

# HealthStop: Incorporating Health Screenings & Rapid HIV Testing Into A Mobile Health Screening Program



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## PROBLEM

The Kaiser Health Poll report in 2000 states that the fear of being stigmatized by HIV/AIDS has some relationship to people's decisions about getting tested for HIV. Studies have also provided evidence that stigma is associated with delays in HIV testing among individuals who are at risk of being infected with HIV (Myers et al., 1993; Stall et al., 1996).

## BACKGROUND

This mobile program is designed to provide services during the warmer months, allowing staff the opportunity to interact with the community members outdoors. HealthStop visits designated sites on a rotating monthly basis so that targeted neighborhoods have access to regular services and staff can follow-up with clients.



## SETTING

The Mobile testing van travels to eight targeted areas in Northampton County, Pennsylvania, where there is a large proportion of under or un-insured community members with little or no access to care.

Figure 1. HealthStop Sites

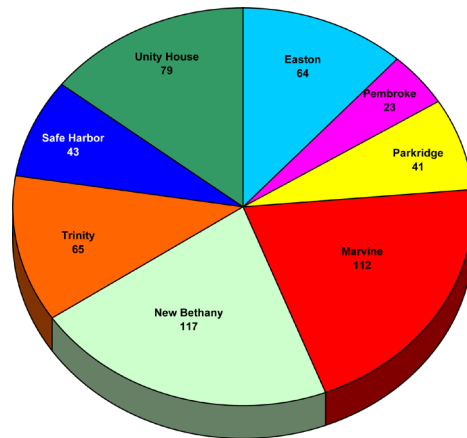
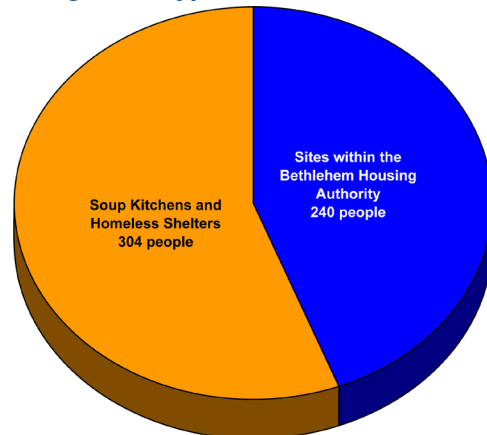


Figure 2. Types Of Places Served



## PROJECT

A CRNP, Phlebotomist, and Prevention Specialist form the HealthStop team. This team travels to the targeted areas in Northampton County to conduct preventative health screenings and referrals. The screening includes the following components: blood pressure, cholesterol, Body Mass Index, Tobacco screening, HCV screening, and HIV risk screening. During the month of October, free flu shots were also offered.



## RESULTS

From May 2008 to October 2008, the HealthStop Program screened 544 community members from the eight areas identified as needing this mobile health program. 388 (71%) of the clients seen on the van had either no insurance or medical assistance. 216 (39%) cholesterol were drawn (figure 3). 246 (45%) blood pressures were taken (figure 4).

Insurance Status

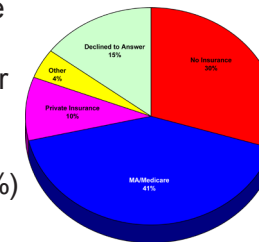


Figure 3. Cholesterol Results

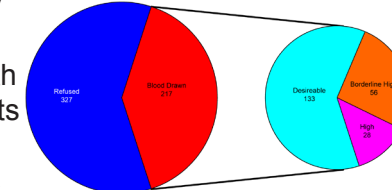


Figure 4. Blood Pressure

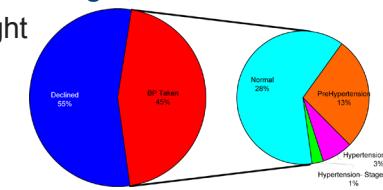
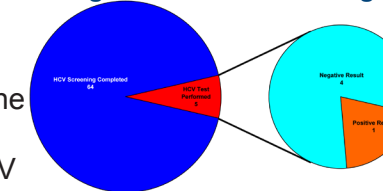
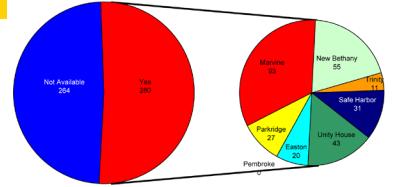


Figure 5. HCV Screening



77 (14%) Body Mass Indices were taken with 51 (66%) clients having a body mass that was classified as either overweight or obese. 93 (17%) clients use tobacco on a regular basis. 64 (11%) clients were screened for HCV (figure 5). One (20%) of the 5 clients tested positive for HCV antibodies. 127 (23%) clients received a rapid HIV test, with one (.68%) receiving a preliminary positive

Figure 6. Flu Vaccine



result and then receiving a repeatedly reactive confirmatory test. During October, flu shots were available on HealthStop. 280 (51%) clients received a free flu shot. Referrals were made to the Bethlehem Health Bureau for further STD testing, family centers located in the schools for clients to enroll in an insurance program, and a community care center and dental clinic in Northampton County.

## LESSONS LEARNED

The HealthStop Mobile van is known as a "one-stop-shop" for health screenings instead of "The HIV van". Community members are more likely to utilize the services offered through the van, which includes an HIV test. With the use of Ora-Quick, the HealthStop team was able to give HIV test results within twenty minutes instead of waiting returning to the area again. Bringing these services to the area where community members have little or no access to care allows team members to make appropriate referrals for the needs of those we serve. The HealthStop program has increased the access to care for many of the underserved in Northampton County. The HealthStop van serves as a screening tool as a well as place where community members can learn about other services available to them.