

Outreach and a Youth-Focused Case Management Intervention to Engage and Retain Young Gay Men of Color in HIV Care

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SPNS Grantee Meeting, July 27, 2009



Context of Outreach and HIV Care Delivery in Los Angeles County

- Over 4,000 square miles
- >10 million residents
- 27% of CA's population
- 36% of CA's AIDS cases
- Racial/ethnic diversity
 - Latino/a 47%
 - White 29%
 - Asian/PI 12%
 - African American 9%
 - Multiple/Other 2%
 - Native American <1%
- 27% of population under age 18



Los Angeles Project Objectives

- To conduct outreach to identify HIV+ 13-24 year old Latino and African American MSM
- To improve engagement and retention in HIV care for YMSM using a youth-focused case management intervention
- To build the capacity of demonstration clinics to serve HIV-positive youth



Outreach Activities

- Outreach staff talked to 6,020 young Latino and African-American young men at 496 outreach events
- At 461 of the 496 events, HIV testing was provided by community partners (AltaMed, Drew Mobile Testing Van, MAP, REACH LA, JWCH)
- At events with HIV testing, outreach staff talked to 5,011 young Latino and African American men and 3,335 of the 5,011 were tested (66%).



LAC Service Delivery Model

Individual outreach with HCT providers to Latino and African American YMSM to get tested for HIV and know HIV status

Community outreach to inform youth service providers of youth case management (YCM) and youth-friendly HIV care at clinics

HIV-positive Latino and African American YMSM referred to YCM case managers at clinic sites

Case managers enroll eligible YMSM (13-23 yrs, newly-diagnosed or <2 HIV care visits in past 6 months) and link YMSM to HIV care at the demonstration clinics

Transfer YMSM to standard case management after 2 years of YCM and continued HIV care at the demonstration clinics



Youth-Focused Case Management

- Combines psychosocial, clinical and adherence case management
- Weekly meetings for first 2 months, then monthly meetings for 22 months
- Clients phone and text as needed
- Develop an individualized care plan
- Delivered by youth case manager (YCM) supervised by LCSW
- YCM work with clients to:
 - Engage YMSM in consistent care
 - Coordinate medical and support services
 - Conduct prevention counseling



Enrollment in YCM

- 69 clients enrolled in YCM
- Clients referred to YCM by:
 - HIV testing programs: 14%
 - Friends or partner: 27%
 - Clinic in-reach: 31%
 - Provider/clinic staff: 13%
 - Outreach: 5%
 - Other (Hospital, early intervention program, other SPNS site): 10%



Client Characteristics - I

- 51% African American, 49% Latino
- Average age: 21 years
- 59% live with family, 28% with friends, 12% on their own, 2% homeless
 - African Americans were more likely to live with friends compared to Latinos (OR= 9.2, 95%CI=1.3-21.0)
- 71% with high school education or more
 - African Americans more likely to have completed high school than Latinos (OR=3.6, 95% CI=11.6)



Client Characteristics - II

- 34/49 (69%) screened had moderate or severe depression
 - African Americans more likely to be severely depressed than Latinos (OR=4.0,95%CI=14.7)
- Average time from testing positive for HIV to enrollment in YCM: 24 months
- 49% of clients were new to care and 51% had been in intermittent care
- 78% in state of crisis (in need of housing, food, mental health services and/or substance abuse treatment) at entry into YCM
- 61/69 enrolled at least 6 months



Participation in YCM (n=61)

- **Clients attended an average of 7 YCM appointments at 6 months**
- **Clients received an average of 7.3 hours of YCM**
 - Latinos received significantly more hours of YCM than African Americans (9.7 hours vs 5.1 hours $p=0.02$)
- **Average YMC appointment lasted 67 minutes**
 - Appointment time was significantly longer for Latinos than African Americans (84 minutes vs 52 minutes, $p=0.0003$)
- **Most common referrals were for housing (29%), mental health (13%), and HIV education/risk reduction (11%)**
 - African Americans mostly needed housing and transportation
 - Latinos mostly needed mental health and risk reduction education



Retention in HIV Care at 3 and 6 Months among HIV-Positive YMSM¹ in YCM (n=61)

	3 Months	6 Months	p-value ²
Mean number of HIV care visits in the past 3 months	2.2	1.7	0.04 ²
Mean missed HIV care visits in past 3 months	0.6	1.0	0.06 ²
Percent of scheduled HIV care visits attended in the past 3 months	76%	51%	<0.0001 ²
Percent retained in HIV care in past 3 months	90%	70%	0.0005 ²

¹ Includes clients who had completed 6 months of the intervention

² p-value for paired t-test

³ p-value for McNemar's test for paired data



Retention in HIV Care at 6 Months among HIV-Positive YMSM in a YCM Intervention who had been in Intermittent Care¹ (n=33)

	Baseline (n=33)	6 Months (n=33)	p-value ²
Mean attended HIV care visits in past 6 months	0.2	5.5	<0.0001 ²
Mean missed HIV care visits in past 6 months	0.4	2.0	0.0001 ²
Percent of scheduled HIV care visits attended in past 6 months	7%	73%	<0.0001 ²
Percent retained in HIV care at 6 months	0%	82%	--

¹ Includes clients who had previously been in HIV care and who had completed 6 months of the intervention

² p-value from results of paired t-test



Factors Associated with Retention in HIV Care at 6 Months¹ among YMSM in YCM Intervention (n=61)

Characteristic	Unadjusted OR (95% CI)
On HAART	
Yes	11.7 (2.7-51.4)
No	Referent
Number of YCM appointments²	
9 or more appointments	10.5 (1.1-96.6)
5-8 appointments	2.8 (0.7-11.5)
0-4 appointments	Referent
Number of YCM hours³	
10 or more hours	6.6 (1.1-38.7)
5-9 hours	6.0 (1.3-28.3)
1-4 hours	Referent

¹Retention in care was defined as 2 or more HIV primary care visits in the previous 6 months

²The chi-square test for trend =6.01, p-value =.05

³ The chi-square test for trend =7.83, p-value =.02



Limitations

- **Small sample size**
 - **Difficult to identify HIV-positive youth**
- **Despite efforts to deliver the intervention uniformly across the sites, differences by race/ethnicity may be due to differences in the style of intervention delivery by the two case managers**



Main Findings - I

- **A time-intensive intervention delivered by a non-judgmental, culturally competent peer is effective at engaging Latino and African American YMSM in HIV care**
- **In fact, the more intervention visits that a client has, the more likely he is to be retained in HIV care**
- **Given the high proportion of clients in crisis at enrollment, youth-focused interventions are needed to stabilize clients and address barriers to help retain them in HIV care**



Main Findings - II

- **YCM need to be able to relate to and advocate for their clients**
- **Integration of the YCM case managers into the clinics is essential to the success of the intervention**
- **Due to the success of the intervention, funding for the two YCM case managers will continue after the SPNS initiative ends**



Acknowledgments

- This study is supported by grant 5-H97HA03790 from the HIV/AIDS Bureau of the Health Resources and Services Administration, US Department of Health and Human Services
- Special thanks to Wendy Garland, Juhua Wu, Chi-Wai Au, Amin Lewis, Kathy Bouch, Christopher Moore, Judy Carter, Stephanie Ruiz-Perez, Angela Boger, Michael Green, Douglas Frye and all of the providers and study participants for their contributions to this research

