
HIV Screening and Linkage to Care at a Student Run Free Clinic for Unhoused Patients

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Objectives

1. Identify reasons why increased HIV testing in the unhoused community is necessary
2. Provide a layout of our screening initiative and linkage to care model
3. Understand barriers to community testing

How it all started....



Why is this project important?



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Why is this project important?



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1. Higher prevalence rate among the unhoused population, with less testing

Of those with controlled HIV - **3%** unhoused
vs.
Those with uncontrolled HIV - **18%** unhoused¹

Why is this project important?



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2. Harder to link patients to follow up care after a reactive test

25% of those in the community who recently tested positive remained unlinked to care within 3 months of screening²

Why is this project important?

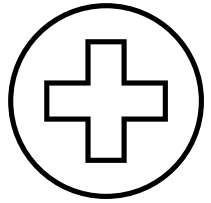


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3. Increased risk of death due to HIV/AIDS

27 fold increase in death
from HIV/AIDS if unhoused³

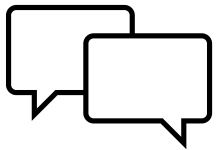
What can we do at Student Run Free Clinics?



Increase Point of Care testing



Investigate government programs that offer resources

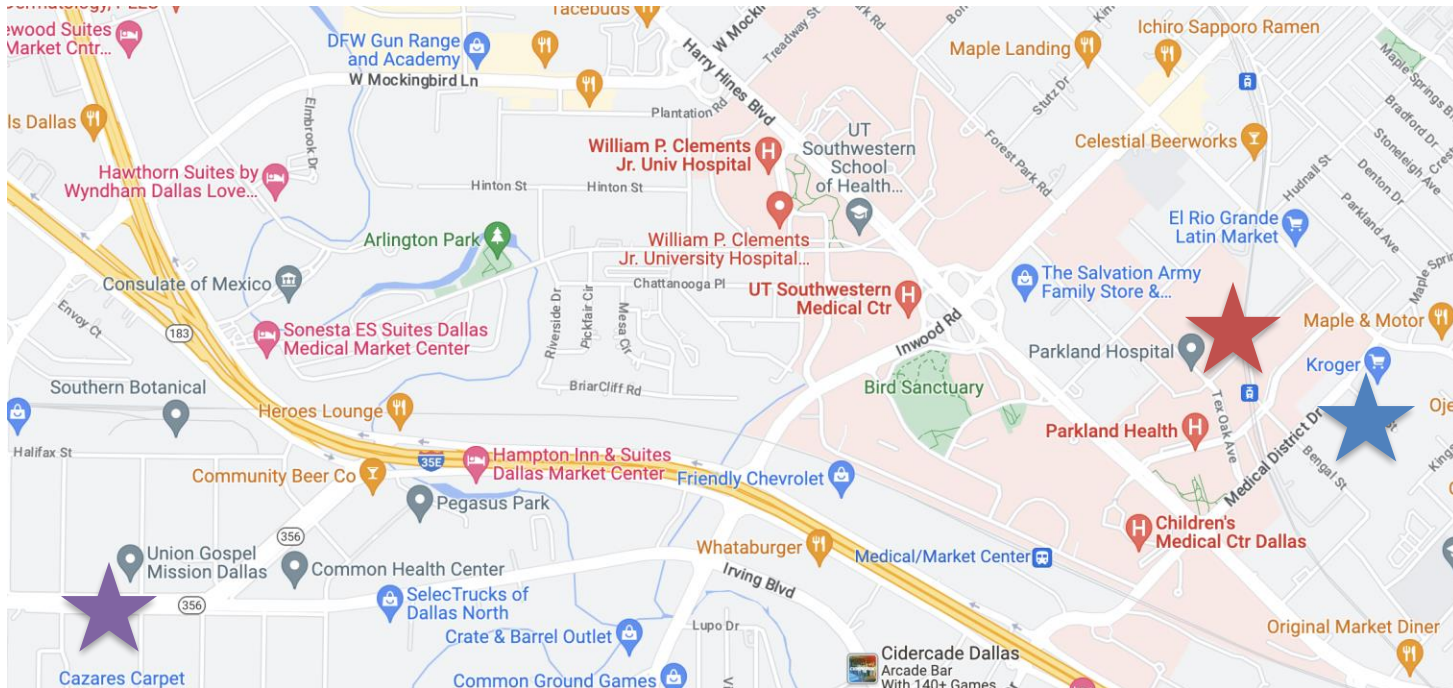


Encourage conversation about high-risk behaviors with our patients

ACCESS Clinic and Government Funding



ACCESS = *Adult Comprehensive Care and Engagement Support Services*



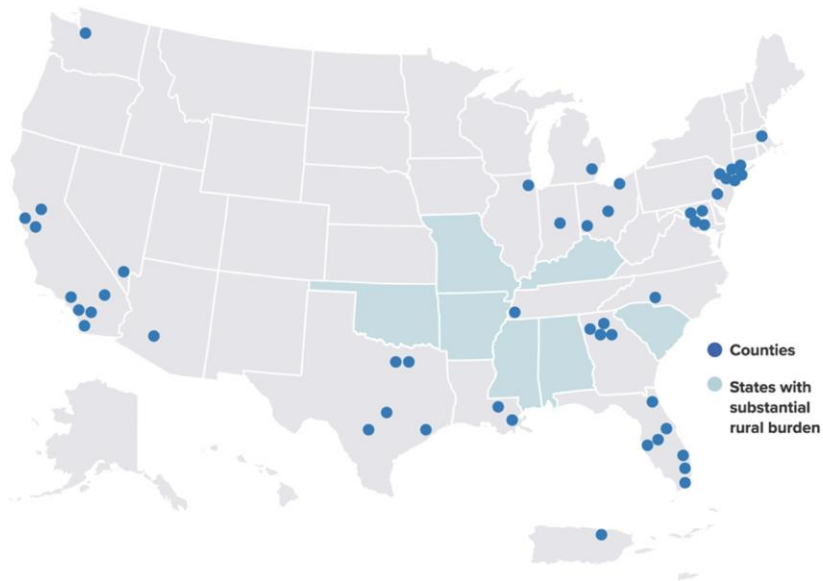
Services Provided:

- HIV primary care
- Mental health services (TIC)
- Medical Nutrition Therapy
- Case Management
- Financial Counseling (onsite)
- HIV Education
- HIV Research
- 24/7 Emergency Services
- In-Patient Medical Care

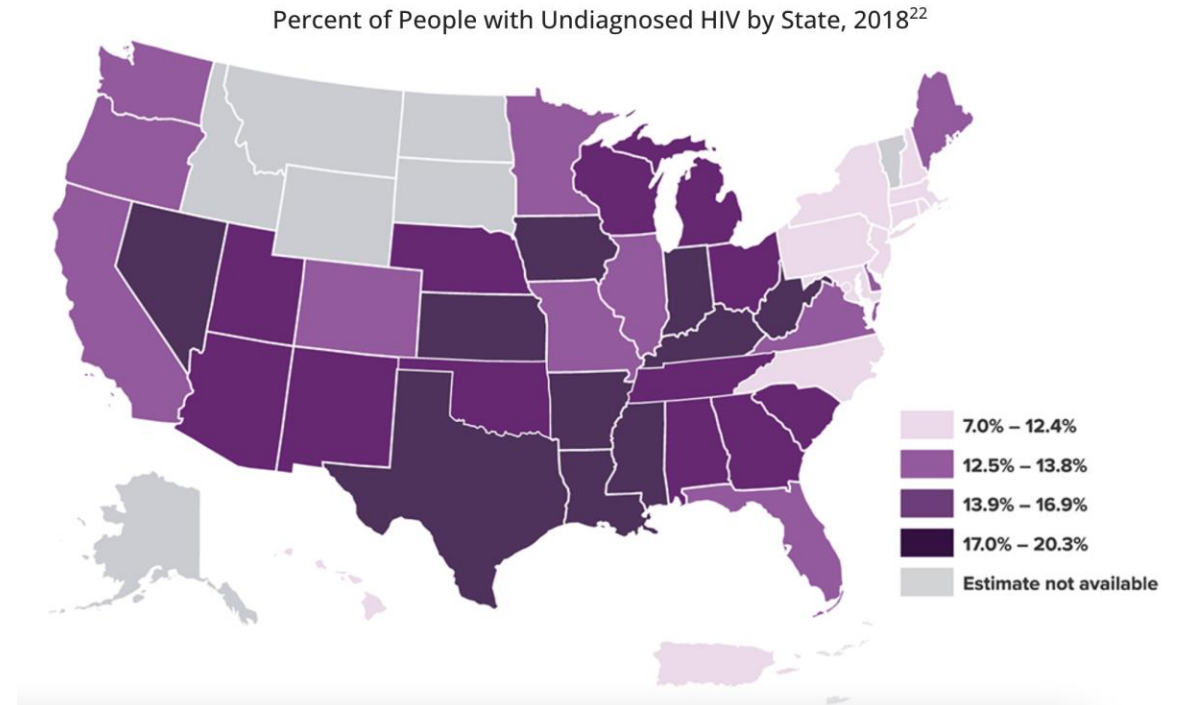
ACCESS Clinic and Ryan White Foundation



CDC and NIH



Designated jurisdictions prioritized by the CDC in the *Ending the HIV Epidemic in the US Initiative*



HIV Screening Initiative Project Overview

Overview

Preparation –

background research and meetings with the ACCESS Clinic at Parkland Hospital



Student Manager Education –

developed a curriculum with online training modules, shadowing the clinic including social workers

Logistical Planning –

proposed a plan to effectively link patients to follow up care at Parkland's HIV Clinic



Testing

Step 1: Consent

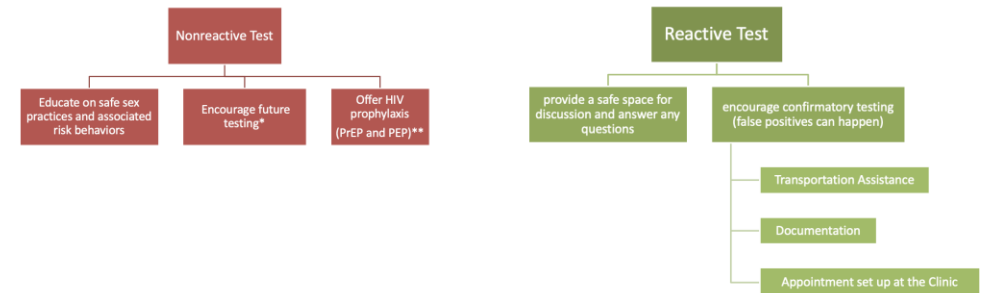
- Also asking patients to allow access to their Parkland EMR account (important for documentation and future care at our clinic)

Step 2: Provide fingerstick test

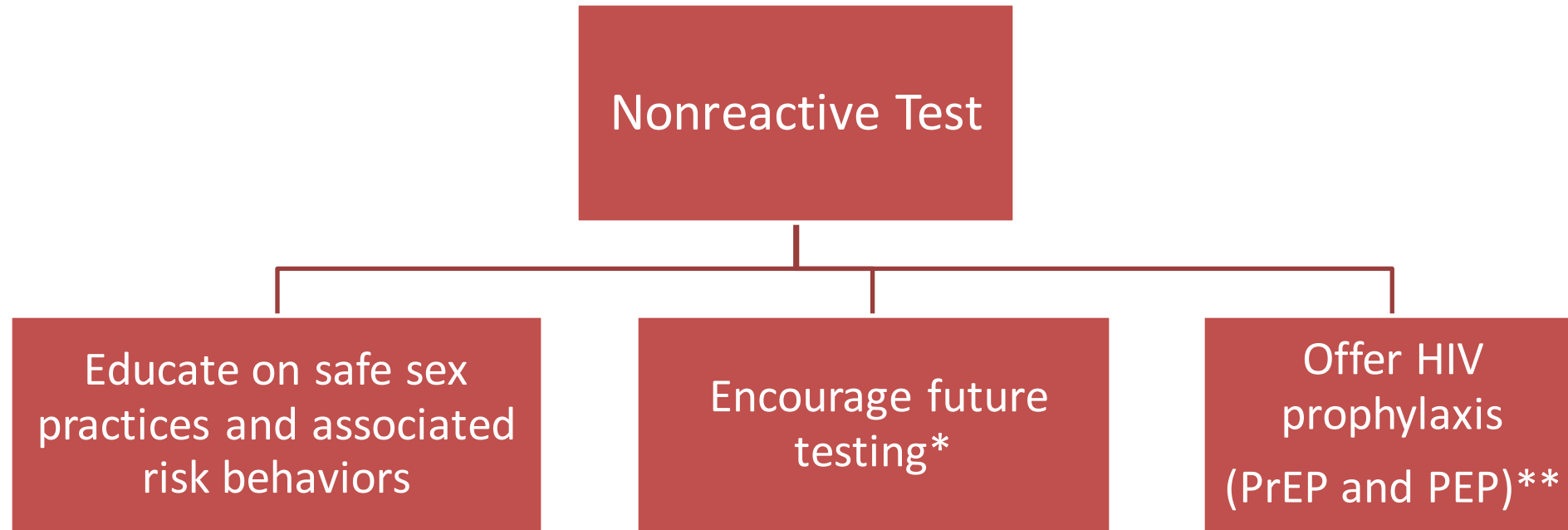
- Important that it is a *rapid* test

Step 3: Get results within a couple minutes

- This is *not* a confirmatory test
- Two possible results →



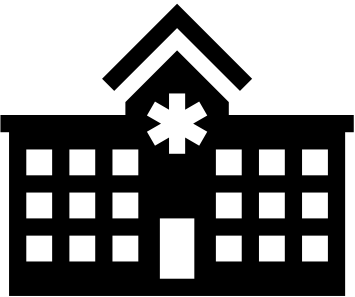
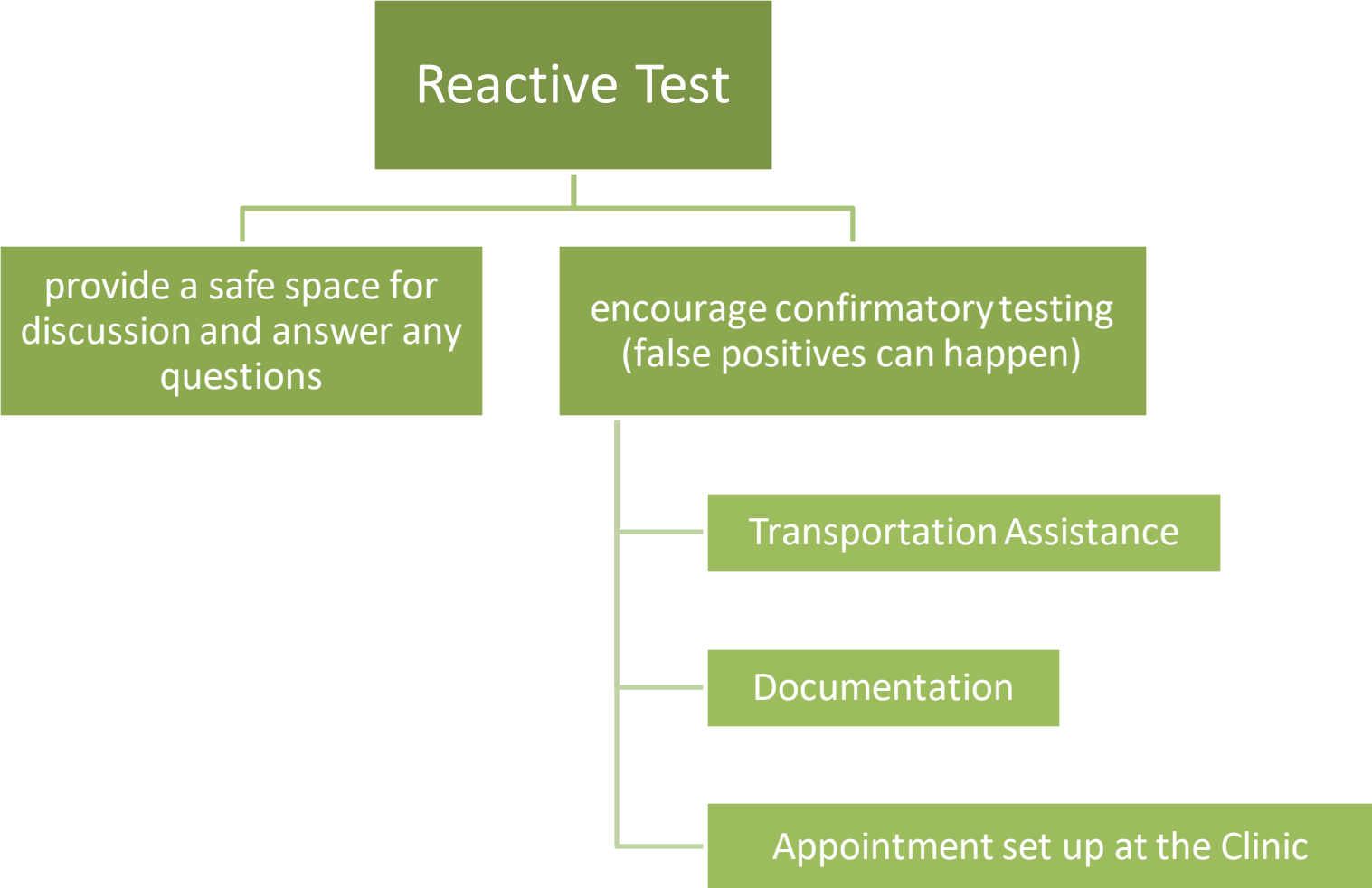
Linkage to Care Model



* CDC recommends at least once a year

** Prophylaxis therapy reduces the risk of infection by about 99%⁷

Linkage to Care Model



Challenges



So far...

- Legal contracts between UGM and ACCESS at Parkland
- Must have an employee of Parkland Hospital present with the tests

Future Goals - *Clinical*

1. Supply our own tests – working on grants
2. Become a site for confirmation lab testing and prophylaxis (PrEP and PEP)
3. Introduce HIV screening tests at other Student Run Free Clinics, and maybe even staff “Pop-Up” clinics around Dallas



Future Goals - *Research*

Under IRB Approval

1. Survey pt demographics, knowledge about HIV, perceived barriers to HIV screening, and thoughts about our screening clinic

Future Questions

1. Prevalence of HIV in Dallas unhoused community
2. Linkage to care longitudinal study



Conclusion



- ❖ We can all be sites for testing – it is possible!
- ❖ I challenge you all to investigate resources in your areas, you never know what you'll find
- ❖ Opportunity to engage students of all disciplines (social work, nursing, pharmacy, etc.) as this will be a part of our future as medical providers

Collaboration Efforts

Nutrition Students



Ryan White Foundation

Pharmacy Students

ACCESS Clinic

Medical Students*

Union Gospel Missions

HIV Screening Project

Parkland Hospital



UT Southwestern



Family Medicine Department

Physician Assistant Students

Undergraduate Pre-Med Student Volunteers

HOMES Van

Appreciation

Dr. King & Dr. Lazarte at Parkland Hospital's ACCES Clinic

Dr. Gimpel who directs the Student Run Free Clinics at UTSW

Shelley Speed who is our director and NP at Union Gospel Missions

Student Managers of Union Gospel Missions

Union Gospel Missions

UT Southwestern

Parkland Hospital

Ryan White Foundation

Thank You

Please reach out if you would like to discuss more!

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References

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5. Corker E, Lorencatto F, Anderson N, et al. Acceptability and facilitators of and barriers to point-of-care HIV testing in a homeless-focused service in Gloucestershire: a qualitative evaluation. *HIV Med*. 2022;23(3):237-248.
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Extra Resources



Manager Checklist

- Attend the SRFC Manager Elective session on HIV Testing in the clinics
- Read the patient education materials in the HIV Testing Folder
 - What is HIV
 - Save Sex Practices/STI Testing Resource
 - Parkland Services
 - How to get to get set up at the ACCESS Clinic
- Read the clinical education materials
- Complete the Training Modules
 - State Training
- Read the instructional manual on the INSTI test
 - Watch the INSTI Training Video
- Shadow physicians in the ACCESS Clinic at Parkland (Dr. King or Dr. Lazarte) to understand the role of the ACCESS Clinic for patients and learn the best way to talk to patients with HIV*
- Read the document about frequently asked questions and answers
- Read the CDC Standard Precautions Guidelines
- Read and acknowledge the UTSW POC Testing Guidelines
- Go through training with the ACCESS Outreach Team