IMPLEMENTING ROUTINE OPT-OUT RAPID HIV TESTING IN AN URBAN PEDIATRIC/ADOLESCENT EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT & OUTPATIENT CLINICS USING HEALTH EDUCATORS AND NURSES TO AFFECT RISK BEHAVIORS AND OVERCOME BARRIERS

BARBARA L. BUNGY MPH, CLINT STEIB, THERESA PARRINO LCSW, ROBERTA LAGUERRE MD, CHRISTOPHER HAINES MD & JILL FOSTER MD
DREXEL UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF MEDICINE, ST. CHRISTOPHER’S HOSPITAL FOR CHILDREN - DOROTHY MANN CENTER FOR PEDIATRIC AND ADOLESCENT HIV, PHILADELPHIA, PA

INTRODUCTION

St. Christopher's Hospital for Children (SCHC) is a 290-bed facility located in North Philadelphia (19131) dedicated to delivering high quality family-centered care to children from throughout the Philadelphia area and around the world. SCHC offers a wide range of health care services for children from birth through 21 years of age, including primary care and well over 200 specialty sub-specialty programs such as the Dorothy Mann Center for Pediatric & Adolescent HIV (DMC).

The 2009-2010 Pandemic provided complications, culture, discipline. Family-centered primary HIV specialty care to families infected/affected by HIV/AIDS. Our pediatric services began organizing and training in March 2012, hired a full-time Healthcare HIV Specialist (DMC)

METHODS

INTEGRATING ROUTINE RAPID HIV TESTING (PHASE I, II & III)

RESULTS

PHASE I: PHASE II: PHASE III:

LESSONS LEARNED

In 2011, the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) adjusted its estimates of new HIV infections in the U.S. from 40,000 to 50,000 per year. In Philadelphia, our Dept. of Public Health suggests there will be 700 - 1,200 new HIV infections this year.

Clearly, we have much more work to do as there are many individuals within our city who are unaware of their HIV status and/or at risk for infection. Many are impacted by poverty, homelessness, lack of employment, racism, sexism, under- or lack of health insurance yet most access Emergency Departments & Urgent Care Centers (and in some cases, the patient is presenting as a result of undiagnosed illness.)

Many Emergency Departments/Urgent Care Centers experience over 300,000 patient visits annually. By implementing routine, opt-out rapid HIV testing (in all healthcare settings) this can contribute to the break down of stigma, delivery of prevention messages and identify individuals who are HIV positive as well as facilitate an individual lifestyle change.

CONCLUSION

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