce d/b/a CrescentCare (medical care and supportive services)
- Greater New Orleans Fair Housing Action Center (identifying and responding to housing discrimination)
- New Orleans Regional AIDS Planning Council (community advisory board)
- Priority Health Care (medical care and supportive services)
- Capitol Area Reentry Program (supportive services and asset building)
- Southern University Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) engagement
- HIV/AIDS Alliance for Region 2 (Asset Building and community advisory board)
- Caring Clinic (medical provider)
- AIDS Law (promoting equal employment opportunities and responding to employment discrimination)
- Odyssey House Louisiana (provide behavioral health services)

RESULTS

Project Year 1, Sept 2014 - August 2015



LESSONS LEARNED & EXPANSION

- Creation of two virtual centers has increased coordination and collaboration among agencies
- Center partners have developed formal relationships with local employers
- Important to conduct follow-up with young Black men and BMSM in order to identify changing needs and barriers
- Important for AIDS Service Organizations to develop relationships with local jails and prisons
- It takes time to build relationships with the criminal justice system in order to provide pre-release services for currently incarcerated individuals living with and at risk for HIV infection
- HBCUs are an untapped setting and opportunity to reach young Black men and BMSM
- Secured funding from the AIDS United and the City of New Orleans to implement the HIV Stigma Index Project
- Secured funding from AIDS United to connect Orleans Parish Prison with the Greater New Orleans Health Information Exchange
- Planning is underway to incorporate new HIV prevention modalities (e.g., PrEP) into project efforts
- Funding secured from ViiV Healthcare to expand "Out of the Box" sessions for BMSM