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Pediatric Emergency Department-Based Opt-Out HIV Screening Identifies Adolescents Living with HIV

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Background

- CDC recommends universal HIV screening for all patients ≥13 years.
- HIV+ rates 8X national average in Atlanta
- Adolescents
  - Least likely group to know their HIV status
  - Lowest rate of linkage to care
  - Lowest rate of viral suppression
- Emergency Department (ED) based opt-out HIV screening implemented July 2023

Objective

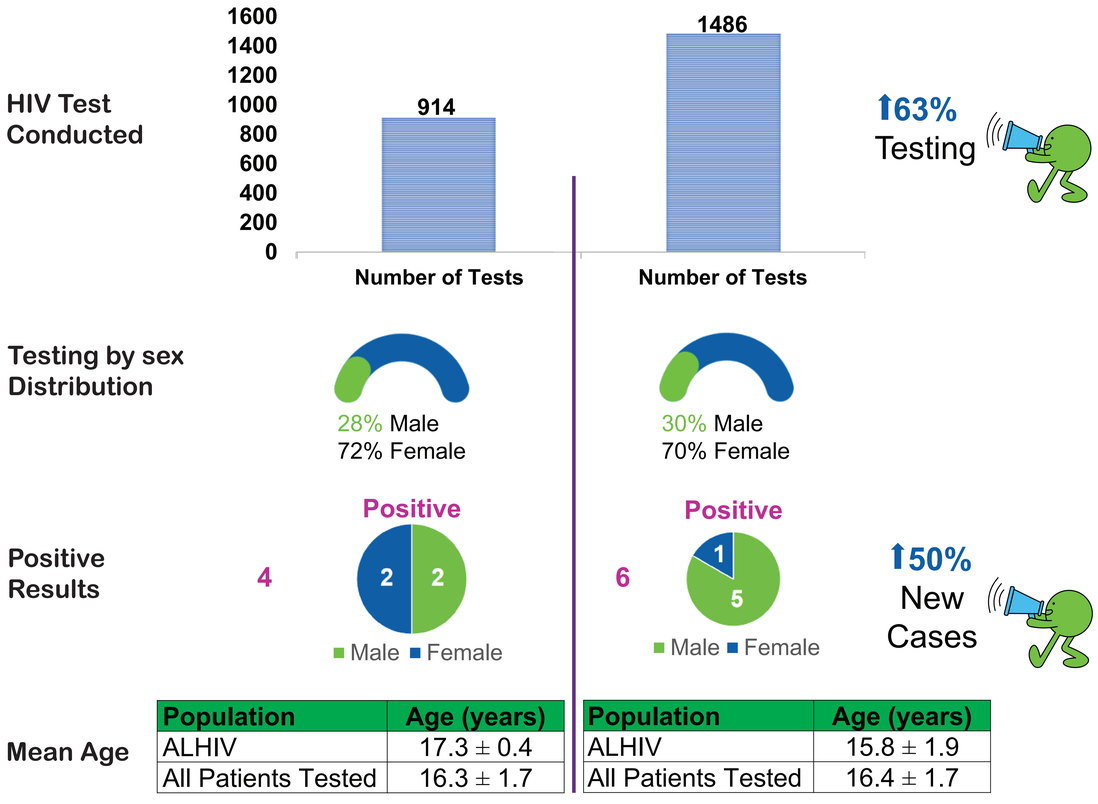
- Increase ED-based adolescents testing in Atlanta with goal of earlier HIV diagnosis and linkage to care

Methods

- Electronic medical record (EMR) EPIC
  - Comparison of HIV testing volumes with population discovery tool
- **Timeline:** July 2023- February 2024
- **Location:** 3 children's hospital in Atlanta, GA
- **Population:** Age 13–24 years with ED visits screened for HIV
- **Data collected:** HIV screening test & status
  - Known HIV+ were excluded
  - Data from pre- and post-clinical implementation were compared
    - Pre - Dec. 2022-July 2023
    - Post - July 2023-Feb. 2024

Opt-Out HIV Screening Identifies 6 Adolescents Living with HIV in 7 Months with 100% Linkage to Care

Results



Mean Age

Population	Age (years)
ALHIV	17.3 ± 0.4
All Patients Tested	16.3 ± 1.7

Population	Age (years)
ALHIV	15.8 ± 1.9
All Patients Tested	16.4 ± 1.7

- Co-infection with positive cases: Pre-(1 syphilis) and Post-(3 syphilis)
- All new cases of adolescents living with HIV (ALHIV) were linked to care
  - Mean + SD:12.6 ± 18.4 days ; range 1-48 days

Conclusions

- Atlanta remains hotspot for new HIV cases
- Six new cases in 7 months highlights importance of adolescent universal HIV testing
- **Reflects a public health crisis**
- New opt-out initiative
  - ⬆ HIV screening among adolescents
  - Opt-out screening identifies ALHIV at earlier stage of infection
  - Improves timely linkage to care
  - ⬇ Risk of secondary transmission

Limitations

- Implementation is still in early stage
- Not all eligible patients are currently captured despite opt-out policy
- Single service line of Children's hospitals in high-risk area for HIV
  - May not be translatable to non children's hospital or regions with low HIV transmission

Future Direction

- Expanding education efforts to clinical staff to improve screening of eligible adolescents
- Including buccal swab testing
- Expand testing beyond the ED
- Encourage screening of high-risk groups for syphilis & provide STI prevention resources

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