

Tailoring HIV Care Training to Students' Interests in Interprofessional Education

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Introduction

Half of new cases of HIV occur *outside* targeted geographic areas in the Ending the Epidemic plan. Many of these are rural locations with low incidence of HIV, where

- More HIV testing is needed, and
- HIV specialists are distant, so primary care providers treat HIV.

To improve access for PLWH in rural areas, all health professionals need basic HIV care skills and access to specialist consultation.

Despite this need, health care providers in these areas have limited interest in HIV training:

- They often believe they will not see any patients with HIV,
 - They may feel uncomfortable treating patients with HIV, and
 - They may feel that HIV care is overly complex for generalists.
- It is therefore challenging to engage students in HIV training activities.

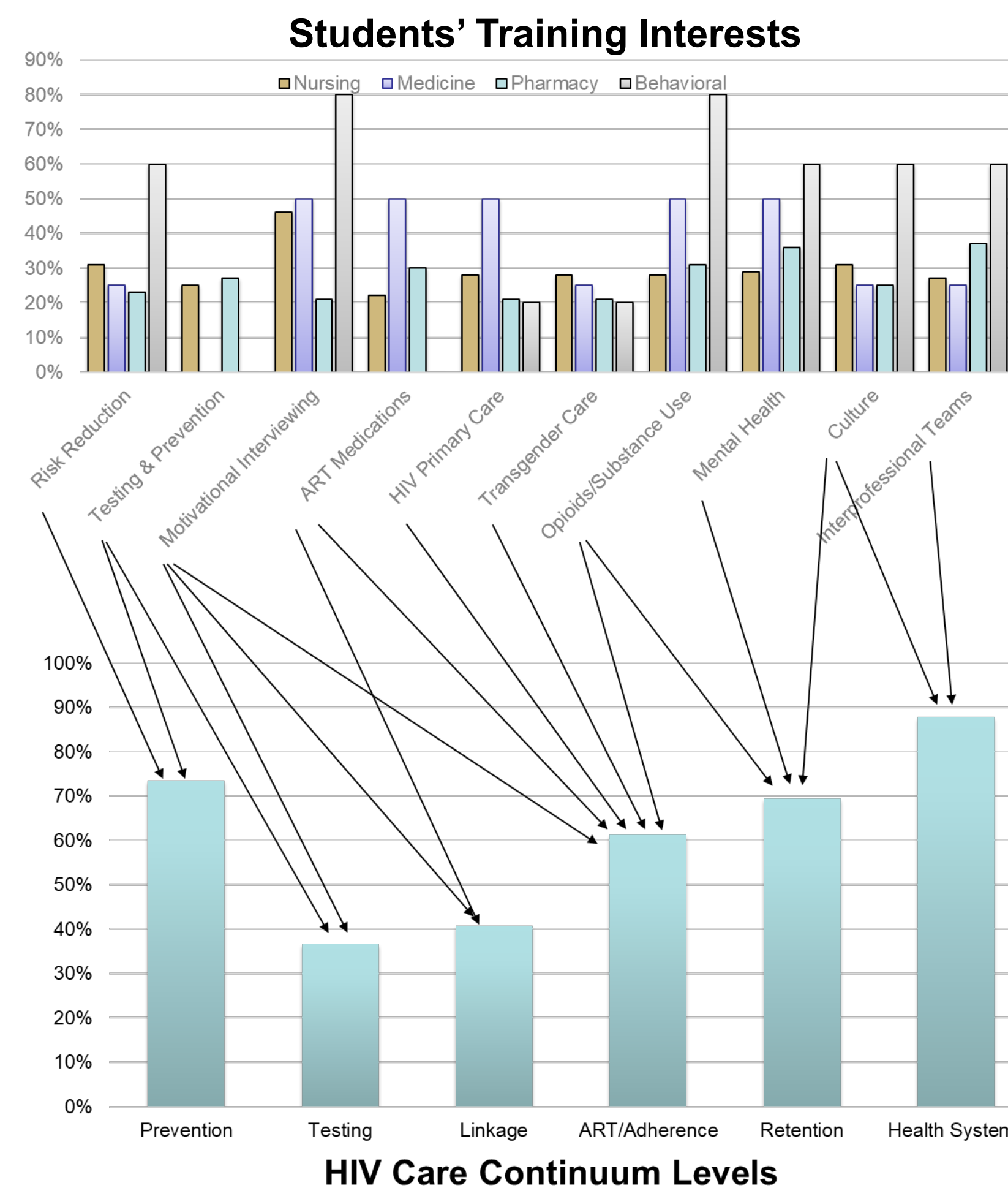
Methods and Activities

To engage students and faculty in training about HIV prevention, testing, and treatment, we proposed topics of interest to professionals who work with chronic conditions and vulnerable populations. We then used training time to draw connections between HIV and the clinical topics of interest to trainees.

Interprofessional trainees were recruited from classes and clinical practicum sites at the University of Colorado, including 348 from the College of Nursing, 133 from the School of Medicine, 295 from the School of Pharmacy, 6 from the Health Psychology PhD program, and 10 from the School of Public Health. Trainees completed a survey on their clinical interests after training, and topics were classified by instructors based on the HIV Care Continuum.

Results

Trainees' interests (top) were linked to HIV care continuum topics covered in interprofessional training (bottom).



Lessons Learned

Trainees in a rural, low-incidence state had lower interest in ART and HIV primary care, but more interest in other topics such as motivational interviewing, opioid use, mental health, and culture. Focusing HIV training on these topics increased participation and led to a larger number of health professionals trained to meet the needs of PLWH.

Challenges / Limitations

Promoting training events matched to trainees' interests led to more knowledge of HIV Care Continuum topics, and ultimately better access to care for PLWH. But coverage of HIV topics may be limited, so health professionals still need more in-depth training and supervised practice. Opportunities for HIV-specific training remain limited in a low-incidence region, so only specialists are likely to receive this.

IPE/HIV
FOR PRIMARY CARE

We can help you teach your students:

- motivational interviewing / behavior change
- interprofessional team communication
- quality improvement methods

We offer advanced training on:

- HIV testing and prevention
- treatment of HIV infection
- primary care for patients with HIV