

Public Health Institute of Metropolitan Chicago

(PHIMC) enhances the capacity of public health and healthcare systems to promote health equity and expand access to services. Through organizational development, system transformation, fiscal management, and program implementation, PHIMC leads efforts to strengthen the public health infrastructure in Illinois.

In 2006, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention released a recommendation that routine, opt-out HIV screening be included in general healthcare for all patients 13-64 years of age. Since 2007, PHIMC has worked to implement these recommendations and led numerous efforts to promote routine HIV screening. Implementation of these recommendations has had a great impact on the continuing fight against AIDS by identifying people living with HIV and linking them more easily into care and treatment. However, many factors, including organizational commitment, long established work habits, and stigma around HIV testing, create barriers to full integration of HIV screening into healthcare.

PHIMC's routine HIV screening projects focus on reducing these barriers and working with medical organizations and providers to better protect their patients by implementing this critical service.

- **People who are living with HIV but undiagnosed (18%) and people who are HIV diagnosed but not in care (45%) account for 92% of new infections.¹**
- **Deaths from HIV are increasing among individuals over 44 years old (67%) and female (27%), yet these two groups are frequently left untested.²**
- **71% of patients newly diagnosed with HIV had made a healthcare visit in the previous 12 months and had not been tested for HIV.³**

1. Skarbinski, J. et al. "Human Immunodeficiency Virus Transmission at Each Step of the Care Continuum in the United States." *JAMA Intern Med* (2015): 175(4), 588

2. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention. *Mortality Slide Series*. 2011. Web.

3. Zheng, MY, A Suneja, AL Chou, M Arya. Physician barriers to successful implementation of US Preventive Services Task Force routine HIV testing recommendations. *J Int Assoc Provid AIDS Care* 13.3 (2014): 200-5.



PHIMC manages the following programs and resources to support implementation of this practice:

Care and Prevention in the United States (CAPUS)

Demonstration Project and **Category B** expand routine, opt-out HIV screening within general medical settings throughout Illinois and support the sustainability of routine screening through billing and reimbursement strategies. PHIMC oversees services within 40 sites, including clinics, county jails, emergency departments, juvenile detention centers, and a methadone clinic.

Protecting Our Patients (POP) is a campaign mobilizing healthcare teams to address stigmas that impact patient health outcomes. POP interventions promote practices that improve patient experiences and support comprehensive care. POP interventions currently include: 1) integrating routine HIV screening into general healthcare and 2) providing affirming healthcare for all, especially those most marginalized from healthcare systems.

iTest – www.illinoisshivtesting.org is a website created to ensure that providers in Illinois have access to a collection of resources that can be used to implement routine HIV screening and to enhance the quality of HIV care services. This website houses toolkits for both general medical and behavioral healthcare providers.

For more information, contact:

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