

# **Results of a hospital survey: The importance of rigorous needs assessment to target interventions**

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# Background

- 52 of the 260 (20%) labor and delivery hospitals in California provide rapid HIV testing in labor and delivery.
  - Which facilities do not provide such testing, and why?
- Goals of data collection:
  - Assist decision-making about which hospitals to target.
  - Understand statewide barriers and needs.

# Methods

- A survey tool was created by a multi-disciplinary team of individuals.
- Question sources:
  - HRET and Illinois DPH surveys,
  - literature searches,
  - informal interviews with providers and county workers.
- Included birthing hospitals reporting more than 50 live births in 2005.
  - Size range was about 50-8000 births per year.

# Methods (con't)

- A paper copy of the questionnaire, as well as a link to an electronic copy, was sent to the labor and delivery nurse manger at every hospital.
- Non-responders were followed-up with telephone calls and, in some cases, personal visits.
- Ultimately, 205 surveys were returned, for a 78.8% response rate.
  - It took about 6 months and as many as 5-8 contacts with some sites to secure responses.

# Results: Prenatal Care Records

- 46% of the facilities reported >90% prenatal care record availability at the beginning of labor.
- HIV test results were documented about 45% of the time.
- So, as few as 21% of women may have an HIV test result available at the beginning of labor.

# Results: HIV

- HIV patients in population in 2005:
  - >60% reported that no HIV-infected women gave birth at their facility in 2005.
  - 32% reported 1-10 births to HIV-infected women.
  - Three reported >30 births to HIV-infected women.
- 37% reported having a written protocol for managing women without a documented HIV test.
- 25% reported that they offer rapid HIV testing to every woman lacking such documentation.

# Results: Laboratory Readiness

- 41% of laboratories reported the ability to process rapid HIV tests 24/7.
- 6% reported the ability to process such tests, but with restricted hours and/or days.

# Results: Major Barriers

- Many barriers to universal rapid test offer, where appropriate, were cited by facilities not offering such testing.
- The three most commonly cited barriers included:
  - Rapid HIV test kits not available in Labor and Delivery (65.2%)
  - Insufficient training on providing HIV test results and treatment (58.2%)
  - Insufficient training on how to offer and explain HIV testing (57.6%).

# Discussion: Overview

- The majority of CA birthing facilities do not offer every eligible woman a rapid HIV test at L&D
- Obstacles to test offer including poor prenatal care record availability, lack of protocols, limited laboratory availability, lack of testing kits, and insufficient training.
- Most of these obstacles can be addressed through training, technical assistance, and/or capacity building to help implement protocols, access test kits, etc.

# Discussion: Data Uses

- Needs assessment results are being used in several ways:
  - To add numbers and “science” to training sessions for providers.
  - To open conversations with providers.
    - For example: “Many of your peer facilities expressed a need for training around HIV testing and providing results. I can provide that training. Is this something that would be valuable for your staff?”

# Discussion: Data Uses (2)

- To help target interventions.
  - To ensure that hospitals are ready to implement test offer and understand where each individual facility is at.
  - “Many hospitals are having trouble securing HIV test kits. Is that an issue for you? What are other issues that I can help with?”
- To contact those who offer universal testing for lessons learned that can be shared.
- To inform project evaluation:
  - Data serves as a baseline and helped team choose meaningful questions and concepts for evaluation.

# Discussion: Limitations

- Some social desirability bias
  - More facilities reported offering testing to every woman than were able to confirm this in one-on-one conversations.
- Larger facilities in higher-seroprevalence areas were more likely to respond.
- Facilities offering rapid testing were more likely to respond.

# Conclusions

- Rapid HIV testing capacity is needed in California labor and delivery suites.
- Key elements to encourage the implementation of such testing include:
  - Ensuring that rapid test kits are available to L&D
  - Providing training around offering testing and providing results, especially preliminary positives.
- The results of this needs assessment process are integral to effectively targeting interventions.