

# Bringing Testing Back: An Effort to Increase HIV Screening at CHASS Center in Southwest Detroit



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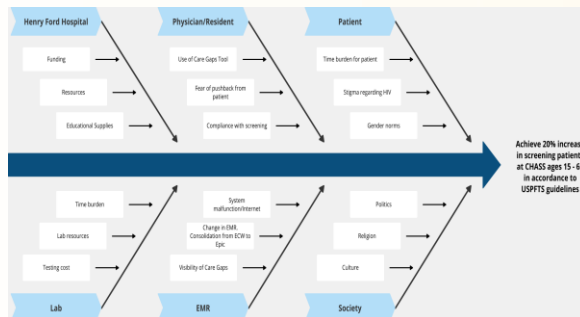
## Background

- The US Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) recommends all persons ages 15-65 be tested for HIV at least once in their lifetime.
- Disparities in testing and HIV status are evident for individuals who identify as Hispanic/Latino. Only 84 out of every 100 Hispanic/Latino people living with HIV knew their HIV status.
- The Community Health and Social Services (CHASS) Center is located in Southwest Detroit and serves primarily the Hispanic/Latino population. CHASS Center has the potential to contribute substantially to HIV prevention and treatment efforts with this high-risk group in Detroit through adequate HIV screening.

## Quality Improvement Objectives

- Long-term goal: increase testing compliance to 95% of CHASS patients in accordance with USPSTF recommendations.
- Short-term goal: increase providers' awareness of the importance of HIV screening and familiarize them with EPIC's "Care Gaps" tool.
- The first phase of this initiative focused on modifying provider behavior and aimed to achieve an increase in screening compliance by 25%.

Figure 1. Root-cause analysis of decreased HIV screening at CHASS Center



## Methods

### Plan

- Increase screening in patients at CHASS ages 15 – 65 by 20% in accordance to USPSTF guidelines by using the Care Gaps Tool in EPIC EMR
- The intervention included providing education to all CHASS staff and personnel about the importance of HIV screening compliance and how to use the EPIC electronic medical record (EMR) "Care Gaps" tool to increase screening compliance.

### Do

- Three residents from the QI team led the educational presentation, which was attended by the CEO, CMO, CFO, clinic supervisors and managers, doctors, and mid-level practitioners.

### Study

- HIV screening compliance increased <1%.

### Act

- Education about the importance of completing HIV screening and the available EMR tool was not sufficient to increase compliance with HIV screening in our targeted population
- The next step in this QI initiative is to gather information about providers' use of the EPIC EMR "Care Gaps" tool and previous strategies that have worked to improve their compliance with other care guidelines

## Public Health Implications

- The HIV pandemic continues to disproportionately affect people of color and those from low social economic backgrounds.
- Early detection is paramount to stopping new infections and effective disease management.
- Prevention efforts through clinics like CHASS center have the potential to minimize HIV disparities in Detroit given their trusted relationship in high-risk communities.