Collaborating with Public Health to Improve Identification and Linkage to care

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Initial partnerships

- Existing collaboration with MetroHealth to provide primary care services
- Biostatistician shared with CWRU epi/biostats
- Medical director role
- Professional services in STI clinic
Local Health Department Clinics (before)

- Stand alone role of HIV counseling and testing
- Separate records for HIV testing
- Appointments only after confirmatory testing

- Plan, Do, Study, Act methodology to increase efficiencies for testing and linkage to care
Local Health Department Clinics (after)

- HIV testing part of every visit
  - Increased volume of testing by 50% with no change in staff
- Integrated records
  - Reproductive health—pt centered approach
- Smooth and early referrals (with + rapid)
  - Providers and staff ownership for linkage
Challenges implementing HIV testing for pts with STI symptoms b/c usually coming in for episodic care, no coverage

General challenges to testing in primary care

Partnered with state and local HD to support rapid testing
  ◦ Provided testing supplies
  ◦ Training and resource
HRSA funded SPNS project: Enhancing Linkages to HIV Primary Care and Services in Jail Settings Initiative

Establish rapid testing program in County jail
Corrections (cont’d)

- Partner with state and local HD for rapid HIV testing allowing funding to increase staff time and overall testing impact
- Jail based staff for discharge planning
Retention in Care Initiative

- Bidirectional data sharing with local HD
  - Identify out of care or never linked to care
  - Improve reporting, accuracy of surveillance database

- Linkage to care coordinators funded to local health dept
  - Anticipating collaboration to contract these positions to healthcare sites for improved efficiencies with linkage
Conclusion

- Healthy Relationships lead to additional opportunities

- Understanding
  - Capacity
  - Limitations
  - Importance