

LEAD AGENCY: Yale School of Medicine

PARTNER AGENCY: Liberty Community Services, Inc.

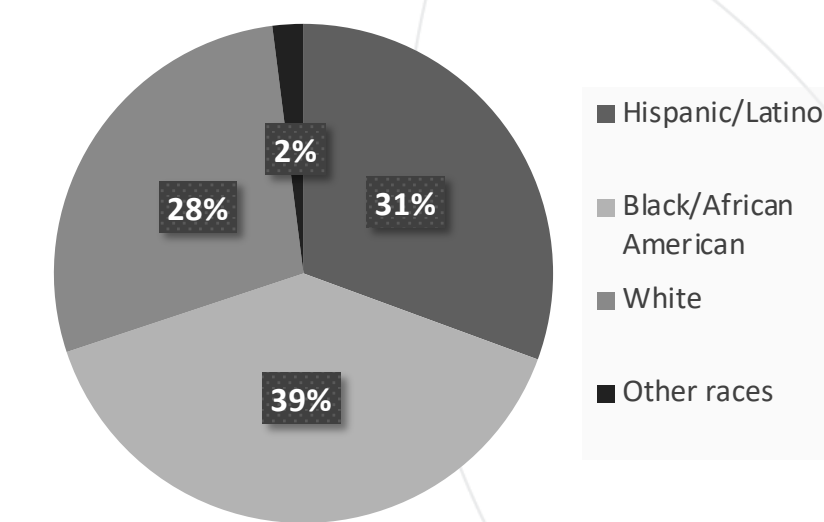
Introduction

Geographic Landscape

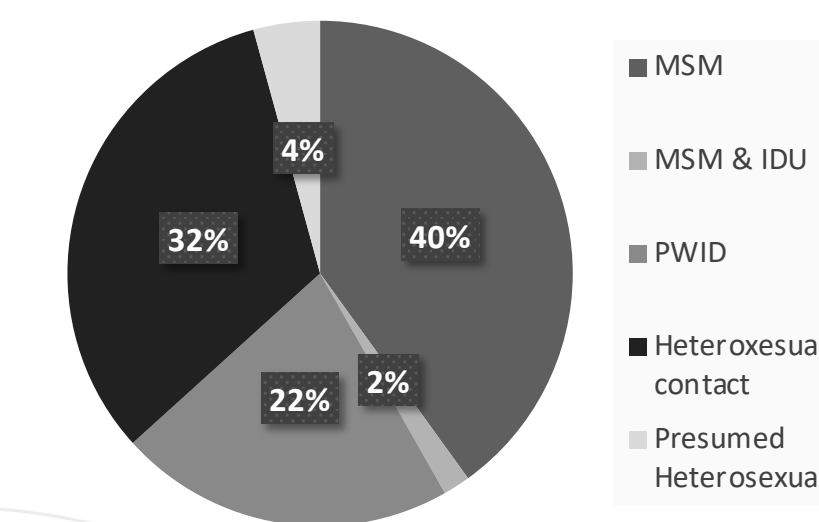
Brief description of local HIV epidemic

HERO will be conducted in New Haven, Connecticut, a moderate size city with over 130,000 residents with high levels of poverty, homelessness, and unemployment.

HIV Prevalence by Race/Ethnicity



HIV Prevalence by Risk



72% Viral suppression
*rate for the state of CT

.41% homeless or unstably housed

3.8% unemployed or underemployed

The Challenge

- 1) Substance use disorder treatment slots for individuals using heroin or cocaine
- 2) housing options for the unstably housed population
- 3) employment services.

Key Partnerships

Focus population



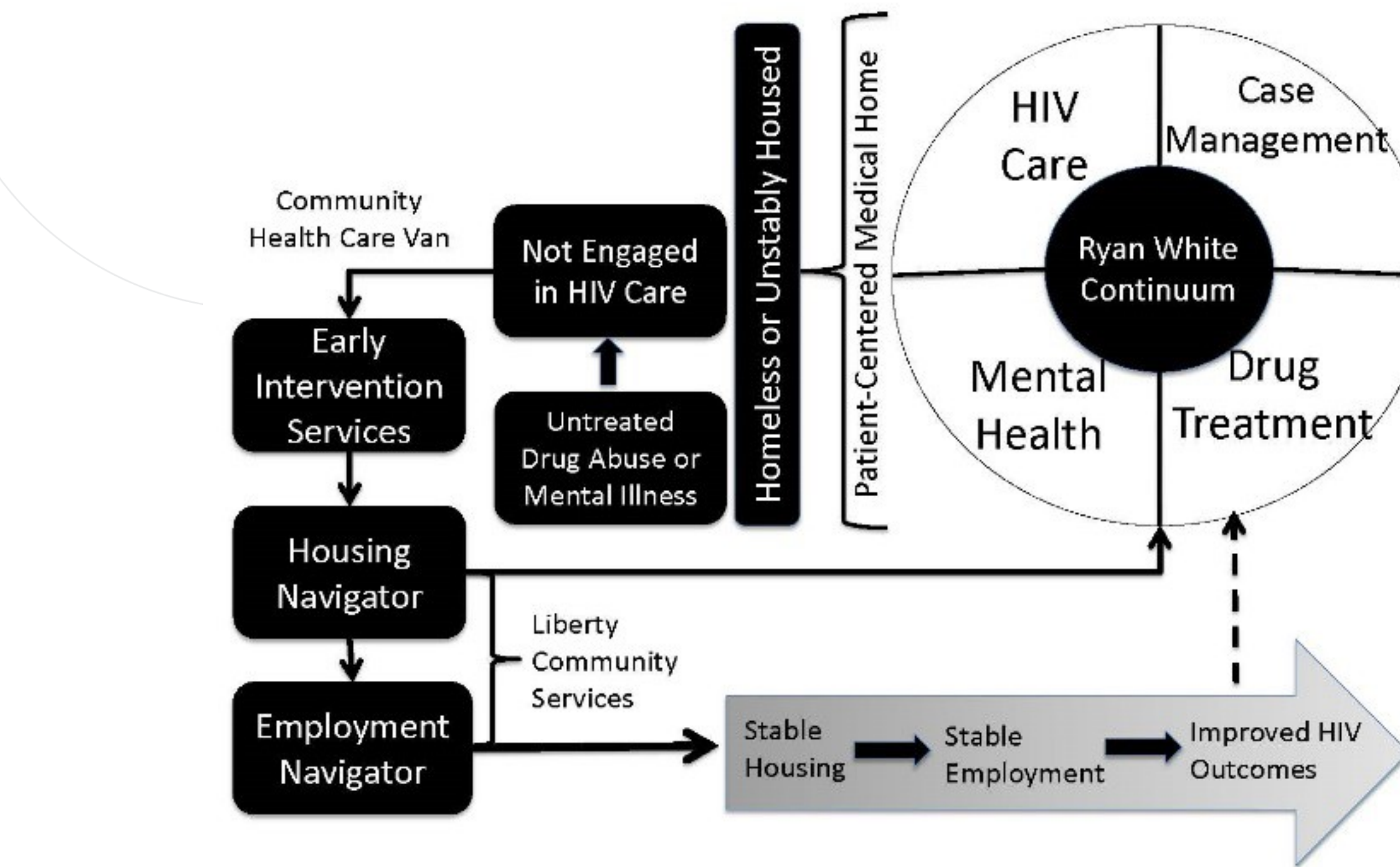
Liberty Community Services, Inc. (LCS)— Capacity building for housing and employment services



Ryan White Care Continuum providers – HIV services for people living with HIV (PLWH)

- Newly diagnosed with HIV and inconsistent or out of care
- Unstably housed or homeless and in need of employment services
- Exiting jail or prison
- Fleeing Domestic Violence

The Program Model



Lessons Learned

Reasons for Unemployment are Complex

- Low Self-Esteem/Lack of Confidence
- Fear of Losing Benefits
- Limited Skills/Work Histories
- The HIV Community Culture is Shaped by the Early Days of the Virus

Relationships Improve Outcomes – Break Down the Silos

- Need a Community Champion
- The Community WANTS to Collaborate
- Must Provide Tangible Information/Resources

Key Innovation

POWER

Pursuing Opportunities With Employment Resources

Capacity Development

Health Housing & Employment Income Gatherings

Preliminary Outcomes

Individual level

37% Employed

67% Housed

66% Income

System level

6 Gatherings Convened

Average 65 Attendees
(health, housing & employment sectors)

Improved Collaboration

* HRSA Acknowledgement

This project was supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) under grant number H97HA31435 Special Projects of National Significance (SPNS) Initiative, Improving Health Outcomes Through the Coordination of Supportive Employment & Housing Services, in the amount of \$3,000,000 awarded to DEMONSTRATION SITE. No percentage of this project was financed with non-governmental sources. This information or content and conclusions are those of the authors and should not be construed as the official position or policy of, nor should any endorsements be inferred by HRSA, HHS or the U.S. Government.