



# AIDS SERVICES CENTER (ASC) INITIATIVE

## SUMMARY

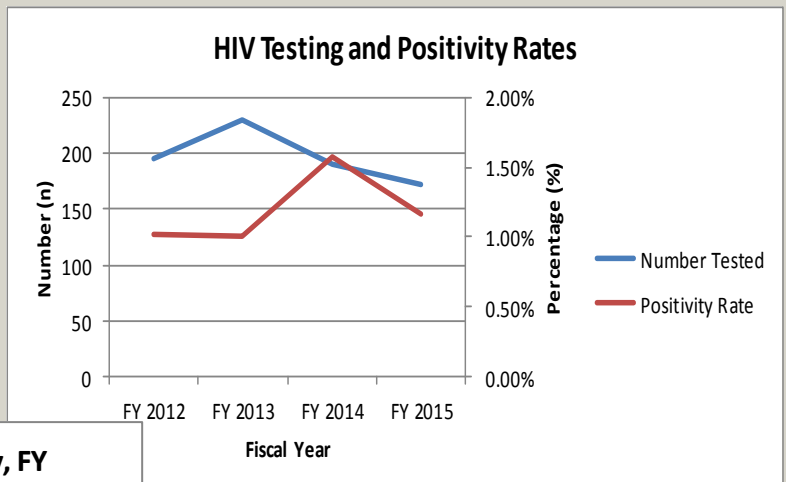
The National HIV/AIDS Strategy, revised in July 2015, has four primary goals:

1. Reduce new HIV infections.
2. Increase access to care and improve health outcomes for people living with HIV.
3. Reduce HIV-related disparities and health inequities.
4. Achieve a more coordinated national response to the HIV epidemic.

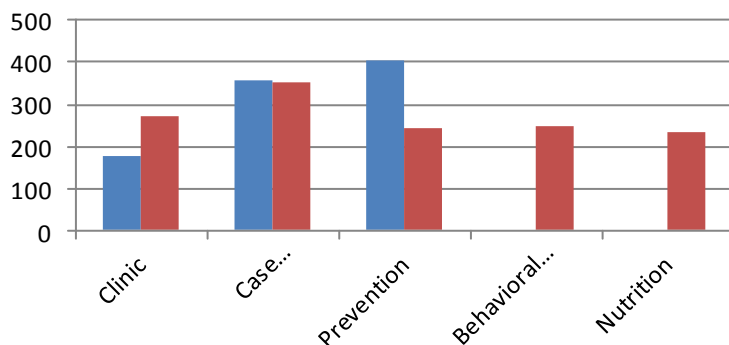
The new vision of the Strategy states that the United States will become a place where new HIV infections are rare, and when they do occur, every person, regardless of age, gender, race/ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, or socio-economic circumstance, will have unfettered access to high quality, life-extending care, free from stigma and discrimination. At ASC, the staff strive to meet the national vision by providing rapid HIV testing and prevention services, comprehensive primary and specialty care, case management and social support services, housing case management services and integrated behavioral health services to HIV+ or high-risk individuals. This past year, services were funded by the U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services through its Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Ryan White grant program, AIDSNET, and the PA Dept. of Health. ASC provided clinical care and case management services to 399 unduplicated clients in FY15.

## HIGHLIGHTS

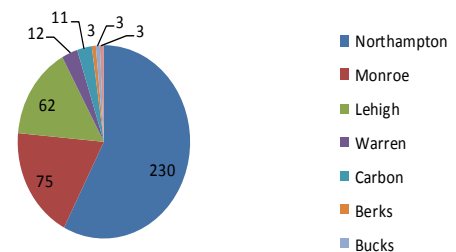
- Provided comprehensive clinical care and case management services to a total of 399 unduplicated patients.
- Secured Ryan White Part C grant funding to support two clinics – in Bethlehem and Easton.
- The HRSA site visit for the Part C grant was excellent, with only recommendations for further improvements noted.



**Total Clients Served by Service Category, FY 2014-FY 2015**

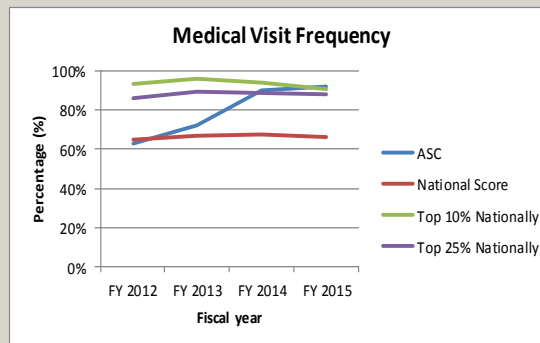
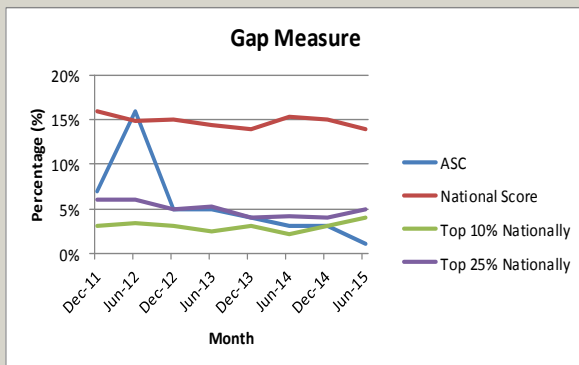
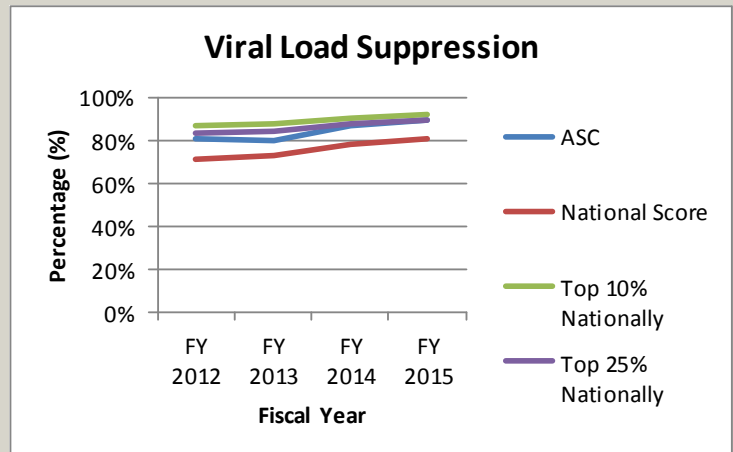
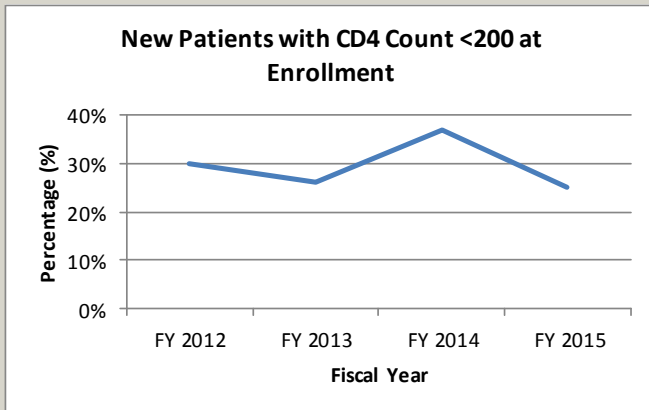


**Number of Unduplicated Clients Served by County**



## SUCCESSSES

- 79 HIV+ patients were seen at our new Easton Clinic at the end of FY15.
- 56 new patients enrolled in our comprehensive HIV clinical services.
- 90% of our patients have a suppressed viral load.
- Our 1% gap measure rate exceeded the Top 10% national rate of 4%.
- Our 92% patient retention rate exceeded the Top 10% national rate of 91%.
- The percentage of new patients with a CD4 count of <200 (indicating an AIDS diagnosis) decreased to a 4-year low of 25%.



## CHALLENGES & NEXT STEPS

- Prevention services have many areas of opportunity. Increased AIDSNET funding along with approval of a Prevention Coordinator position will enable strategy development to address several areas:
  - Targeted testing – While blanket testing was addressed, leading to a drop in number tested, we didn't see the positivity rate increase.
  - Community connections – Working intentionally with area organizations will help deliver prevention messaging.
  - Social media – While we expanded in social media environments, a strategy will help deliver better education and testing results.
- Expansion into Monroe County: St. Luke's is opening a new hospital in Monroe County in Fall 2016. Currently, our case manager in Monroe County has 75 patients. Such a patient base along with hospital expansion presents an opportunity to begin planning for a third clinic to serve the area, helping to address health disparities in this Appalachia region.
- Patient Influx: Two Infectious Diseases doctors, one in Easton and one in Allentown, have retired from HIV care. This will add about 50 new patients into our comprehensive care clinics, approximately 25 at each site.

