

CENTRALIZED HIV SERVICES

Evidence-Informed Structural Intervention

Evidence-Informed for Retention in HIV Care

INTERVENTION DESCRIPTION

Goal of Intervention

- Improve retention in HIV care

Target Population

- Young black or African American and Hispanic/Latino HIV clinic patients aged 13-23 years

Brief Description

Centralized HIV Services is an intervention in which youth receive care from a newly developed multi-disciplinary youth clinic that is staffed by youth-focused care providers, social workers, and case managers. Case managers and social workers are trained to use motivational interviewing to improve self-efficacy, teach healthcare navigation skills, and encourage HIV disease management.

Intervention Duration

- Ongoing

Intervention Setting

- HIV clinic

Deliverer

- Youth-focused health care provider, social worker, case manager

Structural Mechanism of Change

- Access
 - Provision of a youth-focused program of HIV care with support services
- New physical structure
 - Development of a multi-disciplinary youth clinic staffed by youth-focused health care providers, social workers and case managers

INTERVENTION PACKAGE INFORMATION

For intervention materials, please contact Jessica Davila, Baylor College of Medicine, Department of Medicine, 2002 Holcombe Boulevard – (152), Houston, Texas 77030.

Email: jdavila@bcm.edu for details on intervention materials.

EVALUATION STUDY AND RESULTS

Study Location Information

The original evaluation was conducted in Houston, Texas.

Study Sample

The Centralized HIV Services participants (n = 90) are characterized by the following:

- 73% black or African American, 27% Hispanic/Latino
- 62% male, 38% female
- 13% <18 years old, 40% 18-20 years old, 47% 21-23 years old
- 11% participants with undetectable HIV-1 RNA viral load (≤ 400 copies/mL), 89% participants with detectable HIV-1 RNA viral load (> 400 copies/mL)
- 29% previously not in HIV care

Recruitment Settings

HIV clinic

Eligibility Criteria

Youth were eligible if they were black or African American or Hispanic/Latino, between the ages of 13 and 23, and had entered into HIV care at the Thomas Street Health Center (TSHC).

Comparison

Data from the Centralized HIV Services period (n = 90) between March 1, 2004 and March 31, 2007 were compared to data from black or African American and Hispanic/Latino men aged 13-24 who attended TSCH during the decentralized HIV services period (n = 36) between January 2002 to February 28, 2004.

Relevant Outcomes Measured

- Retention in HIV care was defined as:
 - Adequate visit constancy: had 3 or more quarters (3-month blocks) with at least one HIV primary care visit in the 12 months following entry to care
 - Gaps in care: had ≥ 180 days between any two consecutive HIV primary care visits in the 12 months following entry to care

Significant Findings on Relevant Outcomes

A significantly greater percentage of the participants receiving care during the Centralized HIV Services period had adequate visit constancy compared to the participants from the decentralized HIV services period (56.7% vs. 30.6%, $p < 0.01$; unadjusted OR = 2.94, 95% CI = 1.30, 6.67)*.

Considerations

- When adjusting for age, gender, race, mode of transmission and being previously in care, the difference between the Centralized and decentralized HIV Services periods for adequate visit constancy was of borderline statistical significance ($p = 0.06$).
- No significant finding on the gaps in care outcome when comparing the Centralized HIV Services period with the decentralized HIV services period.

- Comparisons between the Centralized HIV services period and the enhanced Centralized HIV Services period were not included because both were considered to be treatment conditions. Study authors did not directly compare outcomes for the decentralized HIV services period with the enhanced Centralized HIV Services period.

Funding

Not specified

*Calculated as the inverse from the original unadjusted OR = 0.34, 95% CI = 0.15, 0.77 by the PRS project and the study author confirmed the recalculated OR.

REFERENCES AND CONTACT INFORMATION

Davila, J. A., Miertschin, N., Sansgiry, S., Schwarzwald, H., Henley, C., & Giordano, T. P. (2013). [Centralization of HIV services in HIV-positive African American and Hispanic youth improves retention in care](#). *AIDS Care*, 25, 202-206.

Researcher: Jessica Davila, PhD

Baylor College of Medicine

Department of Medicine

2002 Holcombe Boulevard – (152)

Houston, Texas 77030

Email: jdavila@bcm.edu

