

Changing HIV testing habits at community health centers: effective strategies for sustaining change

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Introduction

Despite national guidelines recommending HIV testing for all adolescents and adults up to age 65, only 54 percent of U.S. adults report having ever been tested (KFF 2012 data). In 2014, five Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) in a large metropolitan area implemented routine, opt-out HIV screening as part of an initiative to improve HIV testing rates and address the limitations of risk-based testing.

Methods/Activities

All health centers updated their HIV screening policies to align with CDC and USPSTF guidelines, and implemented a combination of interventions: trainings that incorporated buy-in and work flows, EHR alerts, panel management reports, provider report cards, and provider incentives. Members of the implementation team from each site also participated in a collaborative learning network. Monthly testing totals were analyzed at all sites based on the timing of various interventions.

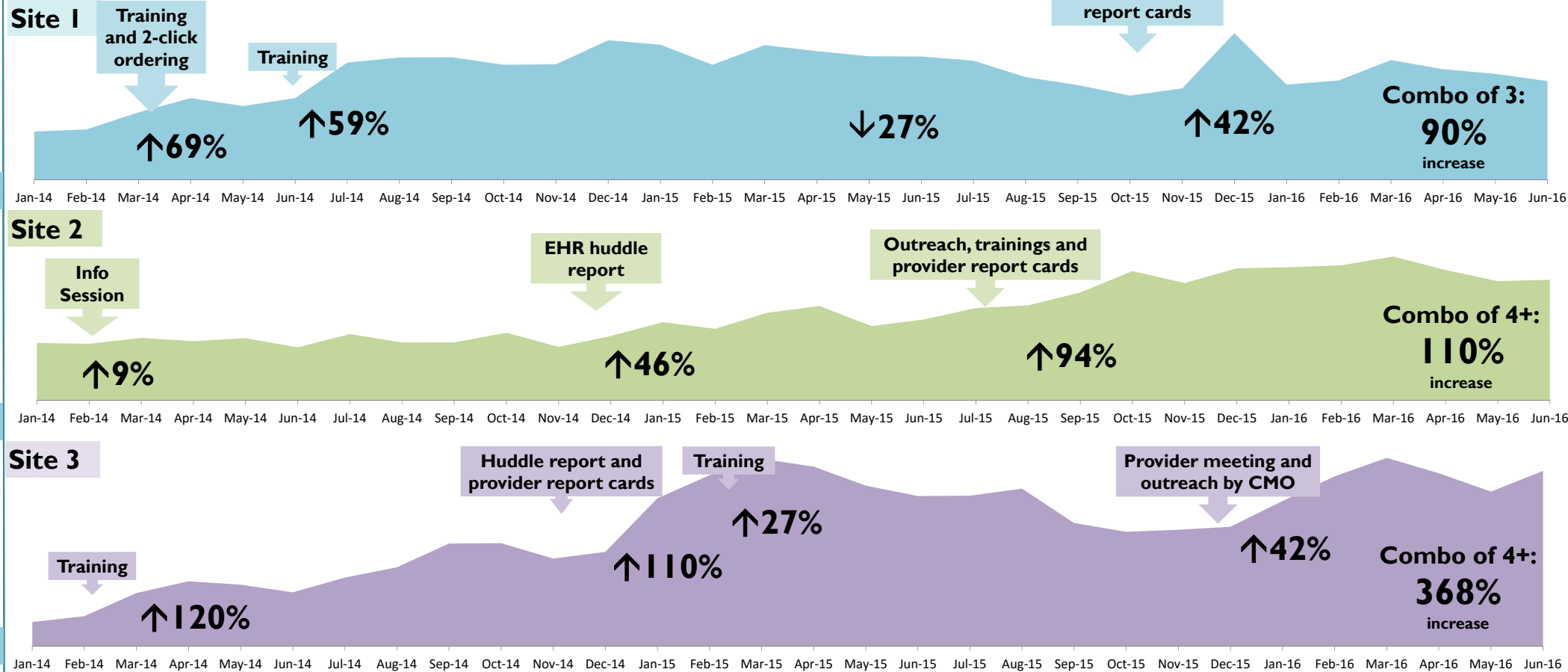
Results

Analysis of testing data consistently revealed increases in HIV testing rates following particular interventions. For instance, the average increase in monthly testing rates at a health center following a work flow training was 40%. The health centers that implemented four or more interventions including work flow trainings and EHR tools resulted in a 239% increase in HIV testing numbers as compared to a 68% increase for the health centers that implemented three or fewer interventions.

Lessons learned

The combination of staff trainings and EHR tools can effectively facilitate significant increases in HIV testing rates at FQHCs. In our program, the combination of EHR tools and periodic staff buy-in and work flow trainings or outreach were necessary to successfully sustain routine, opt-out HIV screening in primary care settings. ★

Results: strategies and impact on HIV tests by site



Results: HIV tests by site

	Jan-14	Feb-14	Mar-14	Apr-14	May-14	Jun-14	Jul-14	Aug-14	Sep-14	Oct-14	Nov-14	Dec-14	Jan-15	Feb-15	Mar-15	Apr-15	May-15	Jun-15	Jul-15	Aug-15	Sep-15	Oct-15	Nov-15	Dec-15	Jan-16	Feb-16	Mar-16	Apr-16	May-16	Jun-16	Total
Site 1	197	205	275	333	301	333	478	499	500	469	471	569	551	469	549	525	504	503	486	419	386	343	373	598	388	405	488	451	432	403	12,903
Site 2	480	473	522	495	520	443	554	484	485	565	447	538	654	598	732	789	621	676	772	794	902	1,083	983	1,106	1,115	1,131	1,204	1,092	999	1,010	22,267
Site 3	72	90	159	194	184	161	205	236	307	308	262	282	442	511	560	537	480	449	450	471	368	342	348	357	434	508	563	517	462	524	10,783
Site 4	620	630	772	664	803	702	849	741	824	843	663	727	725	917	814	639	988	689	545	379	499	610	502	485	690	846	956	904	956	981	21,963
Site 5*												267	400	485	586	572	574	633	599	395	553	585	477	374	581	666	646	671	690	10,639	
All Sites	1,369	1,398	1,728	1,686	1,808	1,639	2,086	1,960	2,116	2,185	1,843	2,116	2,639	2,895	3,140	3,076	3,165	2,891	2,886	2,662	2,550	2,931	2,791	3,023	3,001	3,471	3,877	3,610	3,520	3,608	77,670

Participating sites



*Site 5 began their testing program and interventions in January 2015. Get East Bay Tested! contact: mcrowley@alamedahealthconsortium.org

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