

Developing Viral Hepatitis Screening and Prevention Services for American Indians and Alaska Natives at an Urban Chemical Dependency Treatment Facility

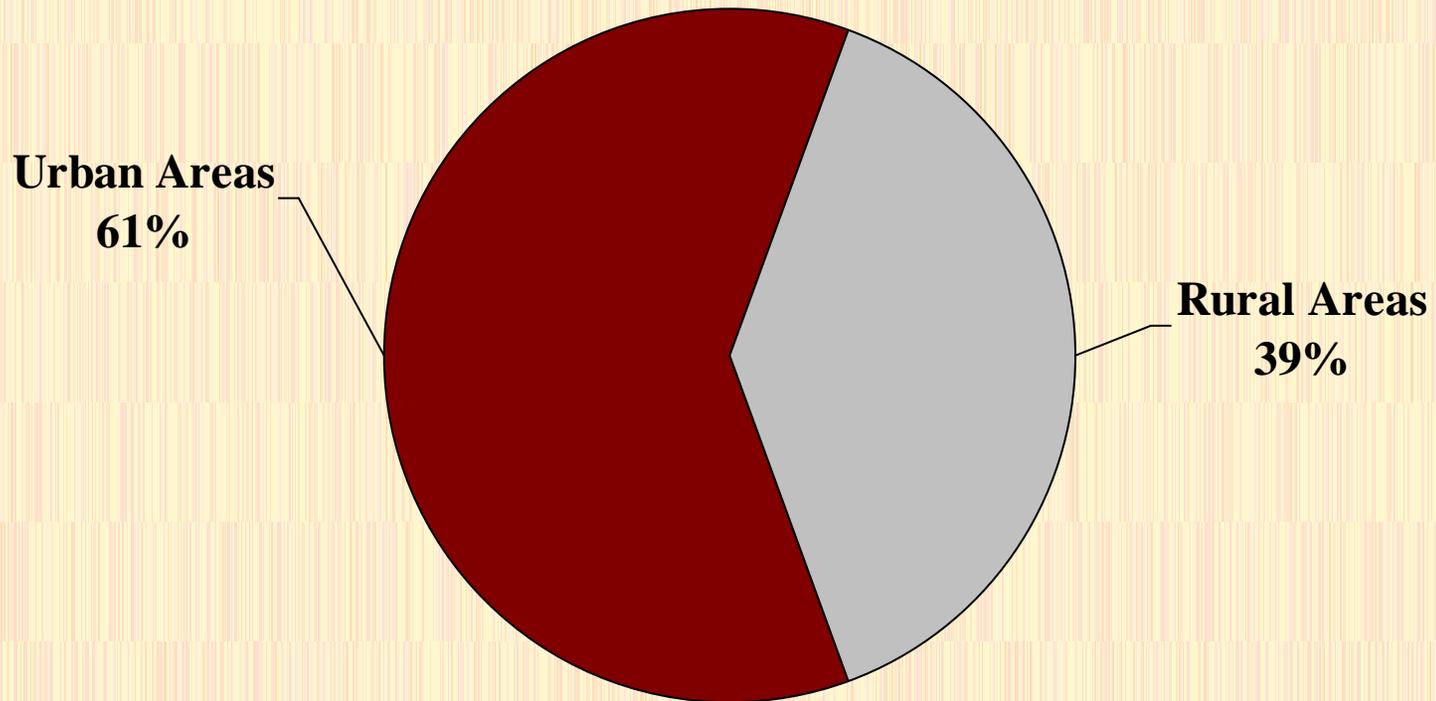
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Geographic Distribution of the AI/AN Population



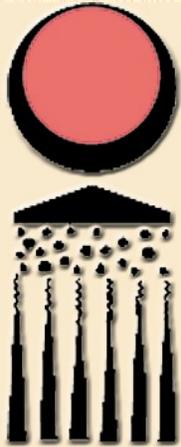
Total AI/AN Population = 4.1 million
Percentage of Total U.S. Population = 1.5%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000
Note: AI/AN mixed race

Challenges in Describing Urban AI/AN

- **Lack of data**
 - ✓ **No inclusion of urban AI/AN in Indian Health Service statistics**
 - ✓ **Non-existent public health surveillance system for urban AI/AN**
- **Poor data quality**
 - ✓ **Incomplete data**
 - ✓ **Inaccurate data due to errors of racial misclassification; results in consistent underestimates for AI/AN**

Seattle Indian Health Board



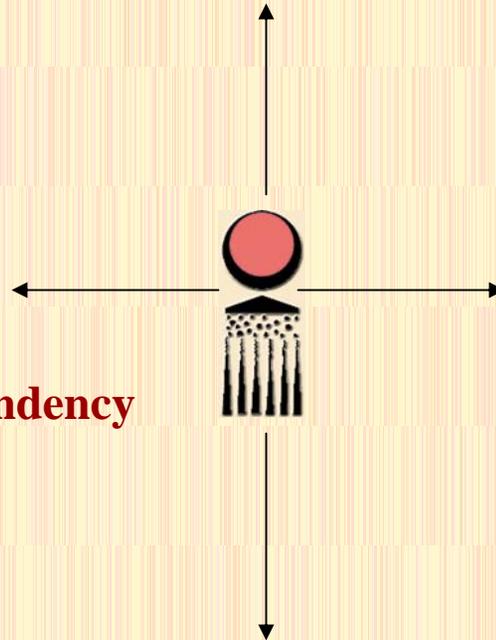
- **Private, non-profit 501(c)(3)**
- **Community Health Center**
- **Founded in 1970**
- **Governed by 15-member Board of Directors**
- **Important safety-net healthcare provider in community**

Pearl Warren

Administration
Human Resources
Fiscal

Leschi Clinic

Primary Medical Care
Dental Care
WIC/Nutrition
Mental Health
Pharmacy
Outpatient Chemical Dependency
Domestic Violence
Community Services



Urban Indian Health Institute

Research/Epidemiology
Programmatic Activities
Service to 34 urban Indian health organizations nationwide

Thunderbird Treatment Center

Residential Chemical Dependency Treatment
Satellite Medical Services

Thunderbird Treatment Center

- **Residential chemical dependency treatment facility**
- **Inpatient Treatment: intensive (28 days), recovery (60 days), or long-term (6 months)**
- **Serves 500-600 clients/year**
- **Target population**
 - **AI/AN living in Seattle King County region**
 - **Adults \geq 18 years**



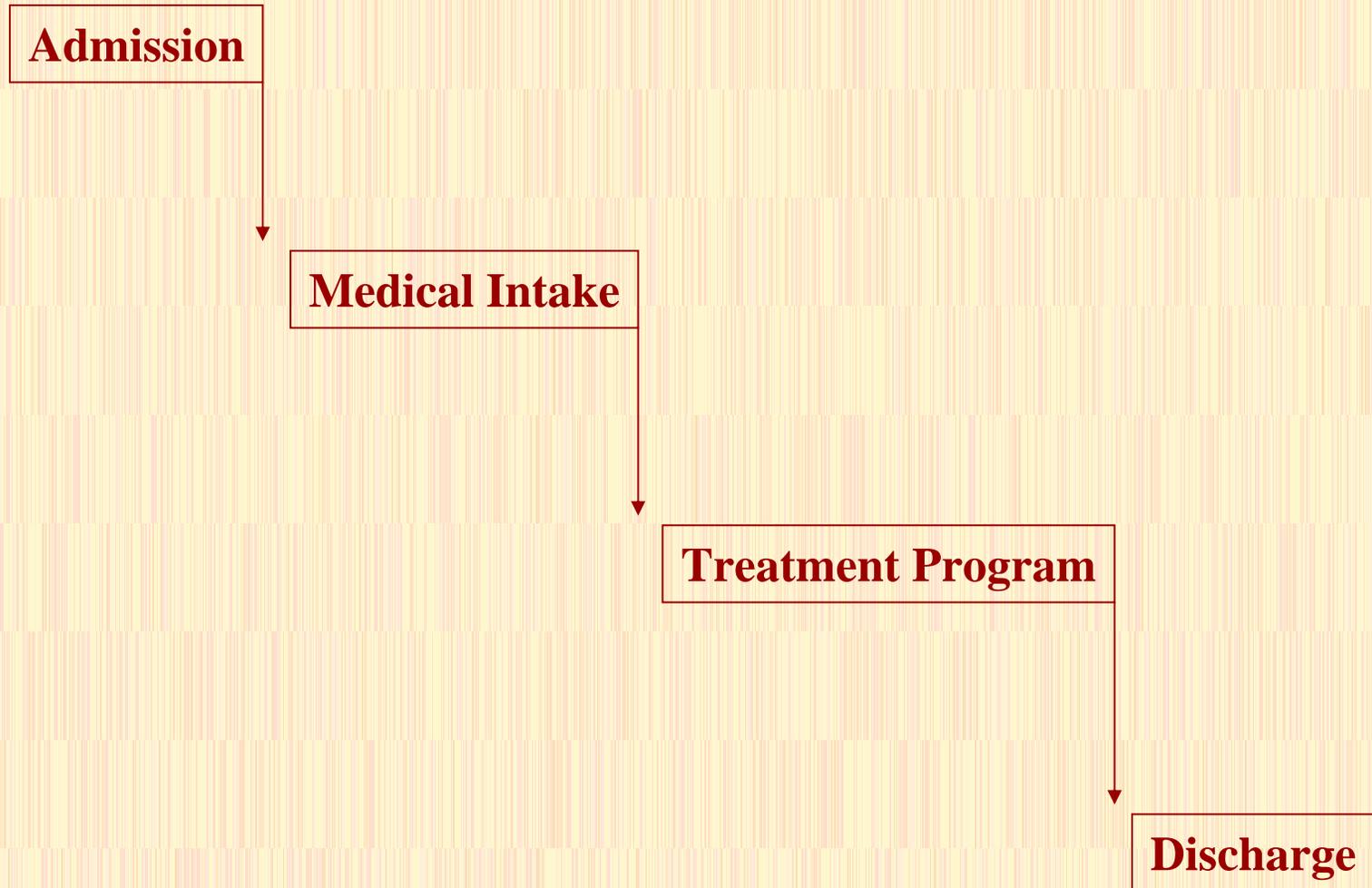
Viral Hepatitis Integration Project at Thunderbird Treatment Center

- **Fifth year of existence**
- **Provides hepatitis screening/prevention services**
- **Multiple project stakeholders**
 - **Thunderbird Treatment Center houses project**
 - **Urban Indian Health Institute (UIHI) processes data**
 - **Leschi Clinic and UIHI administers project**
- **Project evolution over time**
 - **Recent dedicated staff person**

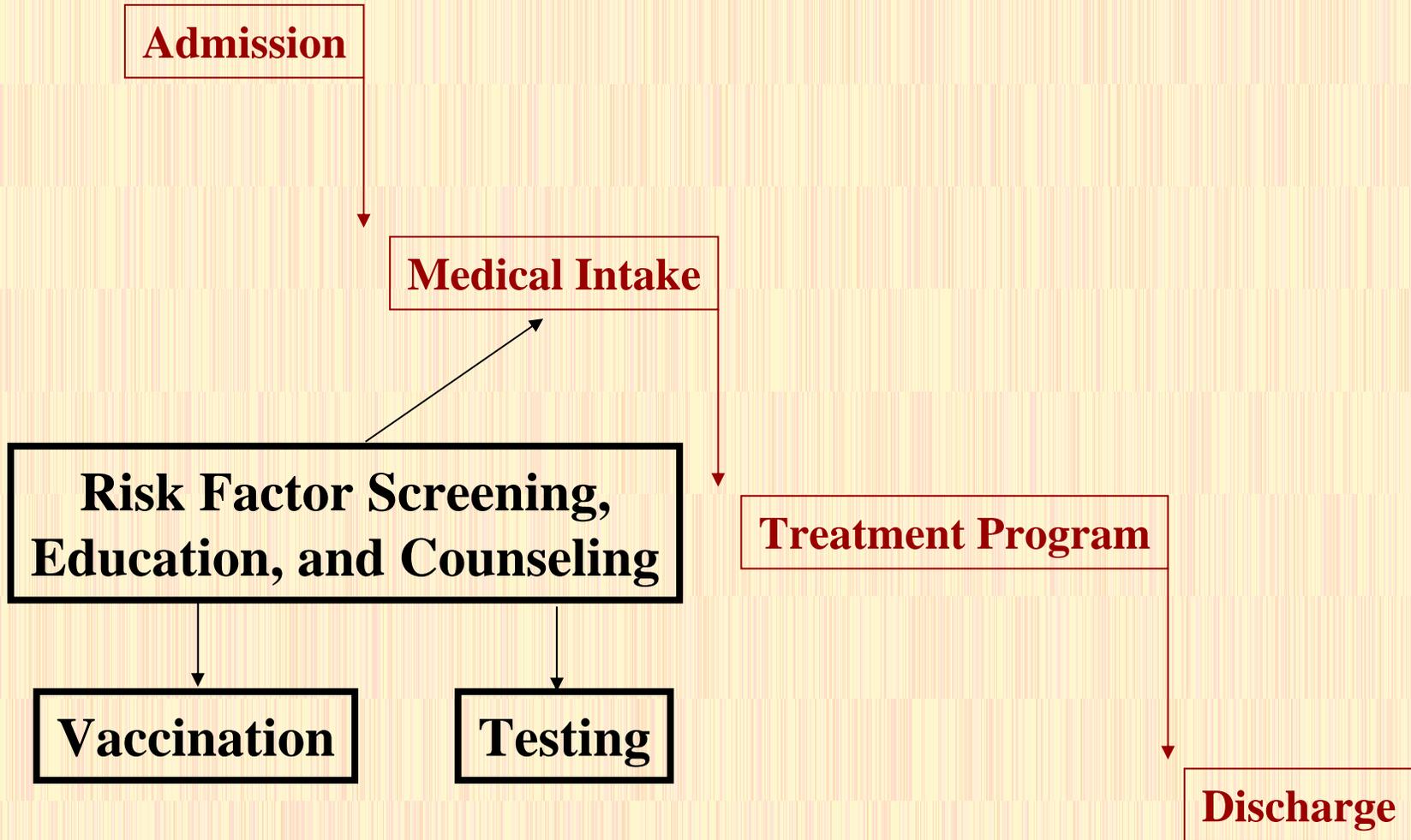
VHIP Goal and Objectives

- **Goal: To reduce incidence of viral hepatitis among patient population**
- **Objectives**
 - ✓ **Screen for related risk behaviors**
 - ✓ **Provide education and counseling**
 - ✓ **Provide hepatitis C laboratory testing**
 - ✓ **Provide hepatitis A and B vaccinations**
 - ✓ **Integrate above with patients' treatment programs**
 - ✓ **Collect information for epidemiology and quality improvement**
 - ✓ **Develop tools for expansion**

Thunderbird Treatment Center Activities



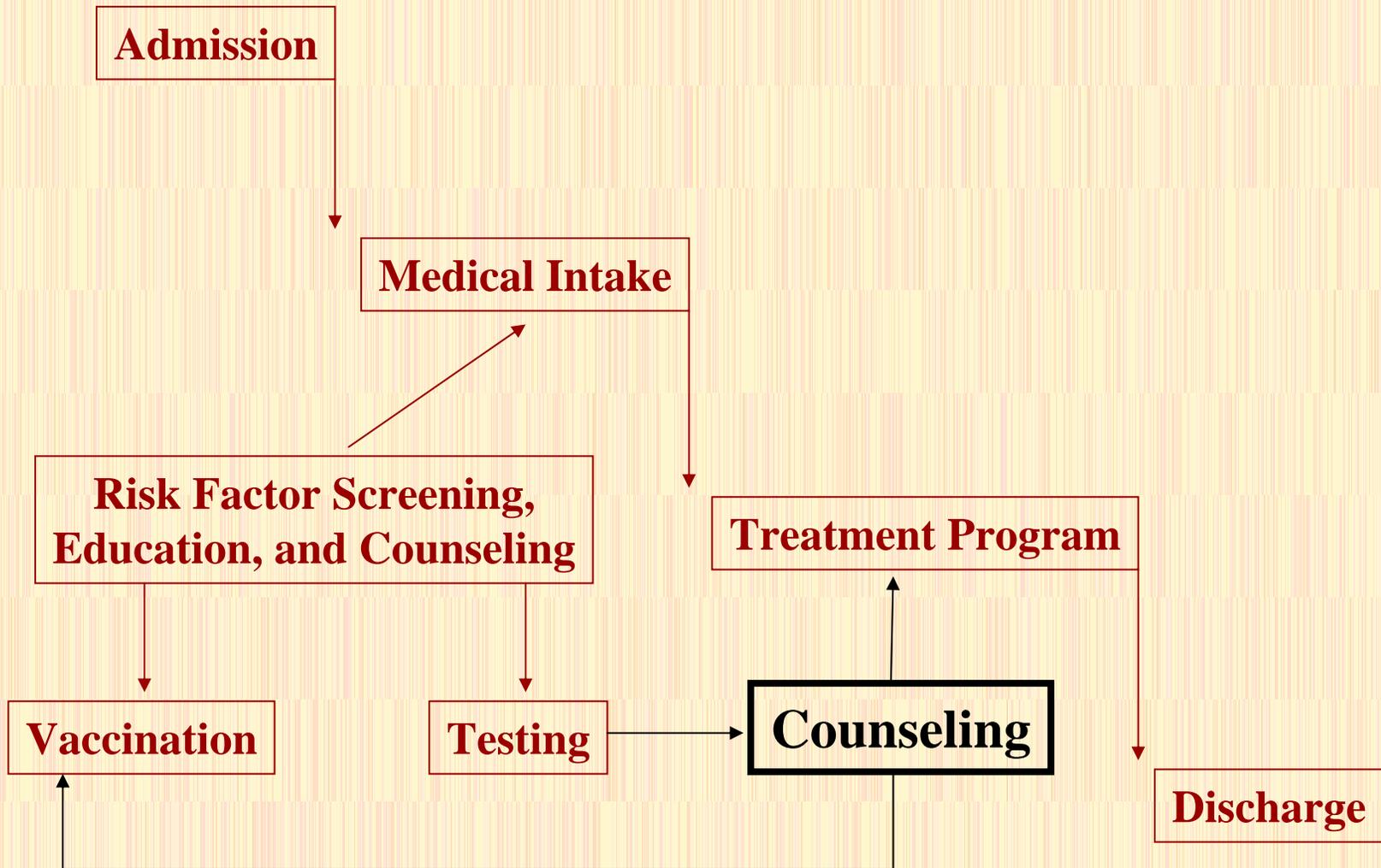
VHIP Integration: Screening, Vaccination and Testing



Risk Factor Screening, Vaccination, and Testing

- **Risk assessment conducted by VHIP Health Educator/nursing staff**
 - **Use of hardcopy instrument**
- **Opportunity for education/counseling**
 - **Provision of printed educational materials**
- **Universal vaccination offered for hepatitis A/B**
 - **Personal vaccination record for follow up**
- **Universal testing offered for hepatitis C/HIV**

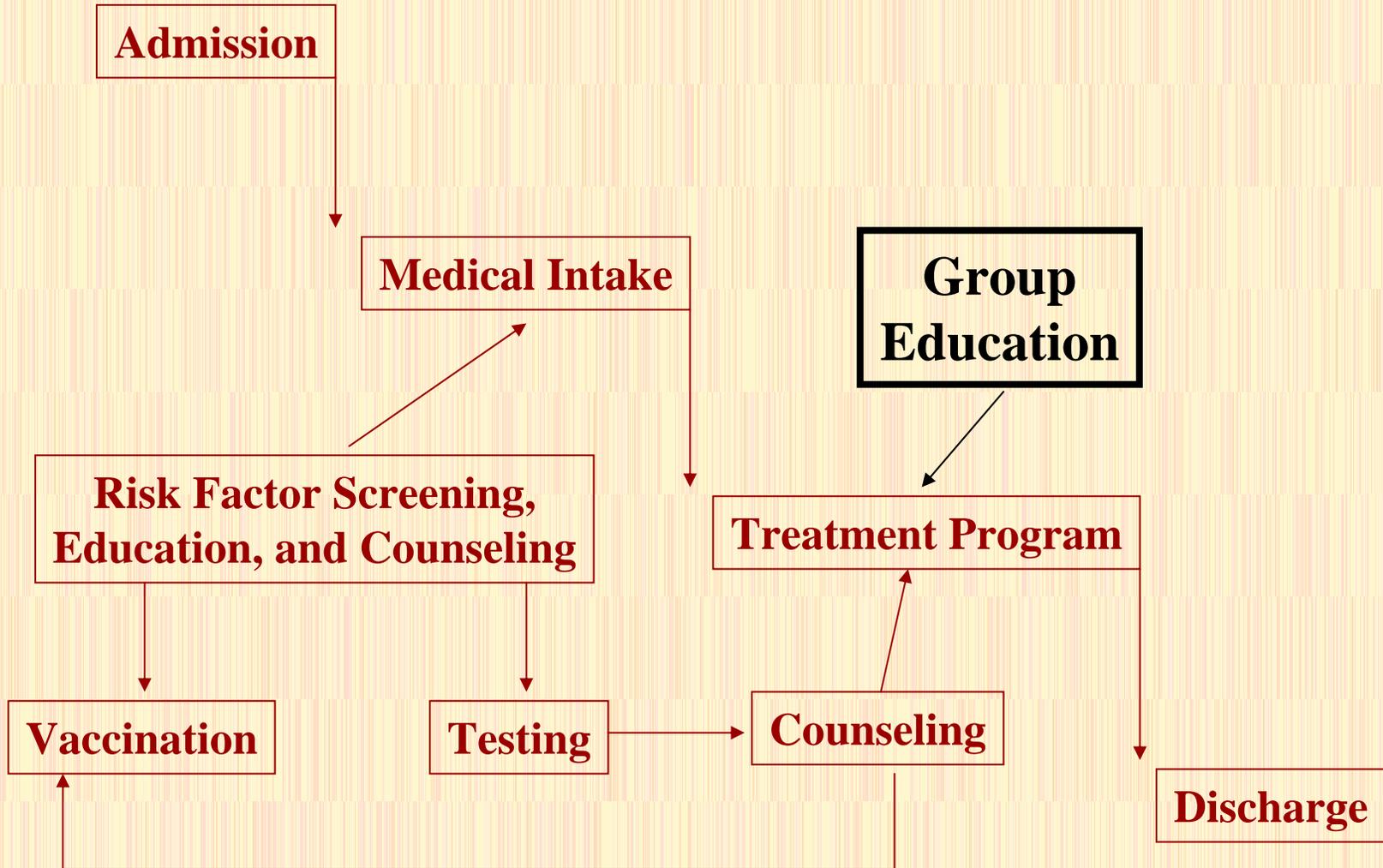
VHIP Integration: Post-Test Counseling



Post-Test Counseling

- **Hepatitis and HIV test results**
 - **Provided by VHIP Health Educator if negative**
 - **Provided by clinical provider if positive**
- **Post-test counseling includes education with focus on a risk reduction plan**
- **Vaccines offered again (if initially declined and appropriate)**
- **Participants with positive results are recommended to receive confirmatory testing and if appropriate, specialty referral**

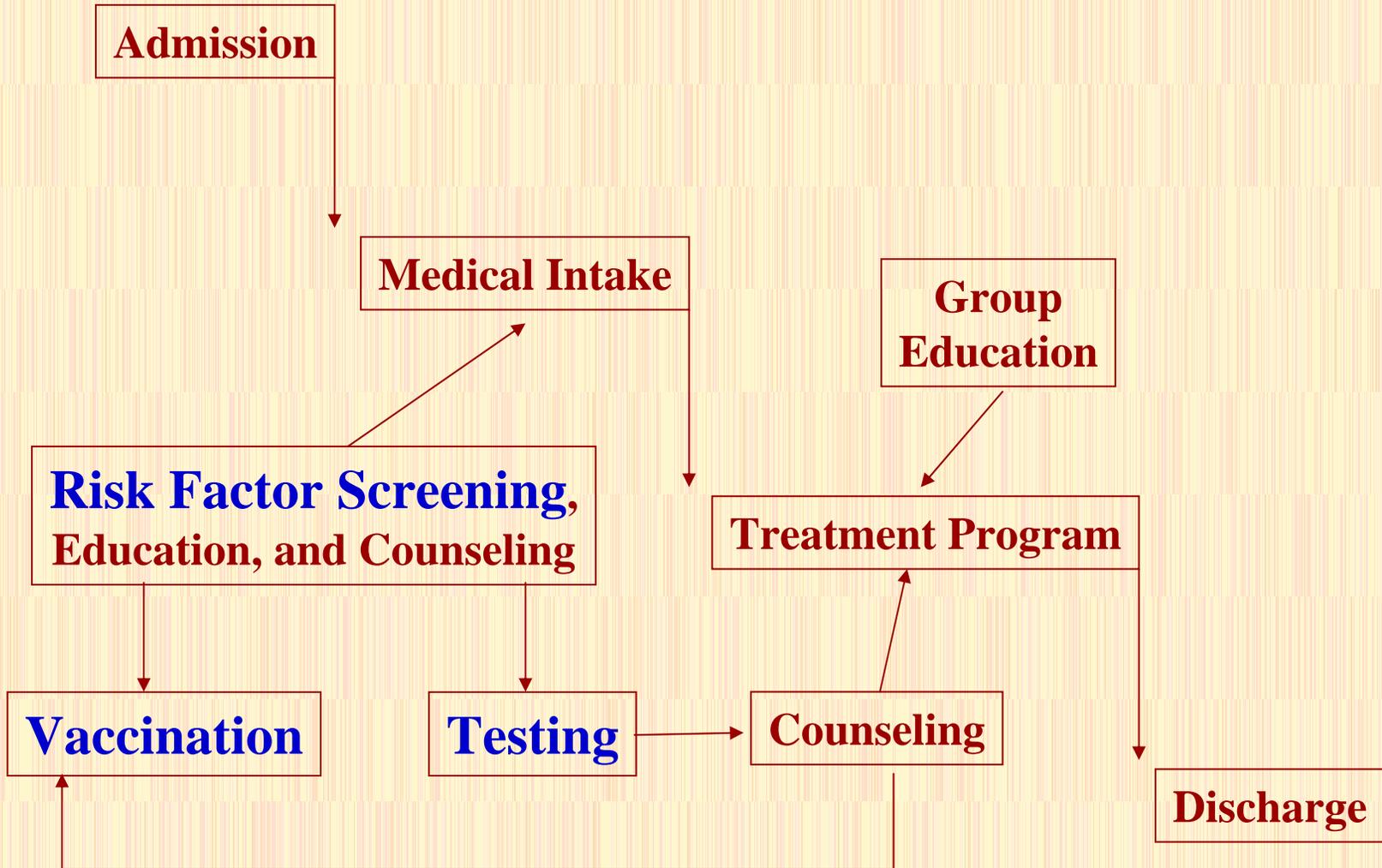
VHIP Integration: Group Education



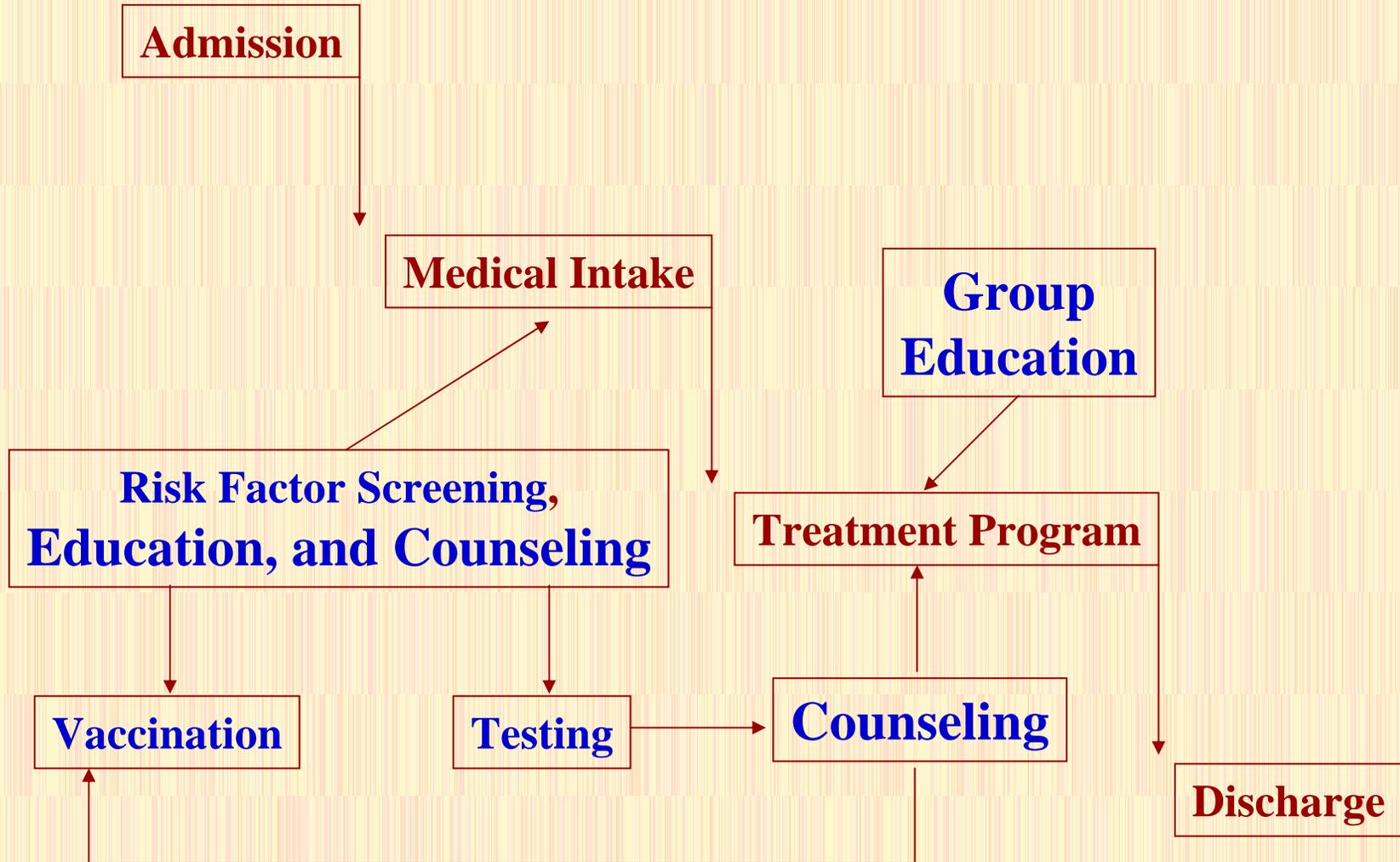
Group Educational Activities

- **Monthly Group hepatitis educational session**
 - **All clients**
 - **Conducted by counselor**
 - **Hepatitis C video shown**
 - **Pre/post tests administered (recently stopped)**
- **Hepatitis C support group under consideration**

VHIP Integration: Existing Data Collection



VHIP Integration: Existing and Proposed Data Collection



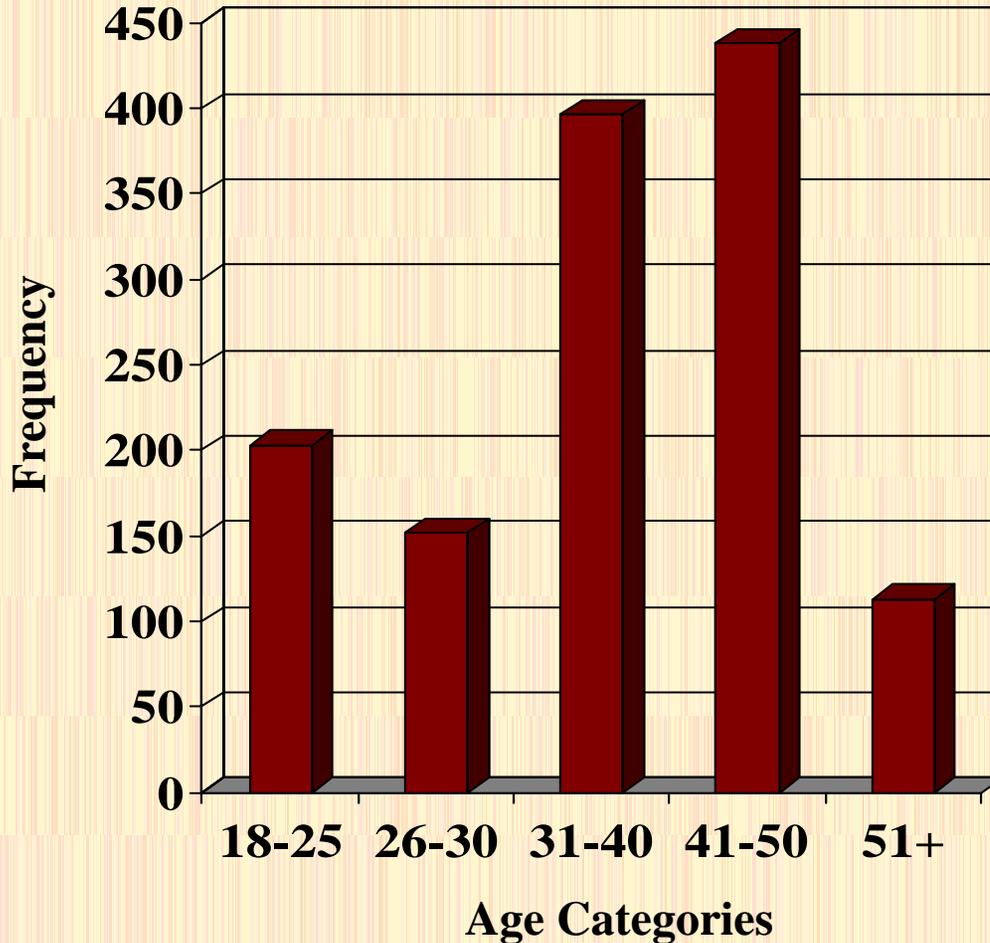
Data Collection, Analysis and Use

- **Hardcopy data entered into Access database**
- **Processed to ensure data quality**
 - **Checking for duplicates**
 - **Follow up on missing/incomplete/inaccurate information**
 - **Double entry**
- **Analysis for:**
 - **Epidemiology**
 - **Quality improvement of program**

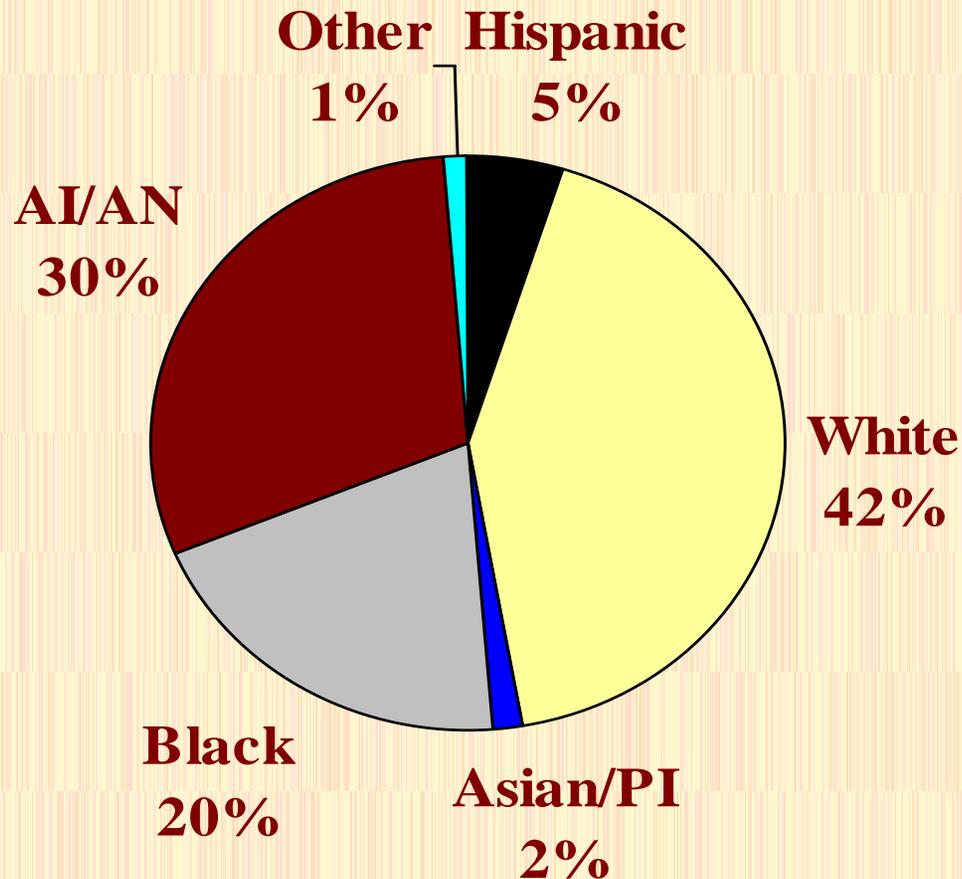
VHIP Patient Population

- **From 9/2002 and 9/2005: 1302 VHIP participants**
- **78% men**
- **30% AI/AN**

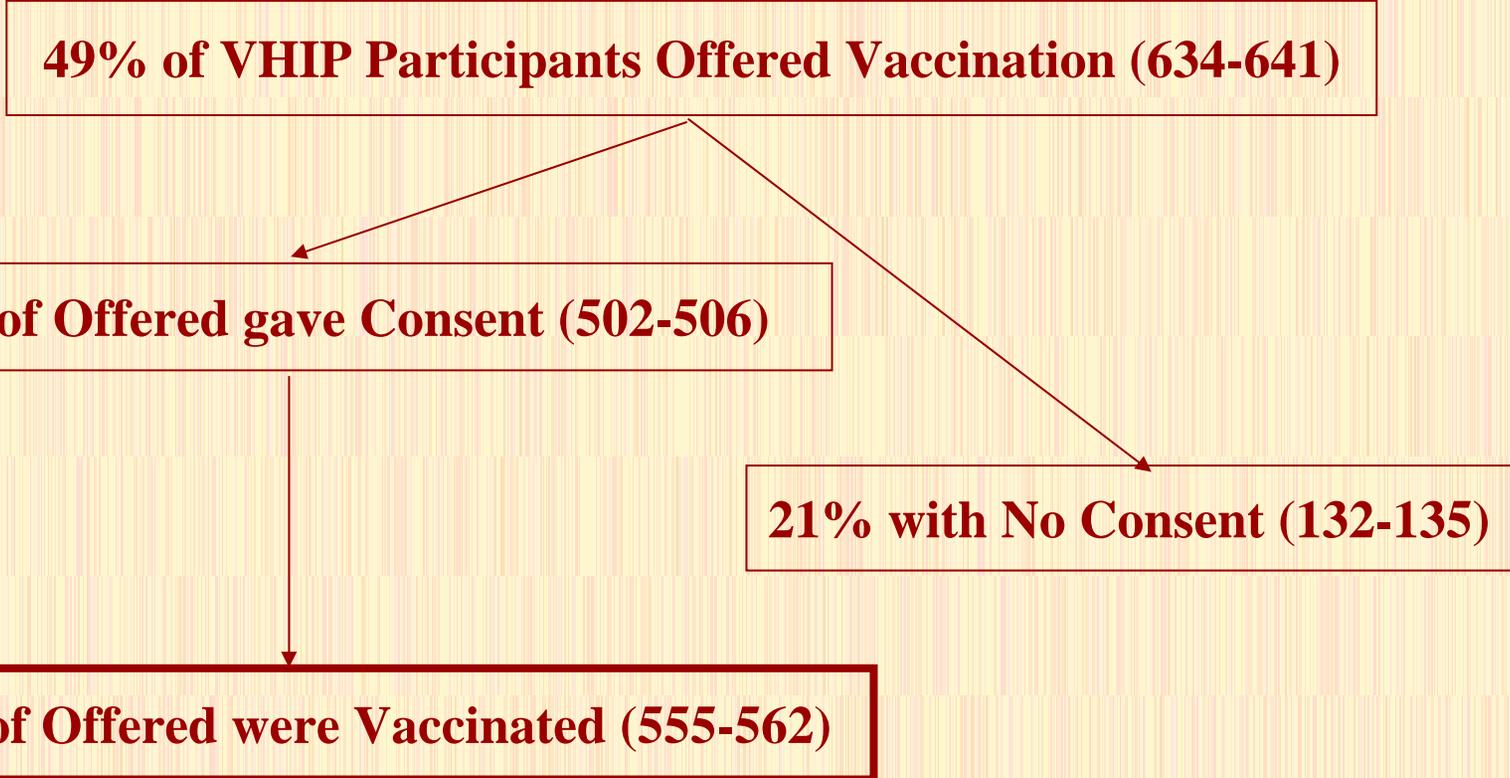
VHIP Participant Ages (n= 1302)



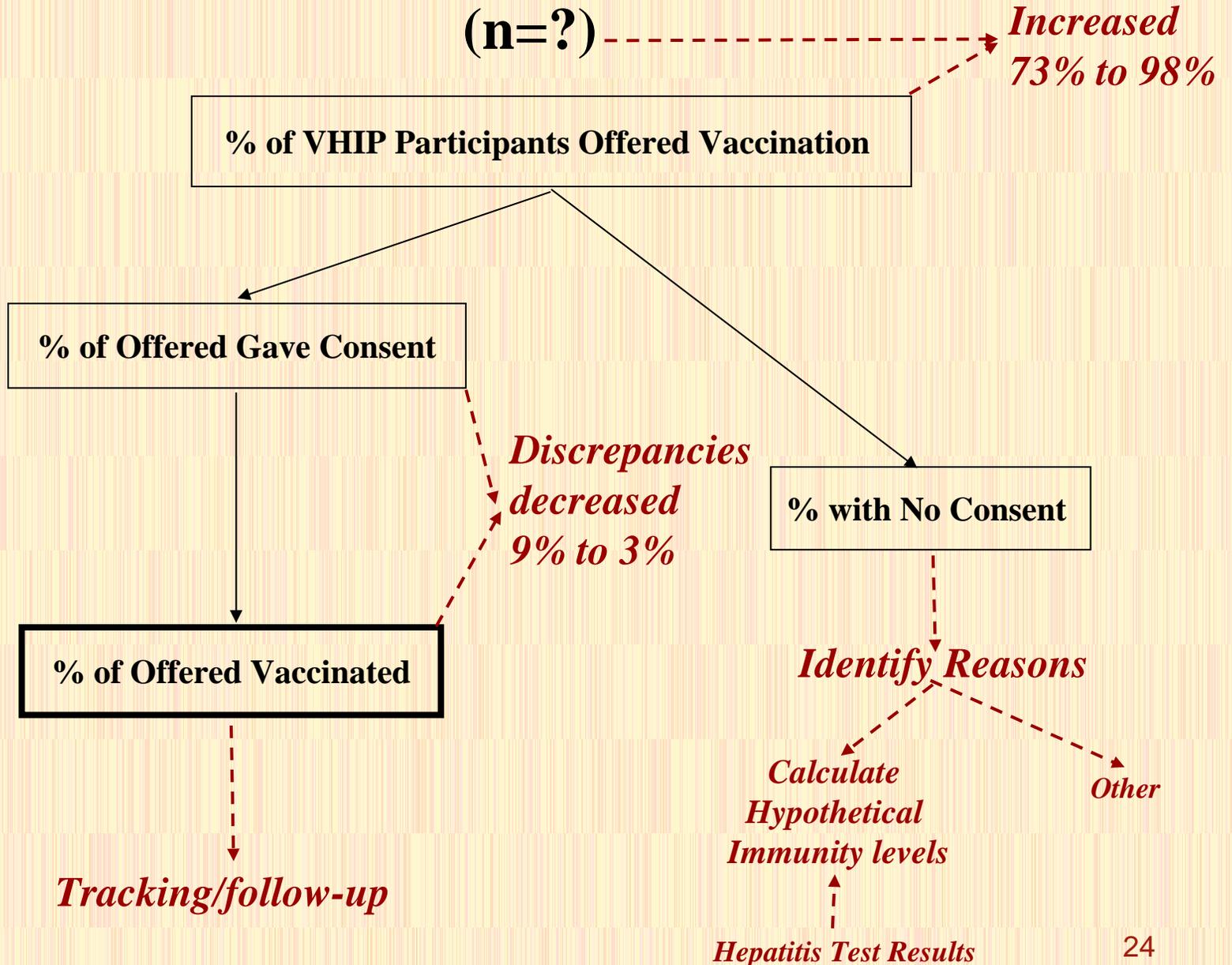
VHIP Participant Race/Ethnicity (n= 1155)



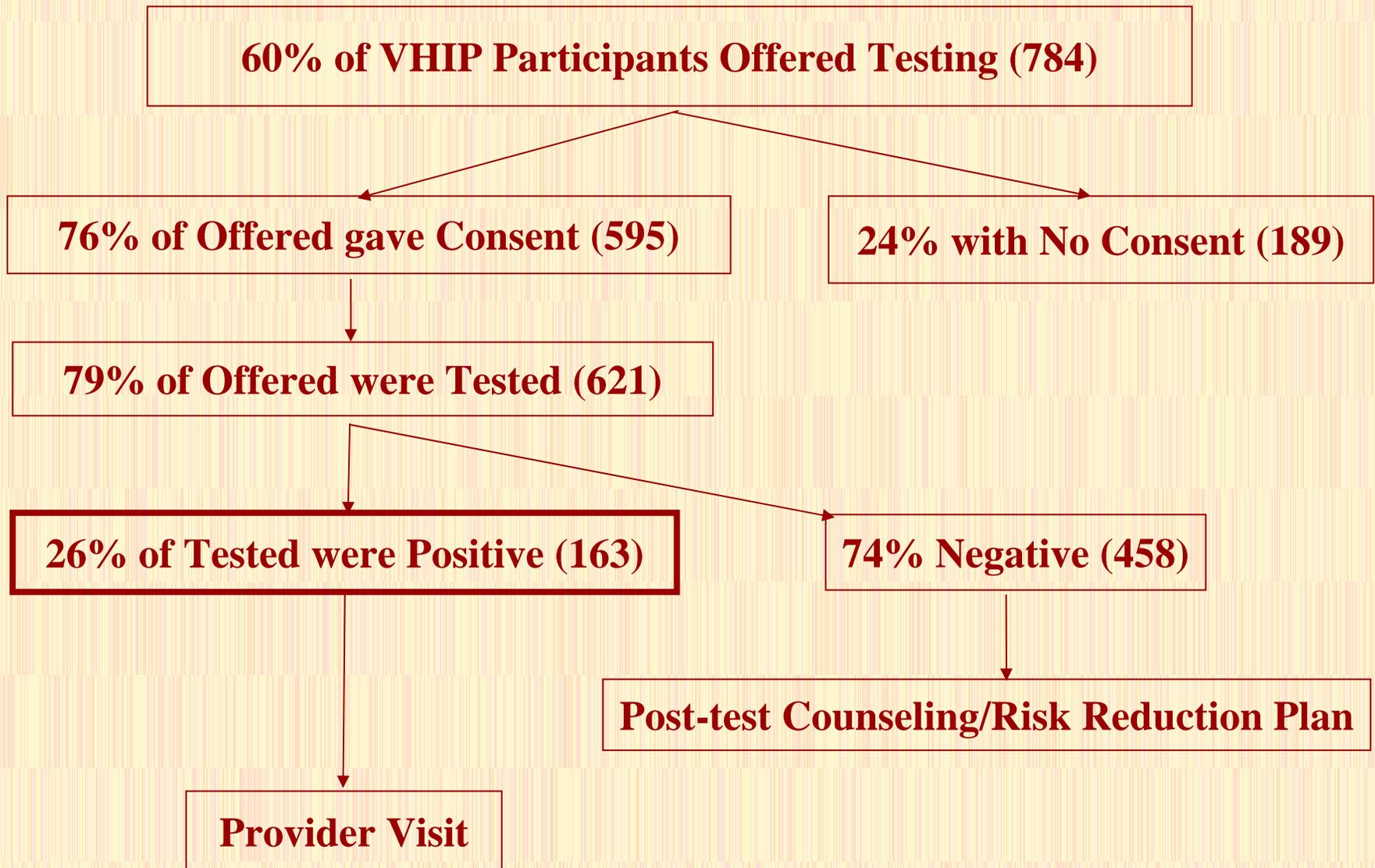
Hepatitis A/B Vaccination (n=1302)



2005 Quality Improvement Around Vaccination

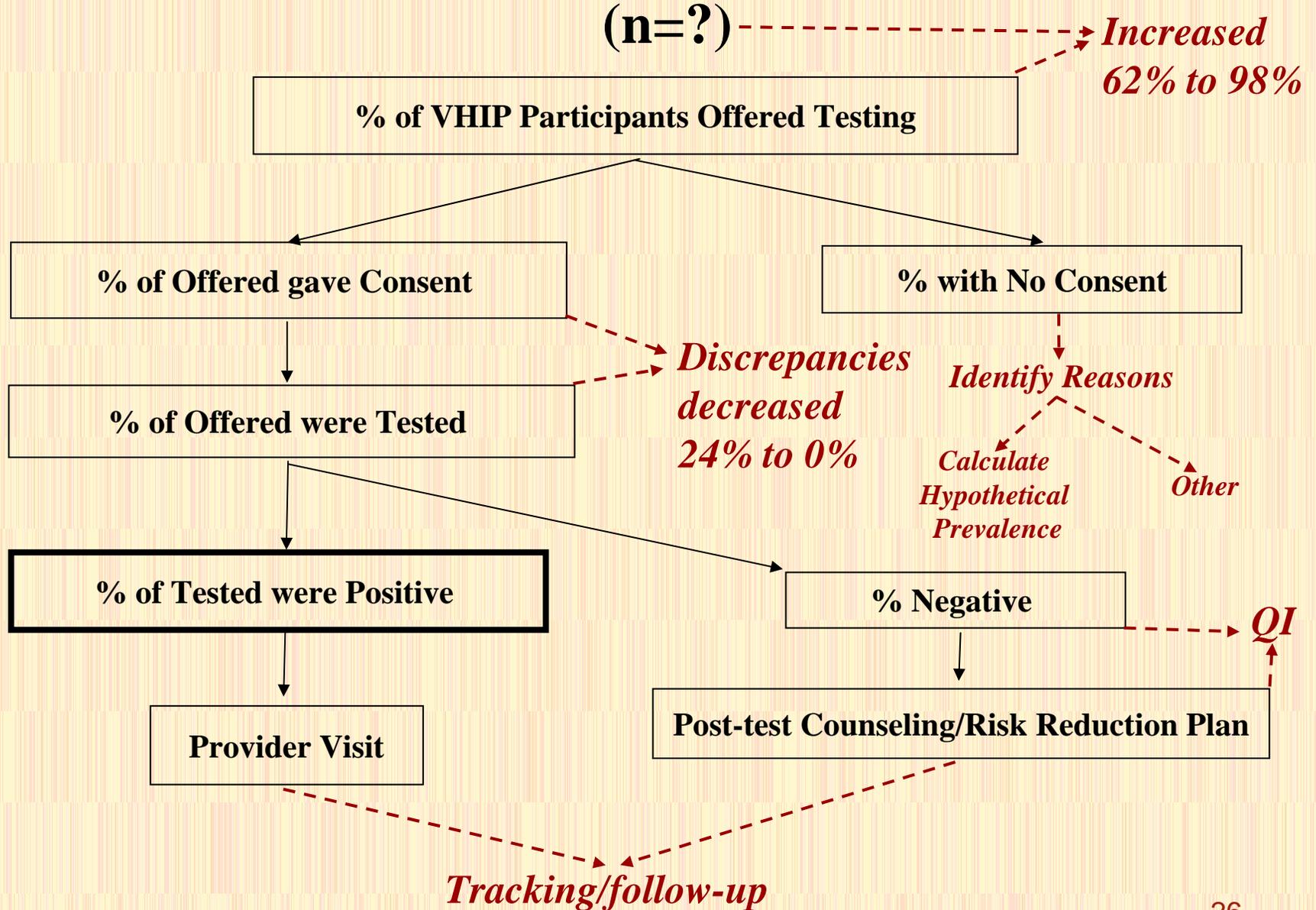


Hepatitis C Testing (n=1302)



2005 Quality Improvement Around Testing

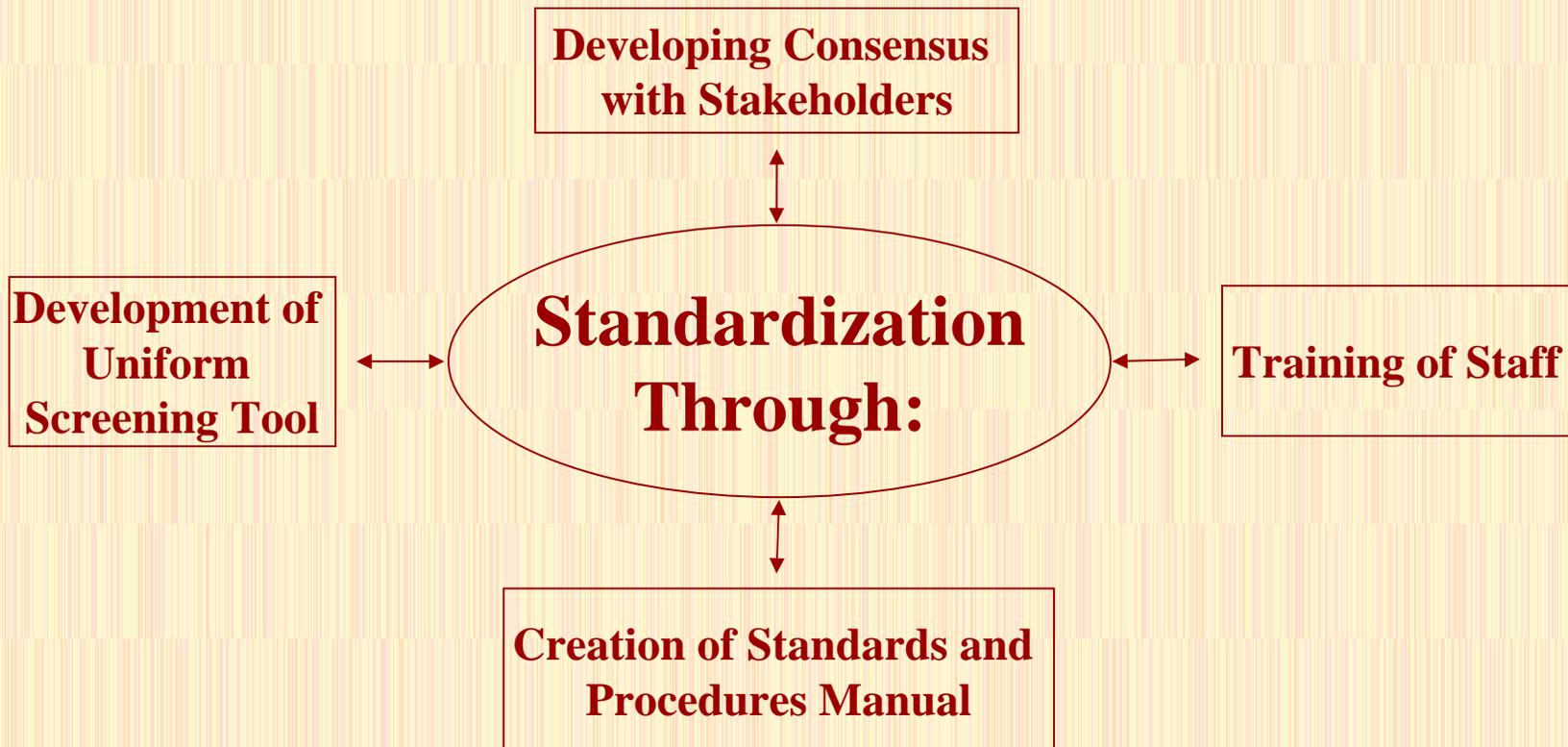
(n=?)



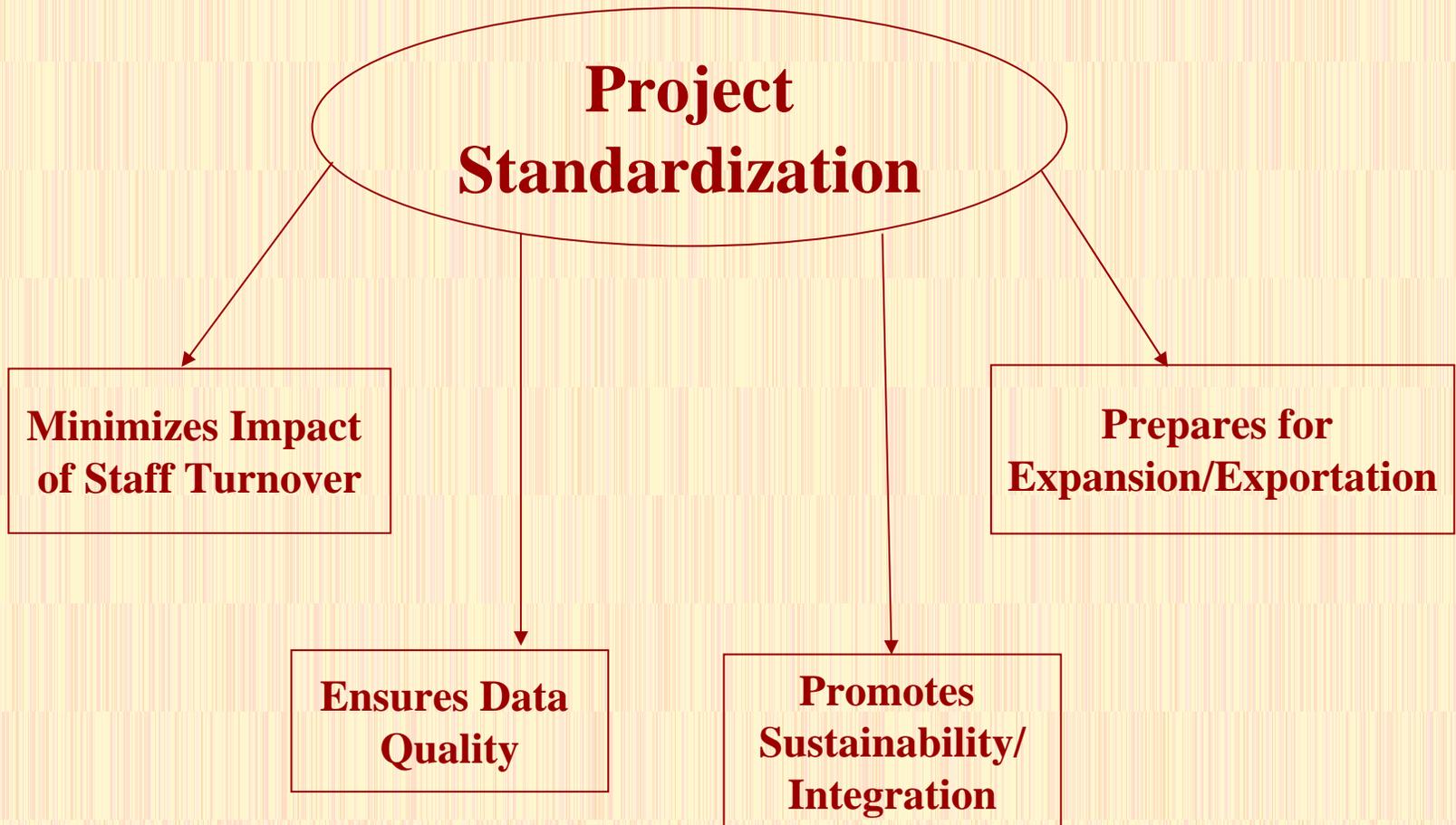
Past/Future VHIP Challenges

- **Lack of standardization**
- **Staffing turnover**
- **Poor data quality**
- **No feedback of data for quality improvement**
- **Measuring effectiveness of education and counseling**
- **Appreciation of data use for epidemiology**
- **Communication between multiple stakeholders**
- **Project sustainability**

Address Challenges through Standardization



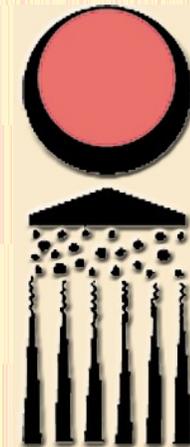
Benefits of Standardization



Lessons Learned

- **Identify changes with core program accurately in order to better enhance integration; remain flexible**
- **Standardize as much as possible**
- **Awareness of differing priorities when multiple stakeholders; encourage input from all**
- **Designate dedicated staff person(s) to serve as a bridge between multiple stakeholders**
- **Demonstrate usefulness of data collection**
- **Consider resources necessary for successfully addressing problems identified**

Thank You



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