



INFORMATION AND RESOURCES TO SUPPORT ON-SITE RAPID HIV TESTING

Your Challenge: Encouraging your clients to complete HIV testing and be informed of the results.

An Evidence-Based Approach: Strategic use of on-site rapid HIV testing as part of your regular standard of care.

Where to Start: Keep reading to learn about the NIDA/SAMHSA Blending Initiative resources for implementing on-site rapid HIV testing.

Despite substantial improvements in effective HIV management over the past 15 years, the rate of new HIV cases in the United States continues to hold steady. Identifying people who are unaware of their status, testing them, and linking them to care can help stop the spread of the disease.

With on-site rapid HIV testing, substance abuse treatment patients don't have to be referred to another agency for testing—and they can get their results right away. The speed and convenience increase the likelihood that patients will take the test and get their results.

Consider These Facts

- About 50,000 new cases of HIV were reported in the United States in 2009.
- Nearly 21 percent of those infected with HIV don't know they are infected. Most new HIV infections are transmitted by individuals who are unaware of their HIV status.
- Substance use continues to be a major factor in the transmission of HIV via drug injection and risky sexual behavior. In 2009, 9 percent of new HIV cases were transmitted through injection drug use.
- Studies show that there is a high HIV prevalence among persons who are in substance abuse treatment programs, ranging from over 3 percent in noninjection drug users to 27 percent in injection drug users.
- Fewer than half of U.S. drug treatment programs offer on-site HIV testing.

What Is On-site Rapid HIV Testing?

Advances in rapid HIV testing technology make HIV testing readily accessible, with fast results. New methods eliminate the need to refer clients to other agencies for the test. As a result, the client does not have to wait for days or weeks for results, and follow-up care can begin right away.

Why Use On-site Rapid HIV Testing?

The answer is simple: It is affordable and right for your client. Recently, the National Drug Abuse Clinical Trials Network (CTN) conducted a study examining the use of on-site rapid HIV testing within community substance abuse treatment programs throughout the United States. Participating treatment programs represented all different levels of care (outpatient psychosocial, intensive outpatient, outpatient opioid maintenance, and residential programs). Results found that offering On-site Rapid HIV Testing in these treatment centers substantially increased the percentage of clients that completed HIV testing and received test results (84.8%) compared to clients who received a referral for offsite HIV testing (18.4%).

Many programs can provide on-site testing without cost by using the HIV outreach testing services funded through their health department. Test results can be obtained within community settings in as little as 1-20 minutes. Individuals who test positive can get preliminary information about their HIV status right away, which allows them to get the care they need to slow the progression of their disease—and to take precautionary measures and medications that help prevent the spread of the HIV virus.

Where Can I Find Additional Information and Resources?

The Blending Initiative has prepared an On-site Rapid HIV Testing Website for treatment service providers. This Website includes

- Important links for implementing on-site rapid HIV testing.
- A brief video that provides additional information from researchers, treatment providers, executive directors, and clients about the value of on-site rapid HIV testing.
- Research and resources about on-site rapid HIV testing.
- Much more!

The screenshot shows the ATTC (Addiction Technology Transfer Center Network) website. The main heading is "HIV Rapid Testing in Substance Abuse Treatment Programs". Below the heading, there is a video player with a "Play" button and a "Next" button. The video player shows a man speaking. To the right of the video player, there is a "Did You Know" section with a question mark icon. Below the video player, there are three main sections: "Background Information", "Implementation Resources", and "Our Partners". Each section contains a list of links and logos for various organizations including SAMHSA, NIDA, CDC, and AETC. The website also features a navigation menu at the top and a footer with contact information and a site map.

Selected Resources from the Website

AIDS Education and Training Centers (AETCs)

The AIDS Education and Training Centers Program includes a network of 11 regional centers with more than 130 local performance sites and 5 national centers representing all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the U.S.-affiliated Pacific jurisdictions. The mission of the AETCs is to improve the quality of life of patients living with HIV/AIDS through the provision of high-quality professional education for health care providers.

AETC National Resource Center (NRC)

The AETC NRC provides the AETC network and other healthcare professionals with access to HIV/AIDS education and training resources. The NRC website, www.aidsetc.org, serves as a central repository for these resources and for AETC program contact information. The NRC also provides an online training about the rapid HIV test.

AETC Regional Centers

By clicking on the interactive map, treatment programs can obtain contact information for AETCs in their local area. The AETCs design customized trainings, and are expert in troubleshooting those unexpected issues and challenges that arise during implementation of HIV testing programs in a variety of settings. Some common HIV testing training and technical assistance topics addressed by the AETCs include: giving positive results; designing clinical systems for HIV testing around patient flow; offering the HIV test; gaining consent; strengthening linkage to care and referral systems; reconciling differences in state HIV testing laws with CDC; and more.

Cost of implementation (Cost Estimation Worksheet)

This is a worksheet developed by Dr. Bruce Schackman and colleagues for estimating costs for implementing HIV rapid testing in a substance abuse treatment program.

Global Perspective on Prevention and Treatment of HIV/AIDS among Drug Using Populations.

This is a report of a meeting convened by NIDA and the international AIDS Society with the purpose of advancing understanding of the global HIV and substance abuse epidemics and highlighting the importance of including drug abusers—particularly injection drug users (IDUs)—in any comprehensive, multidisciplinary approach to HIV prevention and treatment.

HIV/AIDS Research Report

Explores the link between drug abuse and HIV/AIDS and discusses treatment options, populations most at risk, and trends in HIV/AIDS and what to do to counter these trends.

SAMHSA Advisory: Rapid HIV Testing in Substance Abuse Treatment Facilities

Describes rapid HIV testing and reviews the benefits of its use in substance abuse treatment facilities. Reviews testing regulations and outlines the procedures for implementing the testing, including factors associated with pretest and posttest counseling. ■

References

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THE BLENDING INITIATIVE

Accelerating the dissemination of research-based drug abuse treatment into clinical practice is a priority for the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) and represents the core mission of the **Blending Initiative**. NIDA and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) joined together to create the **Blending Initiative** in 2001 to reduce the gap that exists between the publication of research results and impact on treatment delivery. This initiative incorporates collaboration between clinicians, scientists, and experienced trainers to catalyze the creation of user-friendly treatment tools and products and facilitate the adoption of research-based interventions into front-line clinical settings. Through this initiative, NIDA and SAMHSA's Addiction Technology Transfer Centers (ATTCs) disseminate treatment and training products based on results from studies conducted by the National Drug Abuse Clinical Trials Network (CTN) as well as other NIDA-supported research.

Get the Products and Additional Resources from:

National Institute on Drug Abuse: <http://www.drugabuse.gov/blending-initiative>

SAMHSA ATTC: <http://www.attcnetwork.org/blendinginitiative>

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