Increasing HIV Testing in the SBH Emergency Department to Drive Treatment and PrEP Referrals.

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Background

The Bronx had the highest rate of new HIV diagnoses per 100,000 people in New York City between 2018 and 2022. It is estimated that 5% of the 24,300 people living with HIV in the Bronx are undiagnosed (New York City Health, 2024).

Increasing access to testing is vital to initiating life-saving treatment.

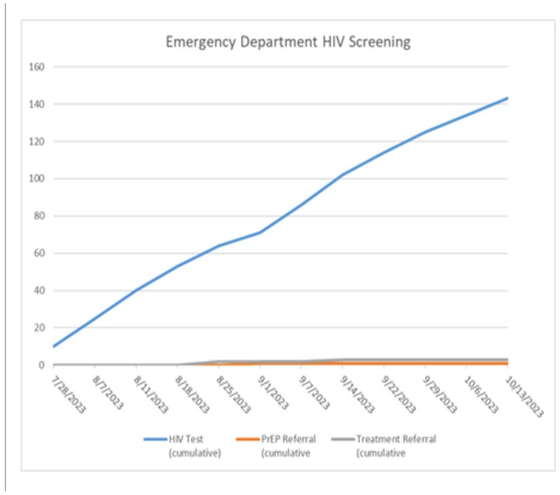
Testing also provides an opportunity to refer those testing negative to services for pre-exposure prophylaxis (or PrEP) for medicine to prevent getting HIV.

Plan

Population Health, Medicine, and ED teams will work together to develop a workflow for Pathways Center (DAC) case managers to initiate HIV screening in the SBH ED, using OraQuick tests.

Study

- Collect data on OraQuick HIV tests completed.
- Collect data on referrals made to SBH HIV treatment and SBH PrEP services.
- Track progress weekly and analyze the data.



Progress Report

During the 12-week period, 143 patients were screened for HIV in the SBH ED, resulting in 3 positive cases referred for treatment, and 1 patient referred for preventive follow-up care at SBH HIV PrEP. All case managers are now trained in OraQuick testing, with tests readily available in stock. A standard workflow and standard EMR documentation is now in place.

Aim

Project Title:
Increasing HIV Testing in the SBH Emergency Department to Drive Treatment and PrEP Referrals.

Aim Statement:
To enhance HIV screening in the SBH Emergency Department from zero to 100 tests within a 12-week period spanning from 7/28/2023 to 10/13/2023, thereby enhancing access to treatment or preventive follow-up care.

Do

- Population Health to develop a clinical workflow
- Lab to train all case managers on testing, and complete control-test requirements.
- Lab to order OraQuick HIV test kits.
- HIV Service and ED to Implement testing and referral programs
- Refine program each week to increase efficiency and performance.

Act

Incorporate insights gained from these activities into future screening endeavors in the SBH ED.

Next Steps

The team will continue HIV screening in the SBH Emergency Department, and will implement future PDSA cycles to:

1. Increase PrEP referrals.
2. Check if patients are already documented as HIV positive in the SBH EMR before offering HIV screening.
3. Include the name of the team member completing the HIV test in the study data collected to allow targeted training.
4. Develop and implement a PPE guideline for HIV testers to wear in the ED
5. Continue work with Finance to confirm billing is successful.
6. Develop and implement a process to deploy carts to Improve testing.

Contact Information
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References

New York City Health. (2024). HIV in the Bronx. https://www.nyc.gov/assets/doh/downloads/pdf/dires/hiv-in-the-bronx-2022.pdf

Acknowledgements
SBH Health System Ambulatory Care Quality Assurance and Performance Improvement Committee.