

NEW ENGLAND HIV IMPLEMENTATION SCIENCE NETWORK *Spotlight*

3rd Annual Symposium – June 2, 2016



cira

Center for Interdisciplinary Research on AIDS
at Yale University



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Examining Multilevel System Dynamics (SD) Affecting HIV Community Viral Load (CVL)

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

This 3-year study of the HIV Test & Treat (T&T) continuum of services in Greater Hartford, CT examines contributors to the treatment cascade and HIV community viral load (CVL). The study engages community stakeholders (providers, persons living with HIV (PLHIV), and individuals at risk for HIV) to develop a comprehensive system dynamics (SD) model of the T&T continuum that can inform systems strategies to reduce CVL and the HIV epidemic. The SD modeling approach recognizes the role of inter-organizational networks of service organizations and the many interacting social, organizational, and personal factors that create competing dynamic processes affecting HIV T&T outcomes.

KEY INSIGHTS/PROGRESS:

Group interviews generated a list of barriers and delays that affect PLHIV's entry into the T&T care continuum and their rapid and sustained achievement of viral suppression. Multiple stakeholder perspectives ensured fullness of the list of factors and identified hypothetical relationships among them. Organizational network analysis suggests ways to identify bottlenecks related to resources and inter-

organizational connections to improve network efficiency. SD model development identified challenges with specifying model parameters. The Steering Committee has been essential for developing and implementing the study and interpreting findings.

PROJECT TEAM AND PARTNERS:

Research team: Institute for Community Research - Peg Weeks (PI), Maryann Abbott, H. Danielle Green, Rosey Gonzalez, Jianghong Li, Heather Mosher, and Lucy Rohena; Albert Einstein College of Medicine - David Lounsbury. Community partners: Christina Cipriani (Hartford Dispensary); Linda Estabrook (Hartford Gay & Lesbian Health Collective); Robin Deutsch (Hartford Hospital Brownstone Clinic); Heidi Jenkins (CT Department of Public Health); John Merz (AIDS CT); Mauricio Montezuma (Community Health Services); Fernando Morales (Latino Community Services); Gary Rhule (Hartford Department of Health & Human Service).

PRIMARY PROJECT CONTACT:

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