

BRANDY MARTELL PROJECT

[Evidence-Informed for the Linking and Retention in HIV Care Chapter](#)
[Evidence-Informed for the Structural Interventions Chapter](#)



POPULATION

- Adult transgender women of color

KEY INTERVENTION EFFECTS

- Increase in antiretroviral therapy (ART) initiation (having an ART prescription)

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

The *Brandy Martell Project* aims to engage and retain adult transgender women of color into HIV care. The intervention was implemented in a gender-affirming care clinic. The study employed Critical Race Theory and sought to address structural barriers to HIV care engagement and retention.

Major intervention aspects include:

- Outreach (social networks, street-, venue-, and agency-based, and internet)
- Individual and comprehensive risk-reduction counseling services
- Comprehensive HIV care
- Agency- and venue-based screening for HIV, viral hepatitis, tuberculosis, and sexual transmitted infections
- One-time and multi-session educational groups
- Legal assistance

DURATION: Ongoing

SETTING: Tri-City Health Center (now known as Bay Areas Community Health), Alameda County, California

STUDY YEARS: 2013 – 2017

STUDY DESIGN: One-group, pre-post

DELIVERERS: Health education specialists, peer advocates, project staff

DELIVERY METHODS: Outreach, peer-patient navigation, social networking

STUDY SAMPLE

The baseline study sample of n = 46 participants was characterized by the following:

- 70% Black or African American persons
30% Hispanic, Latina, or of Spanish origin persons
- Median age = 37 years

STRUCTURAL COMPONENTS

Social Determinants of Health – Survival

- Participants were provided with gift card incentives to cover costs from supermarkets and drugstores

KEY INTERVENTION EFFECTS (see **Primary Study** for all outcomes)

- At the 24-month follow-up, intervention participants were more likely to have received an ART prescription as compared to baseline (unadjusted Odds Ratio [uOR] = 1.59, 95% Confidence Interval [CI]: 1.02-2.47).

CONSIDERATIONS

- The author reported approximate total annual cost of the intervention as \$200,000 at the time of intervention implementation.
- Of the 46 participants enrolled, 44 (96%) were exposed to the full intervention.
- The median number of hours of exposure during the intervention was 11 hours.
- Of the 46 participants enrolled, 93.18% participated in virtual session, 65.91% participated in group sessions.

ADVERSE EVENTS

The author did not report adverse events.

FUNDING

- Health Resources and Services Administration (U90HA24973)

PRIMARY STUDY

Rebchook, G. M., Chakravarty, D., Xavier, J. M., Keatley, J. G., Maiorana, A., Sevelius, J., Shade, S. B., & the SPNS Transgender Women of Color Study Group. (2022). [An evaluation of nine culturally tailored interventions designed to enhance engagement in HIV care among transgender women of colour in the United States](#). *Journal of the International AIDS Society*, 25(Suppl. 5), e25991. <https://doi.org/10.1002/jia2.25991>

Wilson, E. C., Turner, C., Arayasirikul, S., Woods, T., Tryon, J., Franza, K., & Lin, R. (2021). [HIV care engagement among trans women of color in San Francisco Bay Area Demonstration Projects: Findings from the Brandy Martell Project and TransAccess](#). *AIDS and Behavior*, 25(Suppl. 1), 31-39. doi: 10.1007/s10461-019-02697-0

PLEASE CONTACT STUDY AUTHOR FOR TRAINING AND INTERVENTION MATERIALS.

Contact information

Tiffany Woods

California Department of Public Health

Email: tiffany.woods@cdph.ca.gov

Gregory Rebchook, PhD

University of California San Francisco

Center for AIDS Prevention Studies (CAPS) & UCSF Prevention Research Center

Email: greg.rebchook@ucsf.edu