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HIV screening

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Abstract

Objective

Municipalities across the US are scaling up HIV testing/screening. Several US cities have experiences in launching and managing large scale testing campaigns and implementing HIV testing routinization strategies. This session will present findings from seven US cities: Baton Rouge, LA; Houston, TX; Bronx, NY; Fort Lauderdale and Miami, FL; Oakland, CA; and Washington, DC.

Method

Utilizing a mixed method approach, the scale up initiatives and expanded HIV testing/screening efforts undertaken have combined print and media campaigns, think tanks and focus groups, celebrity and physician ambassadors, philanthropic and corporate leaders, pharmaceutical representatives, persons living with HIV, community health centers, emergency rooms, COBs and ASOs combined with special concerts, public venue testing and high profile community/civic and religious leaders to garner attention and support for broad-based HIV testing implementation.

Results

HIV testing rates have increased from between 20-58 percent across the cities. Individuals with HIV are identified, diagnosed and linked to care earlier in HIV disease progression. The health sector (hospitals, community health centers/clinics and private practitioners) has increased its participation in HIV testing initiatives.

Conclusion

HIV testing/screening programs have been effective in reaching HIV positive individuals and linking them to care. Expanded HIV testing/screening programs that utilize a municipal model have been successful in identifying traditional and non-traditional partners. Finally, municipal HIV testing initiatives reach those who would not 'normally' think HIV is anything to be concerned about, thereby helping to expand awareness and address stigma. HIV testing is for everyone.