



AIDS SERVICES CENTER (ASC) INITIATIVE

SUMMARY

The National HIV/AIDS Strategy has three primary goals:

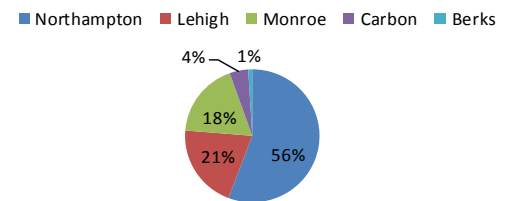
- 1) Reduce the number of people who become infected with HIV.
- 2) Increase access to care and optimize the health outcomes for people living with HIV.
- 3) Reduce HIV-related health disparities.

The vision of the National HIV/AIDS Strategy states that every person, regardless of age, gender, race/ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity or socioeconomic circumstance, will have access to high quality, life-extending care, free from stigma and discrimination. At ASC, staff strive to meet the national vision by providing HIV rapid testing and prevention services, primary and specialty care, case management and social support services, housing case management services and integrated behavioral health services to HIV-positive or high risk individuals. This past year, services were funded by Two Rivers Health and Wellness Foundation, AIDSNET, PA Department of Health and the United Way of the Greater Lehigh Valley. ASC provided clinical care and case management services to a total of 312 unduplicated clients in FY 14. ASC worked closely with Two Rivers Health and Wellness Foundation and the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to receive Ryan White Part C grant funding to open an ASC office in Easton, in addition to our Bethlehem location.

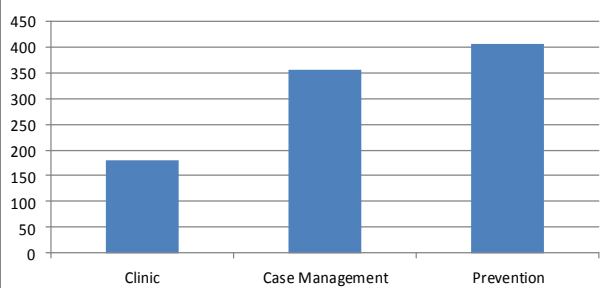
HIGHLIGHTS

- Provided clinical care and case management services to a total of 312 unduplicated patients.
- Worked with Two Rivers Health and Wellness Foundation and the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to receive Ryan White Part C grant funding to open an ASC office in Easton, in addition to Bethlehem location.
- Partnered with Family Answers, a social service agency in Allentown, to begin providing integrated behavioral health services to our patients.

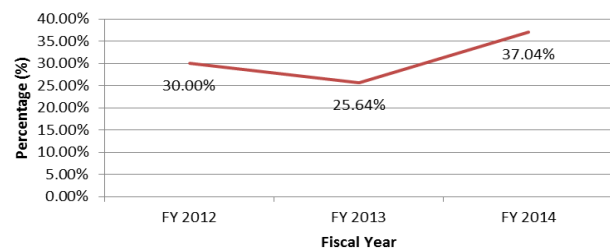
Number of Unduplicated Clients Served



Total Clients Served by Service Category, FY 2014



Percentage of New Patients with CD4 <200 copies/ml at Enrollment

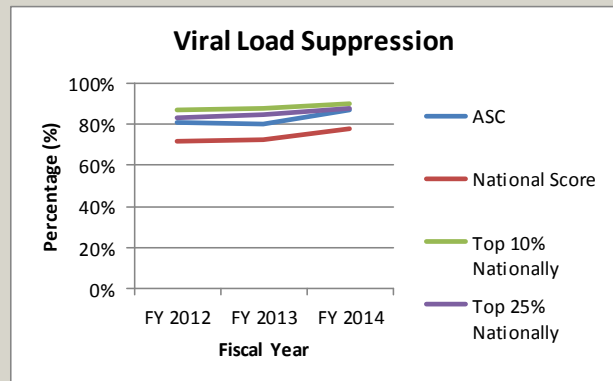
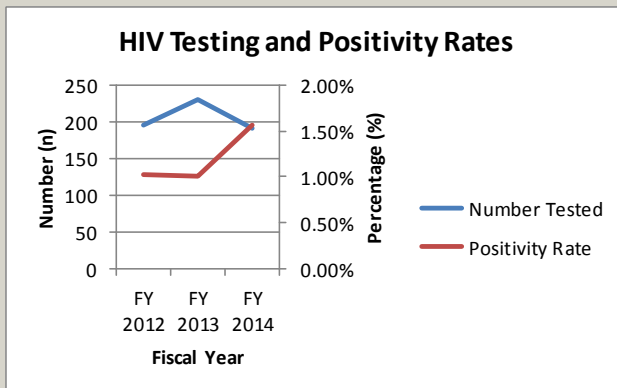


Prevention Strategy

- “CLEAR: Choosing Life: Empowerment! Action! Results!”- A total of 44 participants were enrolled in CLEAR this past year, with 54% completing the recommended five core sessions.
- “Project Respect”-A total of 351 participants completed the Project Respect intervention in FY 14.
- ARTAS: Anti-Retroviral Treatment and Access to Services -ASC completed ARTAS with 10 participants in FY 14, connecting all of them to care.

SUCCESSES

- 27 new patients enrolled in our comprehensive HIV clinical services.
- 87% of our patients have a suppressed viral load.
- Our 3% gap measure rate exceeded the national rate of 15%.
- Our 90% patient retention rate exceeded the national rate of 68%.
- Improved targeted HIV testing strategy increased our positivity rate to 1.57%.
- Preliminary pre/post integrated behavioral health intervention data indicated that depression and anxiety scores of our patients have improved.



CHALLENGES & NEXT STEPS

- 37% of new patients enrolling in our clinical services had a CD4 count of <200 copies/ml indicating that they had CDC defined AIDS upon entry to care. ASC is implementing strategies to identify HIV positive patients earlier.
- Tobacco cessation referral (80%) and counseling (39.5%) for our patients was lower than the national benchmark of 86% for both indicators. A tobacco cessation referral and counseling quality improvement project have been implemented to address the disparity. A tobacco cessation counselor is now part of the HIV clinical team.
- ASC started providing services at a temporary Easton location in FY 14 to build a client base, with a new site to open in FY 15.



Report Submitted in 2014