

# USCA HRSA Track: Better Rural HIV Care Through Data and Technology

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**United States Conference on AIDS  
September 10, 2015**



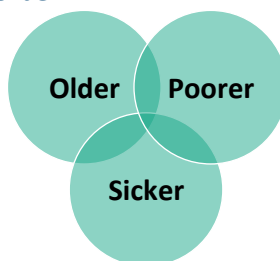
## Overview

- Rural America and Health Care
- HIV in Rural America
- Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program in Rural America
- Barriers to Delivering High Quality HIV Care
- Today's Workshop Agenda



## Who Are Rural Americans?

- 17% of Americans live in non-metropolitan, or rural, areas
- Compared to urban counterparts, residents of rural counties are more likely to be



- Life expectancy decreases as level of rurality increases



## Health Care in Rural America



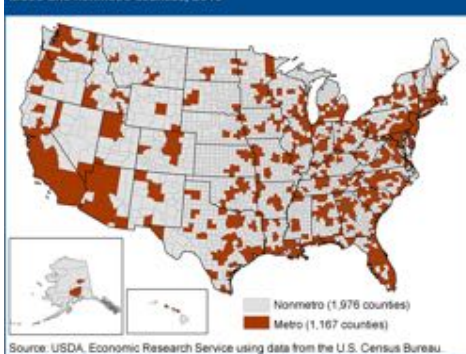
- Smaller supply of health care providers per capita, especially for medical specialists and dentists
- Non-physician practitioners play an important role
- Residents live further away from health care resources
- Dependence on small rural hospitals that may lack highly-skilled facilities



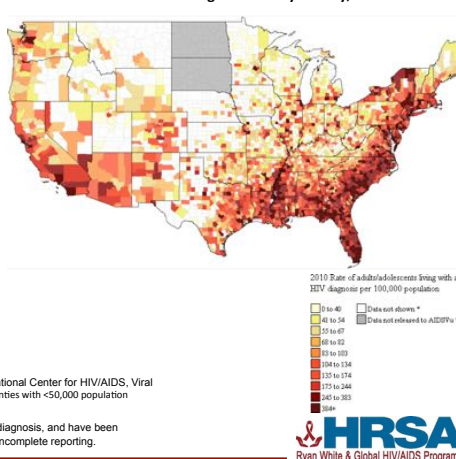
Photo Source: <http://cokergroupreport.com/>

## How Does Rural America Intersect with the HIV Epidemic?

Metro and nonmetro counties, 2013



Adults and Adolescents Living with HIV by County, 2010

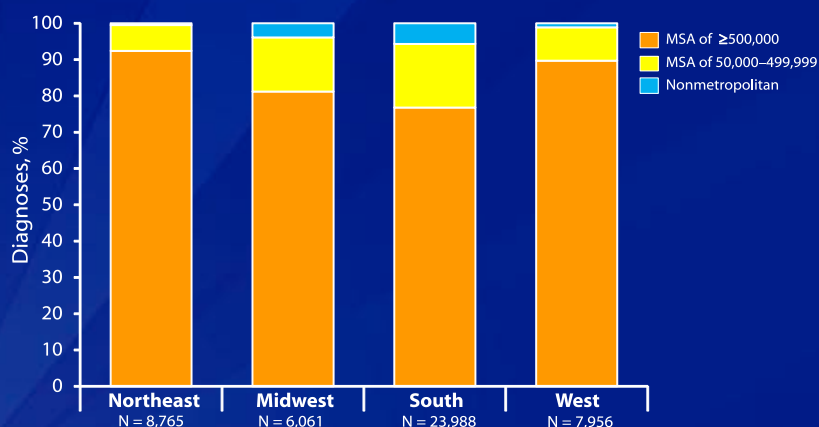


Data Sources: USDA Economic Research Service; Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention, Division of HIV/AIDS Prevention. Non-metro areas defined as counties with <50,000 population.

\* Data are not shown to protect privacy. \*\* State health department requested not to release data.

Note. Data include persons with a diagnosis of HIV infection, regardless of the stage of disease at diagnosis, and have been statistically adjusted to account for reporting delays and missing risk-factor information, but not for incomplete reporting.

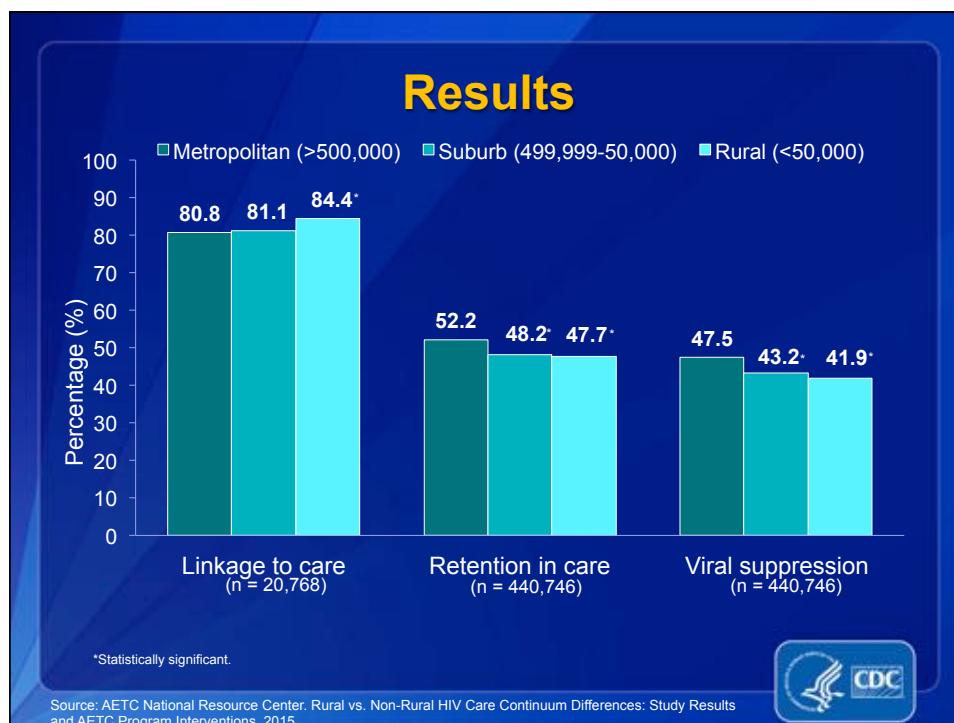
## Diagnoses of HIV Infection among Adults and Adolescents, by Region and Population of Area of Residence, 2013—United States



Note. Data include persons with a diagnosis of HIV infection regardless of stage of disease at diagnosis. All displayed data have been statistically adjusted to account for reporting delays, but not for incomplete reporting. Data exclude persons whose county of residence is unknown.



Source: CDC. HIV Surveillance in Urban and Nonurban Areas (through 2013). Slide Set.



## Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program Overview

- **Part A (Cities)**
- **Part B (States and Territories)**
  - ADAP – AIDS Drug Assistance Program
- **Part C (Community-based Organizations)**
  - Early Intervention Services and Capacity Development
- **Part D (Women, Infants, Children and Youth)**
- **Part F (Other Programs)**
  - AIDS Education and Training Centers (AETCs)
  - Special Projects of National Significance (SPNS)
  - Dental Programs
  - Minority AIDS Initiative (MAI)

## Who We Serve

Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program

Served half a million (524,675) people 2013

Care Engagement

~2 out 3 people living with HIV (PLWH) engaged in medical care served by RWHAP

Demographics

47% Black/African American

23% Hispanic (2013)

~90% living at/below 200% Federal Poverty Level (2013)



## Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program and Health Care

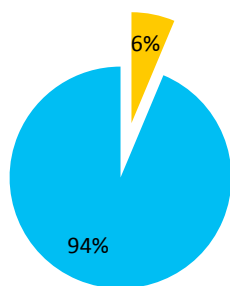
- RWHAP supports a **dynamic and complex system of care**; it is not an insurance program for discrete services
- The **need for an HIV care system for low-income PLWH remains** until the outcomes on the HIV care continuum are addressed and there is a cure



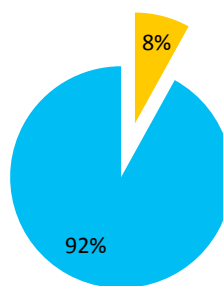


## Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program Providers in Rural Zip Codes, 2013

All Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program  
(RWHAP) Providers  
[N=1788]



Outpatient Ambulatory Medical Care  
(OAMC) RWHAP Providers  
[N=846]



■ Rural ■ Urban

Source: 2013 Ryan White Services Report

Rural Classification based on zip-code Rural-Urban Commuting Areas (RUCAs) with RUCA 1-3 = urban and RUCA 4-10 = rural

**HRSA**  
Ryan White & Global HIV/AIDS Programs

## Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program Providers in Rural America, 2013

Among the 500,638 RWHAP clients

Visited Only Rural Providers	Visited Only Urban Providers	Visited Rural & Urban Providers
2.1% (n = 10,278)	97.1% (n = 486,346)	0.8% (n = 4,014)

Among the 4,101 clients who visited a combination of RWHAP providers in rural and urban zip codes:

- 82.9% of them visited an urban-located provider for OAMC visits and a rural-located provider for other services

Source: 2013 Ryan White Services Report

Rural Classification based on zip-code Rural-Urban Commuting Areas (RUCAs) with RUCA 1-3 = urban and RUCA 4-10 = rural



## Rural Barriers to HIV Care Delivery

- **Difficult to develop economically viable service delivery programs in rural communities**
  - Low population density
  - Lower HIV prevalence than urban areas
- **Need to identify new methods to enhance the availability of quality medical and supportive care for rural people living with HIV**



## Ryan White CARE Act 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary



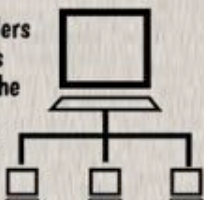
## Ryan White CARE Act 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

***“Moving Forward with CARE:  
Building on 25 Years of Passion,  
Purpose, and Excellence”***




**Examples of AETC Program strategies for overcoming barriers to rural HIV care**


**HIV care training is offered to rural healthcare providers in several regions nation-wide via the AETC Telehealth Training Centers Program**




**A team of Kansas AETC faculty regularly travels to rural areas to provide HIV care & training**



**Florida/Caribbean AETC partners with the US Virgin Island Dept. of Health, Federally Qualified Health Centers, hospitals, community based organizations, and other primary care providers to address stigma associated with HIV testing in the US Virgin Islands**



**Pacific AETC utilizes promotoras & community health workers to deliver training and HIV care services in Arizona and on the U.S./Mexico border**



Georgia AETC & the Georgia Dept. of Public Health collaborate to ensure quality assurance measures are met

SEATEC + DPH

## Presenters

### **HIV/HCV Outbreak in Indiana: A Case Study**

Susan Robilotto  
*HRSA HIV/AIDS Bureau*

### **Data Driven Programming**

Cyndee Burton  
*Matthew 25 AIDS Services*

### **Building Capacity Through Innovative Technology**

Natalia Martinez-Paz  
*NW AIDS Education and Training Center*

### **HIV Care in Rural Alaska**

Terri Bramel, Lisa Rea, and Laura Riley  
*Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium*



## Additional Resources

- HRSA HIV/AIDS Bureau - <http://hab.hrsa.gov/>
- HRSA HIV/AIDS Bureau Data Resources - <http://hab.hrsa.gov/data/index.html>
- HRSA Federal Office of Rural Health Policy - <http://www.hrsa.gov/ruralhealth/>
- TARGET Center - <https://careacttarget.org/>
- AETC National Resource Center - <http://www.aidsetc.org/>
  - Telehealth Training Centers Program
  - AETC National Resource Center – Rural Health Committee



## Contact Information

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**HRSA HIV/AIDS Bureau**  
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## HIV/ HCV Outbreak in Indiana: A case study in barriers to HIV care in rural United States

Susan Robilotto, D.O.  
Clinical Consultant/Medical Officer  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
Health Resources and Services Administration  
HIV/ AIDS Bureau  
Division of Metropolitan HIV/AIDS Programs  
Division of State HIV/AIDS Program

September 10, 2015



## Content

- Overview of the HIV/HCV outbreak in Indiana
- Highlight the barriers to delivering HIV care in rural settings
- Actions taken to overcome barriers



## Learning Objectives

- Identify barriers to accessing and engaging in HIV care in rural areas
- Assess rural health care infrastructure in order to begin addressing barriers



## Indiana HIV Outbreak: Timeline

- **December 2014:** Significant increase in diagnoses of HIV occurring in region (Scott County) previously reporting <5 HIV diagnoses annually
- **February 25, 2015:** Indiana state health officials announce HIV outbreak in southeastern Indiana (Scott County): 26 confirmed and 4 preliminary HIV positive cases. Most are linked to injection of the prescription opioid, Opana
- **March 16, 2015:** CDC develops response team, which arrives in Austin, IN on March 23, 2015



## Indiana HIV Outbreak: Timeline

- **March 26, 2015:** Governor declares public health emergency in Scott County
- **March 31, 2015:** Community Outreach Center/One-Stop Shop opens in Austin, IN
- **April 4, 2015:** First syringe needle exchange program in Indiana opens in Scott County. It operates out of the Community Outreach Center/ One-Stop Shop
- **April 2015:** Counts of new HIV and Hepatitis C cases continue to rise as the community works with local, state, and federal partners to get at-risk community members tested



## Indiana HIV Outbreak: Timeline

- **May 2015:** New cases begin to decrease and retesting efforts ramp up for high-risk individuals previously identified as negative
- **May 5, 2015:** Governor signs legislation allowing needle exchange programs to be established at the local level
- **May 25, 2015:** Governor's Public Health Emergency order expires
- **June 25, 2015:** Community Outreach Center/One-Stop Shop closes
- **Early July 2015:** One-Stop Shop reopened in new location and is co-located with the Syringe Exchange Program



## Ongoing HIV Care

- 497 named contacts
- 174 confirmed HIV cases linked to the outbreak
- Hepatitis C co-infection rate is greater than 85%
- Injection drug use was driving factor in this outbreak
- Many of the People Who Inject Drugs (PWID) are involved in the corrections system



## Addressing Barriers to HIV Care

### Lack of access to care:

- Care coordination to assist in establishing health care coverage
- State establishing presumptive eligibility for Medicaid coverage
- Co-locating services to facilitate enrollment



## Addressing Barriers to HIV Care

### Lack of providers:

- Indiana University physicians brought in to help
- Local primary care physician receiving training and support on HIV care and treatment
- Potential of Public Health Service Corp medical providers
- Telehealth assistance
- Jail clinic established



## Addressing Barriers to HIV Care

### Lack of transportation:

- Engagement of local community to assist
- Medicaid transportation
- One-Stop Shop moved to location accessible by walking



## Addressing Barriers to HIV Care

### Stigma:

- Co-locating of services
- Local community education
- Community events



## Lessons Learned

- Establishing communication and collaboration between local, state and federal stakeholders is critical
- Efforts need to fit the community
- Other complicating issues need to be addressed in order to establish HIV care



## Learn More/Additional Resources

CDC MMWR, May 1, 2015/ 64 (16)

<http://1.usa.gov/1hjloxB>

Indiana State Department of Health  
HIV Outbreak webpage

<http://www.in.gov/isdh/26649.htm>



## Contact

Susan Robilotto, D.O.  
Clinical Consultant/Medical Officer, HRSA/HAB  
301-443-6554  
srobilotto@hrsa.gov



## Matthew 25 AIDS Services

A Rural Experience: Data Driven  
Programming

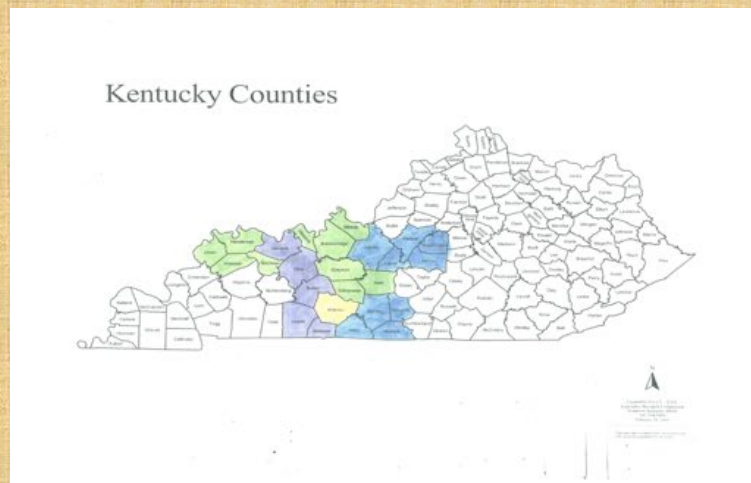
## Matthew 25 Timeline

- 1996 started as a church parish nurse program
- 1999 separated and became 501c3
- 2000 HRSA Planning Grant
- 2001 HRSA Ryan White EIS Part C award
- 2005 Kentucky Ryan White Part B award
- 2012 HRSA Ryan White EIS Part D award
- 2012 Initiated 340b programs

## A Rural Experience: Data Driven Programming



## The Kentucky Area



Comprehensive Picture

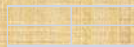


**The devil is in the details!**

Not everything that counts can be counted and not  
everything that can be counted counts.

Albert Einstein

A LITTLE DATA FROM HERE, A LITTLE DATA FROM THERE!



## Different Folks Different Strokes



## Matthew 25 Henderson Location

- 202 patients
- 72% White, 12% A-A, 6% Asian, 8% Hispanic, 1% Burmese and 1% Bi-racial
- Females
- More Rural

## Henderson Location

- 2 days
- Space
- HIV Testing
- On site Care Coordination
- Food pantry
- Transportation

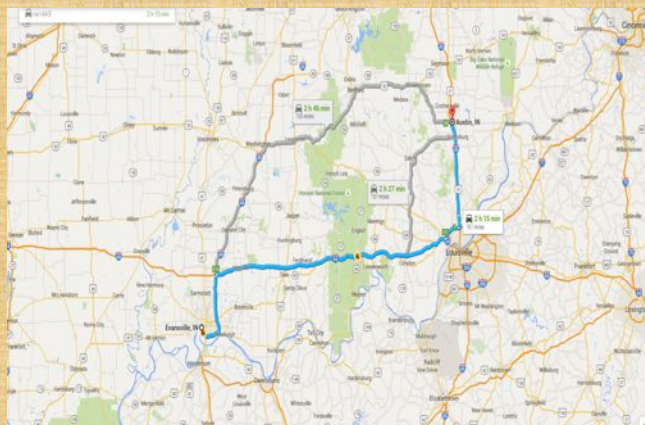
## Matthew 25 Evansville Location

- 112 patients
- 69% White, 25% A-A, 3% Hispanic, 2% Bi-racial, and American Indian
- Homeless/Substance Use
- Low Income
- No On-site Care Coordination

## Evansville Location

- Requires more time and resources
- Collaboration with other organizations
- 140 miles from the Indiana OUTBREAK

## OUTBREAK IN AUSTIN, INDIANA



## Matthew 25 Owensboro location

- 121 patients
- 72% White, 8% A-A, 2% Asian, 8% Hispanic, 10% Burmese and 2% Bi-racial
- Immigration Center
- 2 hours drive from Bowling Green

## Owensboro Location

- Must have phone interpretation services
- Lunch
- Share space with another FQHC
- Have to have a traffic controller!

# WORKING TOGETHER

Matthew 25 Community Bridge



## Lessons Learned

- Clean data
- IT Security and HIPAA
- Know we are all in this together
- You get better with time!



Cyndee Burton, R.N., HCE, Administrator  
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## NORTHWEST AIDS EDUCATION AND TRAINING CENTER

### Building Capacity in Rural HIV Care Through Innovative Technology

Natalia Martínez Paz, MPA, MA  
Program Manager, NW AETC ECHO  
University of Washington

Presentation prepared by: Natalia Martínez Paz, MPA, MA & Brian Wood, MD

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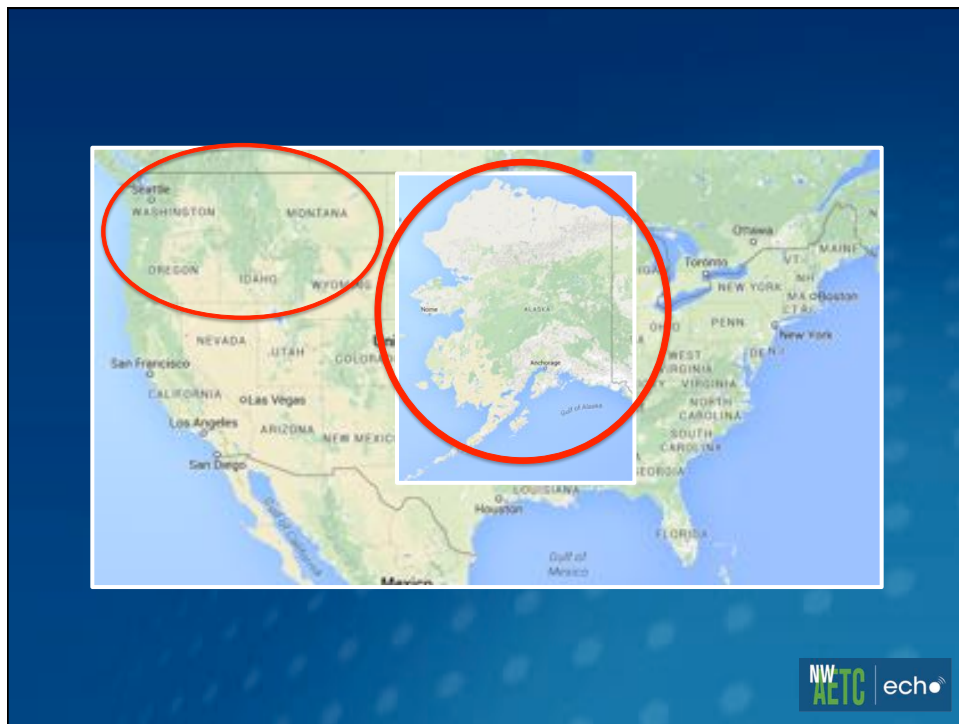
## Agenda

- Challenges in specialty care in the Pacific Northwest
- Extension for Community Health Outcomes (ECHO) model
- Continual innovation to build on past successes



## The Problem





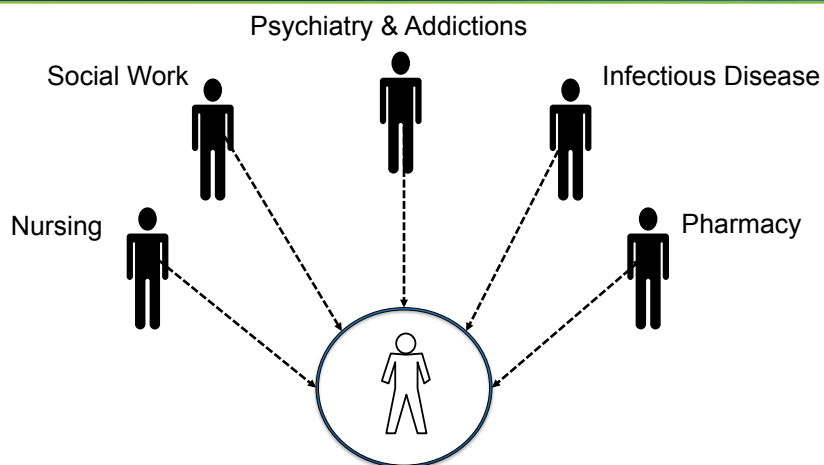
## The Theory

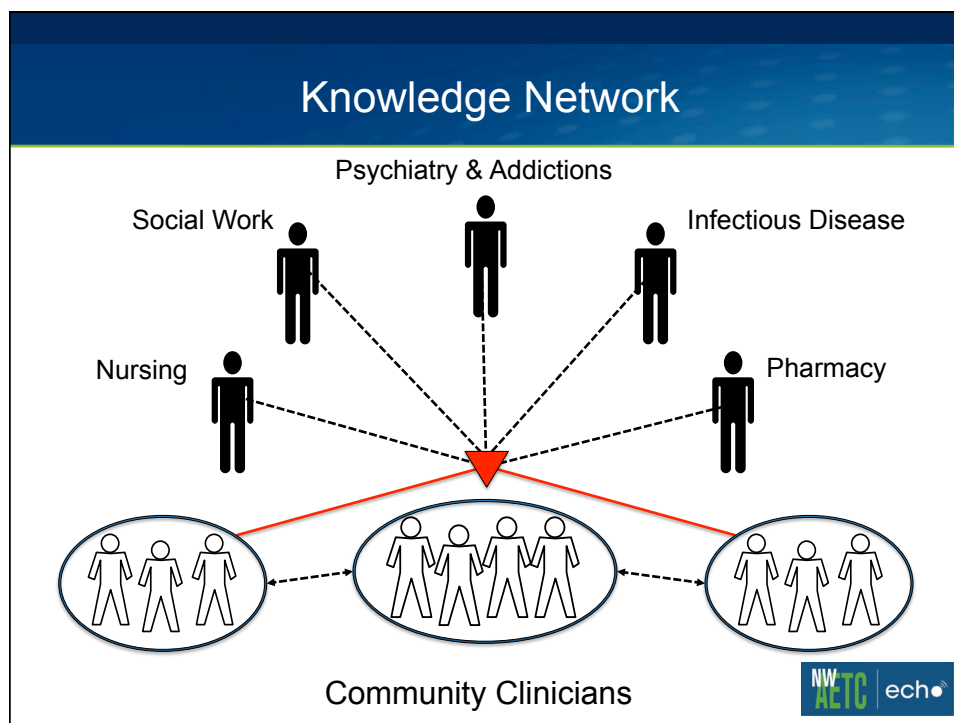
## Why provide specialty training?

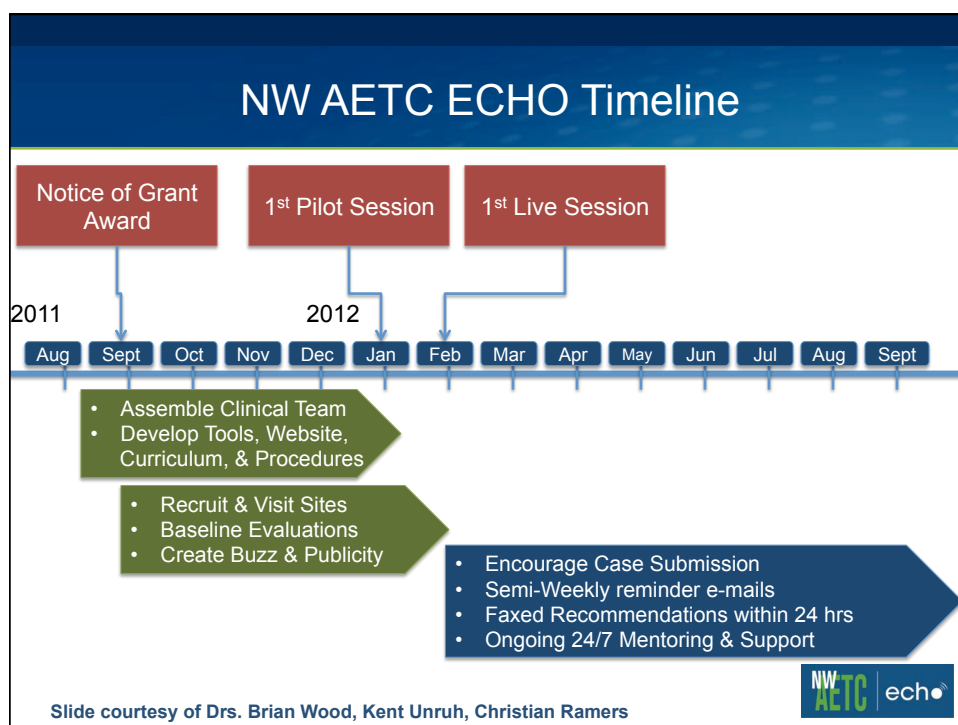
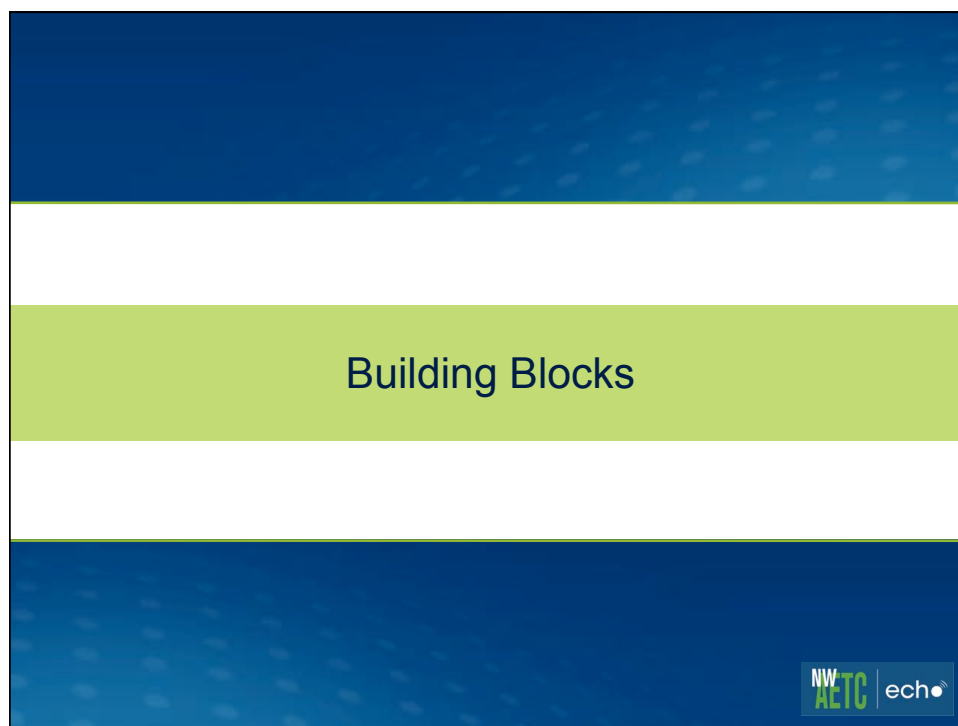
1. People need access to specialty care for their complex health conditions.
2. There aren't enough specialists to treat everyone who needs care, especially in rural and underserved communities.
3. ECHO trains primary care clinicians to provide specialty care services. This means more people can get the care they need.
4. Patients get the right care, in the right place, at the right time. This improves outcomes and reduces costs.



## Shifts Away From 1-1







## Policies, Procedures, Curriculum

**NW AETC ECHO** Northwest AIDS Education and Training Center  
Strengthening HIV care through integrated distance learning and clinical consultation.

**2015 Clinical Case Consultation Form (Due to 206-543-0813)** ECHO ID: \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Gender: \_\_\_\_\_

Brief Background and Primary Question(s) for ECHO Specialist:

**HISTORY**  
Date of HIV diagnosis: \_\_\_\_\_ On ARV? \_\_\_\_\_ Current ARV regimen: \_\_\_\_\_  
Past ARV's: \_\_\_\_\_

LABORATORY VALUES	Date	CD4	CD8	VL
Initial				
Most recent				

Other Medical Problems/History: \_\_\_\_\_ Medical Health Concerns: \_\_\_\_\_

History of STIs: \_\_\_\_\_ Adherence Concerns: \_\_\_\_\_

Current Medications: \_\_\_\_\_ Substance Use: \_\_\_\_\_

Allergies: \_\_\_\_\_ Cultural background and concerns: \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*Please include a copy of any resistance tests (genotypic/phenotypic) if pertinent/available

**Paul Sax**  
Health care in rural, low-income communities. Using community health workers, pharmacy, and participating in medical research.

Health care across the region. In such a vast area, there are many opportunities for health care. In such a vast area, there are many opportunities for health care.

## MORE Policies, Procedures, Curriculum



## Importance of Site Visits

### **Goal: Build Relationships with Participants**

The importance of the face-to-face visit

Assess clinic workflow and technology

Meeting administrators helps to encourage buy-in

**Technology Doesn't Make the Program.  
Relationships Make the Program.**



NW AETC ECHO



## Clinical Update

45 15 1

30

- Mini-Didactic
- Discussion
- Case Consultations

**NORTHWEST AIDS EDUCATION AND TRAINING CENTER**

**ADHD and HIV**

Christine Yuodelle-Flores M.D.  
Associate Professor  
UW Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences  
Director of Psychiatry, Madison Clinic  
Harborview Medical Center

Information

NW AETC ech

## Discussion

45 15 1

30

- Mini-Didactic
- Discussion
- Case Consultations

- Spokane, WA
- Eugene, OR
- Springfield, OR
- Pocatello, ID
- Vancouver, WA
- Medford, OR
- Corvallis, OR
- Bozeman, MT
- Missoula, MT
- Vancouver, WA
- Anchorage, AK
- Boise, ID

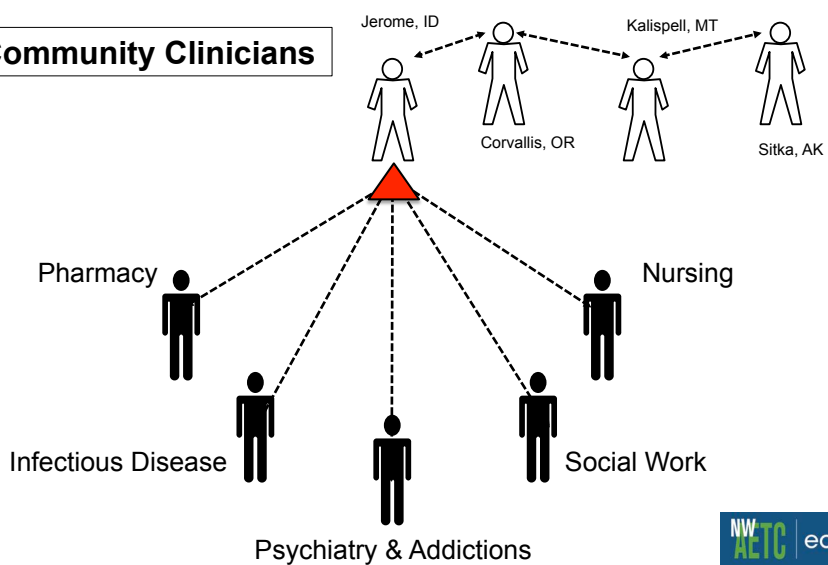


## Case Presentations

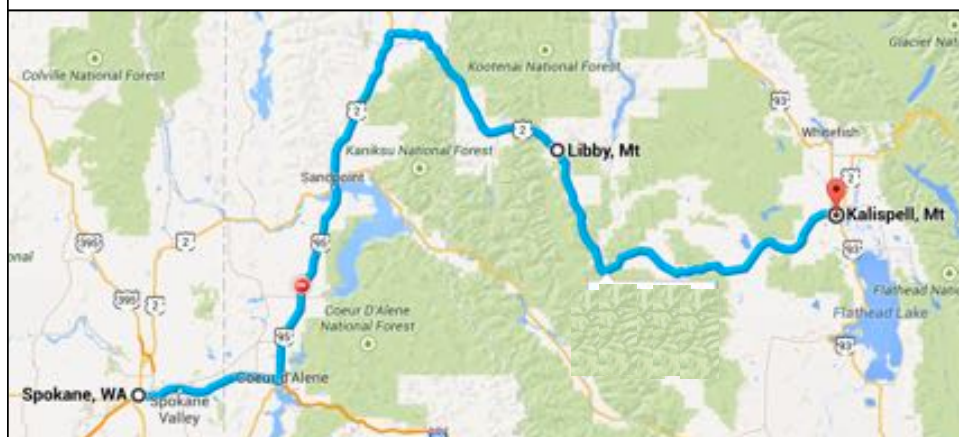


## Horizontal Knowledge Transfer

### Community Clinicians

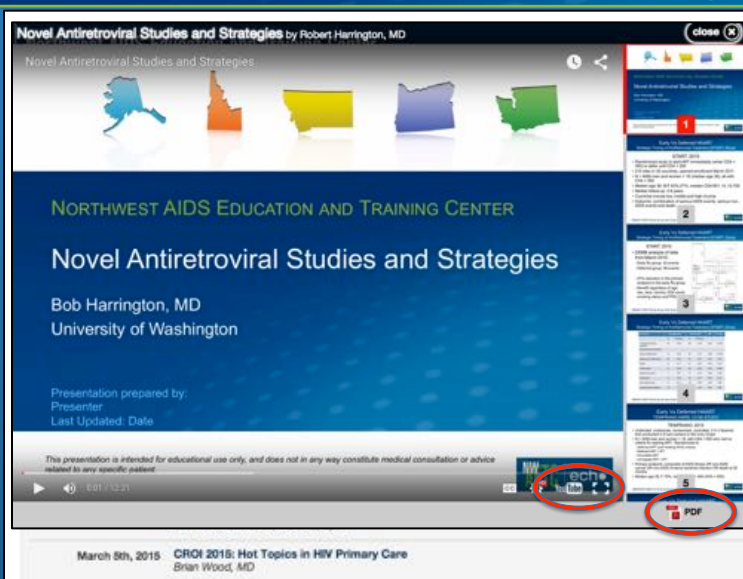


## Fostering Peer-to-Peer Network & Support System Across Region



## Integrating Innovation

## All Clinical Updates Made Freely Available on Web Goal: Establish Channel for HIV Knowledge



**Novel Antiretroviral Studies and Strategies** by Robert Harrington, MD

Novel Antiretroviral Studies and Strategies

**NORTHWEST AIDS EDUCATION AND TRAINING CENTER**

**Novel Antiretroviral Studies and Strategies**

Bob Harrington, MD  
University of Washington

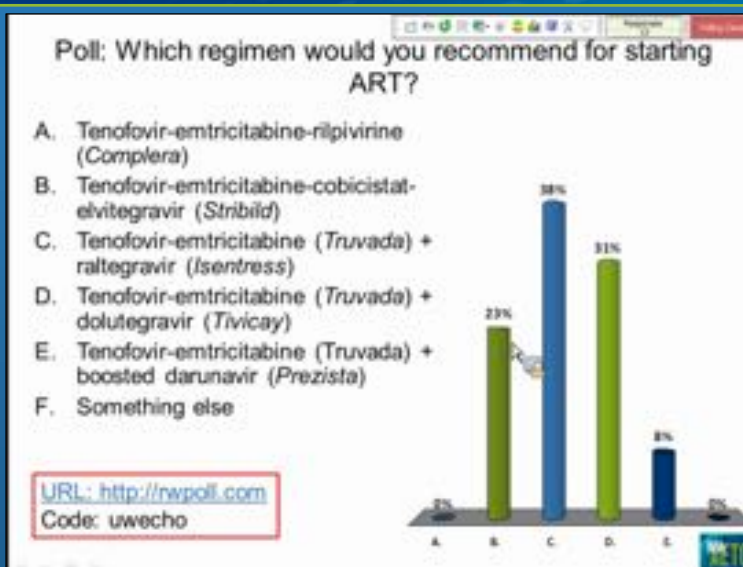
Presentation prepared by:  
Presenter:  
Last Updated: Date

This presentation is intended for educational use only, and does not in any way constitute medical consultation or advice related to any specific patient.

March 9th, 2015 CROI 2015: Hot Topics in HIV Primary Care  
Brian Wood, MD

PDF

## Interactive Polling



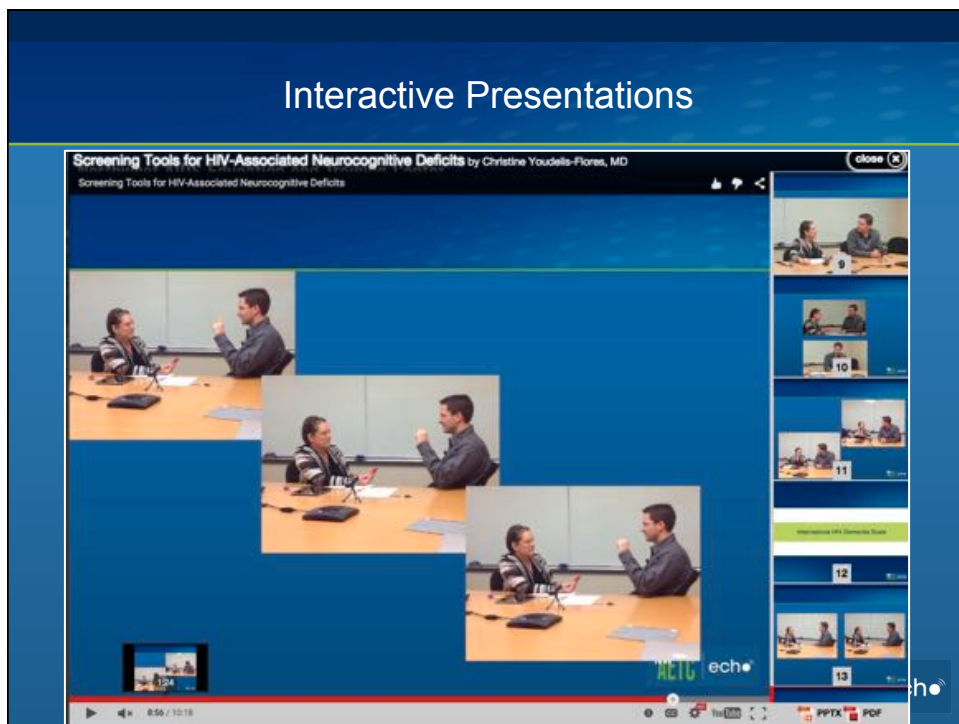
**Poll: Which regimen would you recommend for starting ART?**

- A. Tenofovir-emtricitabine-ralpivirine (Complera)
- B. Tenofovir-emtricitabine-cobicistat-efavirenz (Stribild)
- C. Tenofovir-emtricitabine (Truvada) + raltegravir (Isentress)
- D. Tenofovir-emtricitabine (Truvada) + dolutegravir (Tivicay)
- E. Tenofovir-emtricitabine (Truvada) + boosted darunavir (Prezista)
- F. Something else

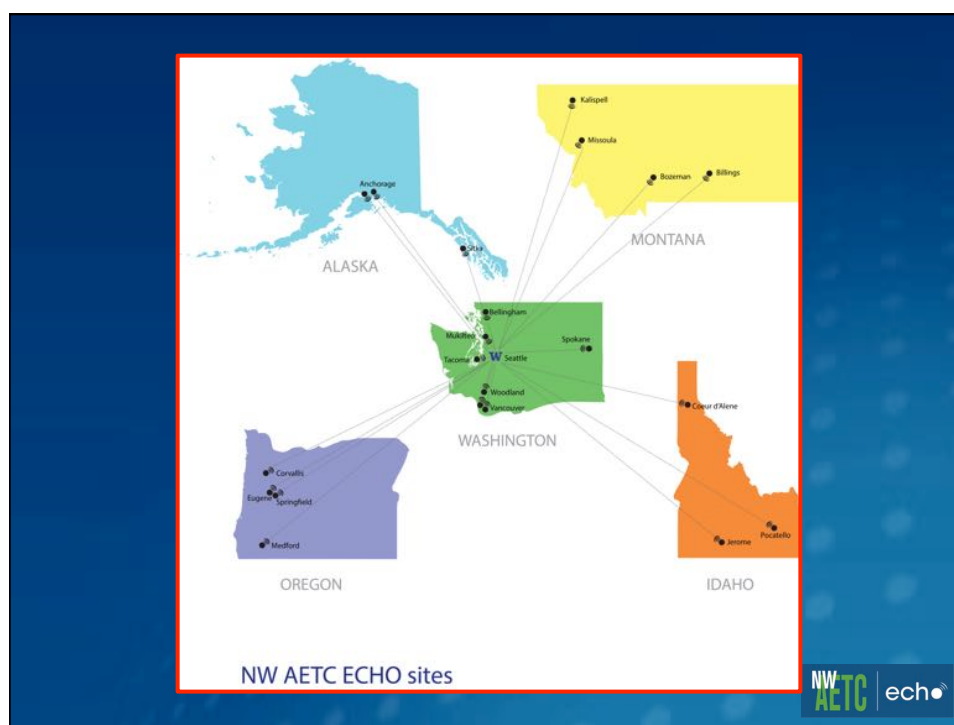
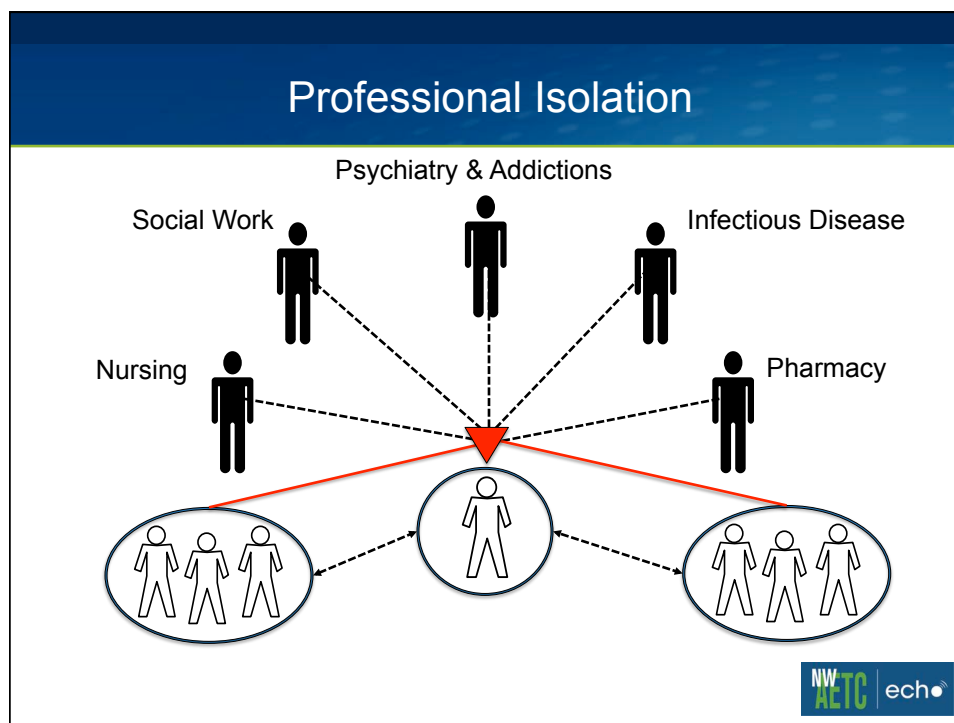
URL: <http://nwpoll.com>  
Code: uwecho

Regimen	Percentage
A	23%
B	38%
C	31%
D	8%
E	8%
F	8%

## Interactive Presentations



## Lessons Learned



Natalia Martínez Paz  
[www.nwaetcecho.org](http://www.nwaetcecho.org)  
[nmp@uw.edu](mailto:nmp@uw.edu)



## HIV Care in Rural Alaska: Addressing the Challenges Through Ryan White Part C HIV/AIDS Services

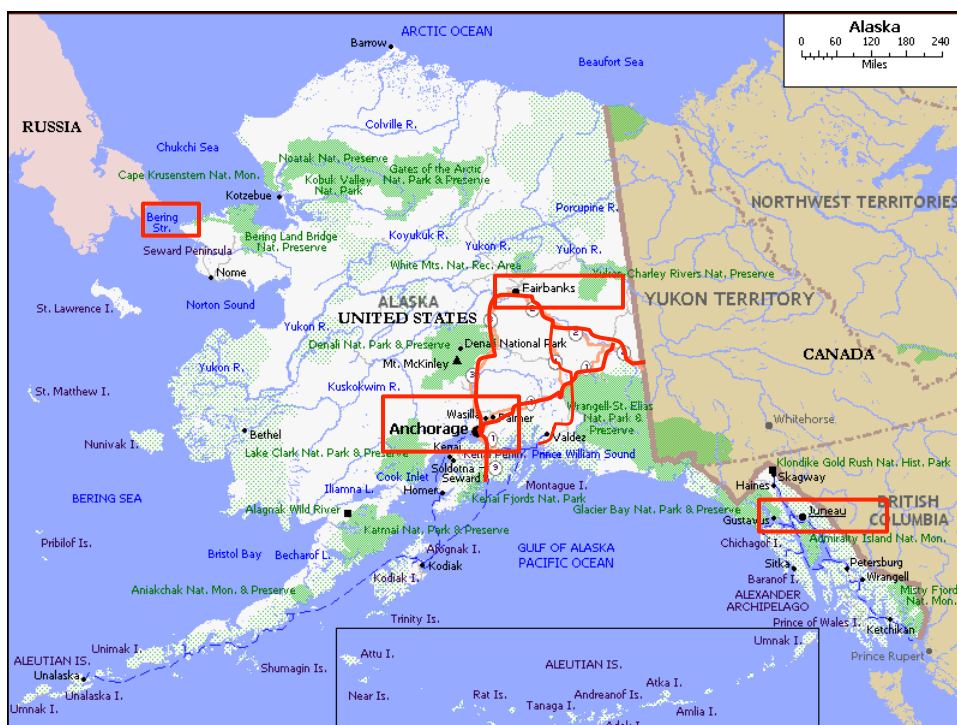
Terri Bramel, PA-C, AAHIVMS, Part C Project Director  
Lisa Rea, RN, ACRN, Case Manager  
Laura Riley, Program Director



Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium

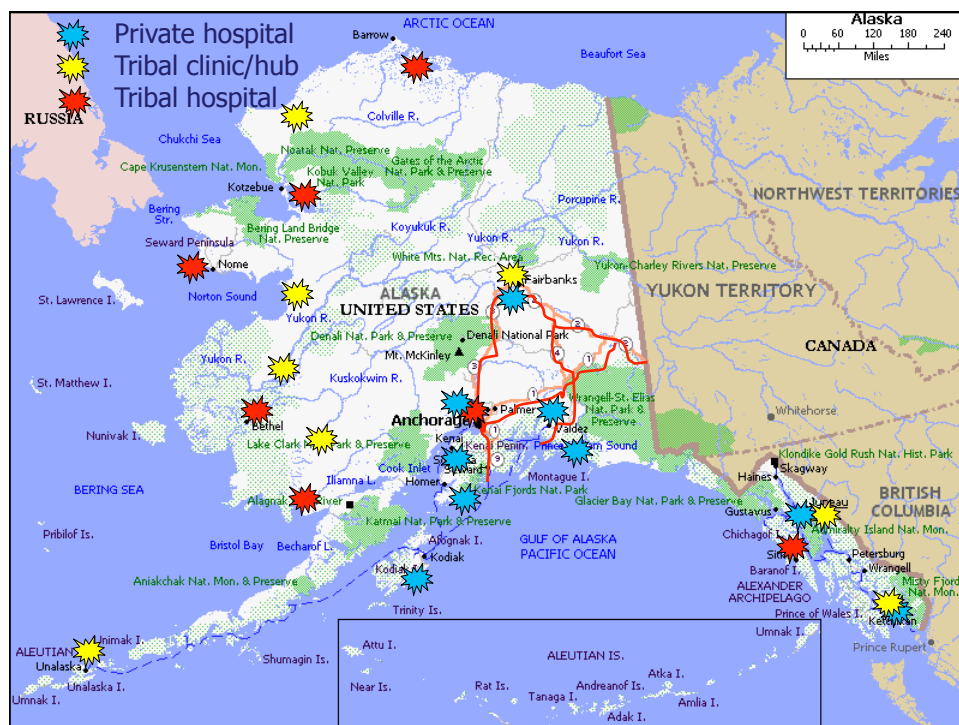
# Challenges to HIV Care Delivery

- Geographic
- Cultural
- Complex infrastructure for care delivery
- Stigma magnified in small communities

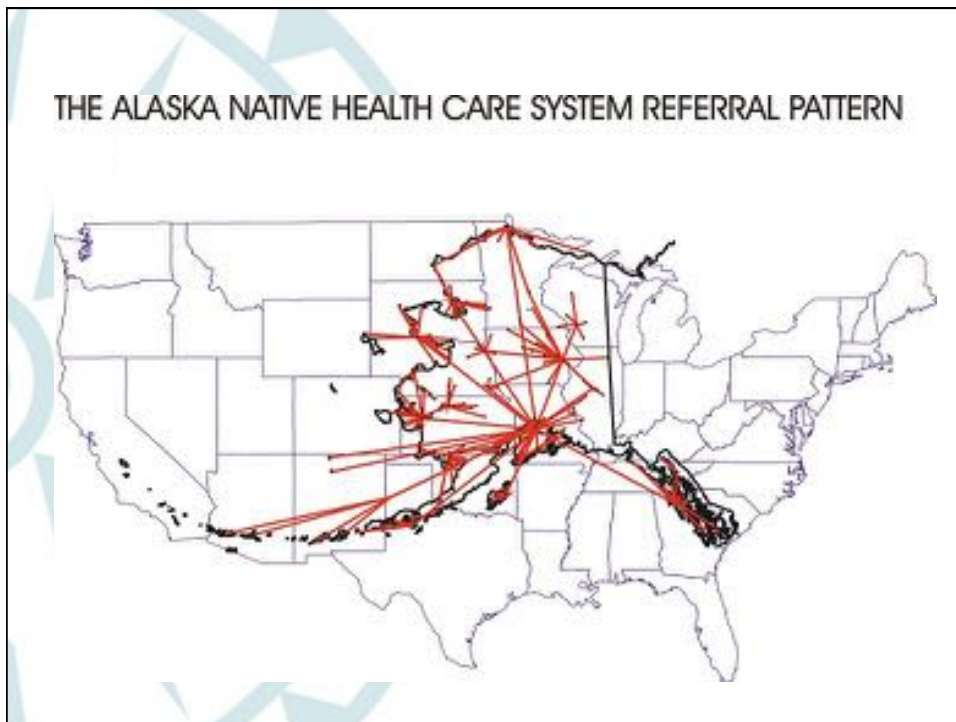




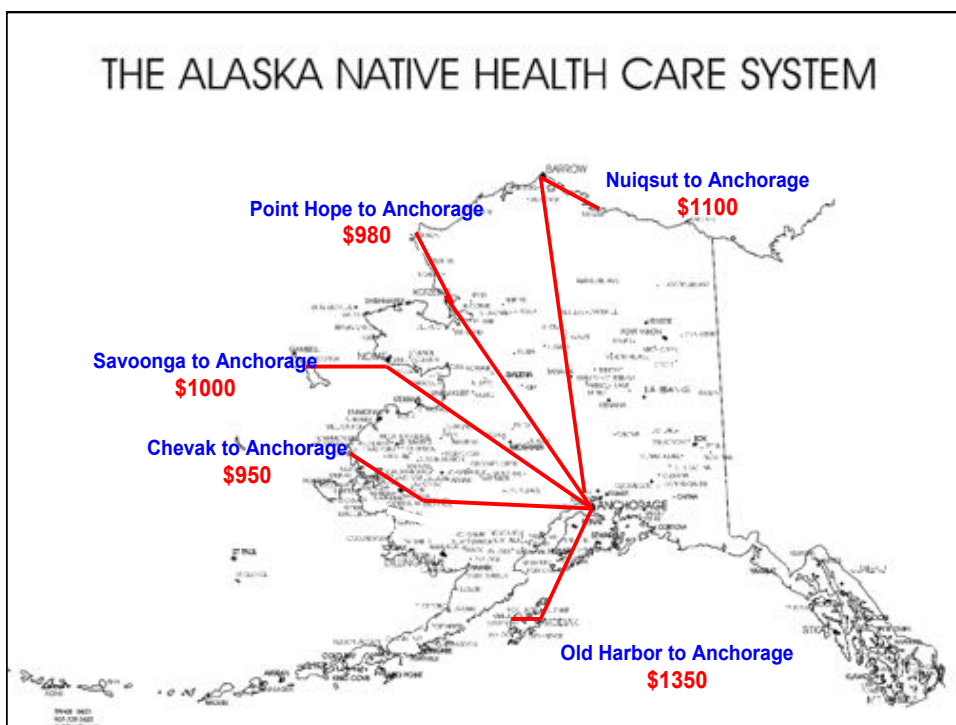
## Alaska Native Peoples and Languages



## THE ALASKA NATIVE HEALTH CARE SYSTEM REFERRAL PATTERN

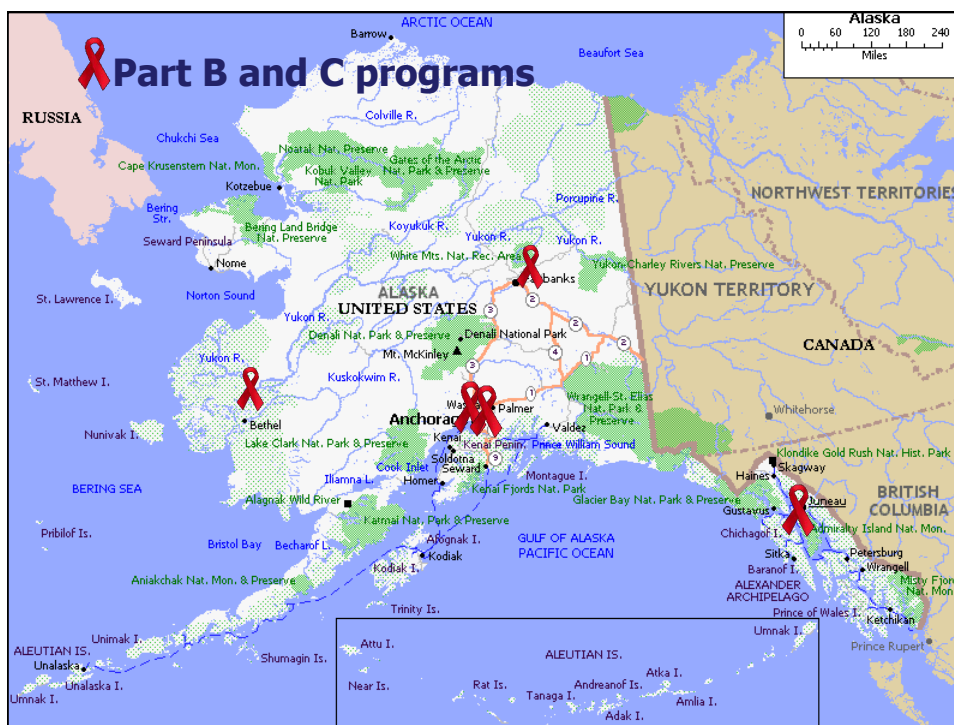


## THE ALASKA NATIVE HEALTH CARE SYSTEM



# Ryan White HIV/AIDS Services In Alaska

- Part C
  - Anchorage Neighborhood Health Center
  - Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium
- Part B- State of Alaska
  - Alaskan AIDS Assistance Association 4 A's
  - Interior AIDS Association IAA





## Geographic Challenges to HIV Care Delivery

- Patients must travel to hubs (hospital) to get HIV labs
- Provider in village 1-2 times/year
- Meds get shipped by mail
  - Sometimes weather delay
  - Sometimes sitting at airport
  - Sometimes hub pharmacy out of stock- low volume use of HAART

# Challenges to HIV Care Delivery

- Complex infrastructure for care delivery
  - Collaboration with local providers
    - Tribal health
    - Private
    - Part C
    - Community Health Centers
    - Military and VA
  - High rural provider turnover



## Addressing the Challenges



## HIV Care Team

- Medical Providers
  - MD, PA
  - Alliance with primary care provider
- Case managers/nurses/social workers/Part B
  - Central
  - Remote
- Pharmacist
  - Some clinic time, reviews meds and refills, available for consult
- Anyone else we can enlist- medical assistants, family, community health aides, public health nurses

## Case Management

- Case managers in hubsites and in Anchorage
- Familiar with local community
- Easily accessible (comparatively)



## Intensive Case Management

- Review all charts quarterly and identify care needs.
- **CAREWare reports**
- Calls to patient to schedule appointments, reminder calls for clinic.

## Intensive Case Management

- Meet with Part B case managers monthly
  - Track patients moving in and out of DOC and rural areas
- Help coordinate other appointments and transportation

## Intensive Case Management

- Develop relationships with patients- attending medical appointments, learning about each patient individually
- Develop relationships with providers – consulting, provide trainings on HIV and STIs

## Intensive Case Management

- Pharmacies (ADAP)
- State Epidemiology/ DIS- linkage to care



## Outreach

- Field clinics to hub sites.
  - Providers travel to hubsites, pts some in from surrounding areas for clinical visits and labs.
  - f/u can be done over the phone or by telemedicine



## Skills for Providing HIV Care to Patients in Rural Alaska

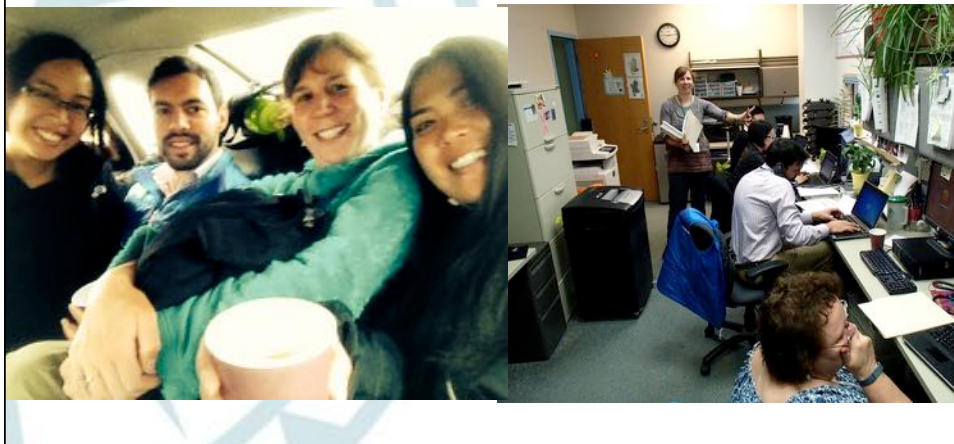
- Flexibility
  - Labs may not always happen right on time, appointments are delayed by travel and weather, patients may change their mind at last minute about anything
  - Clinic space in field clinics may not be ideal, make do with what you have or are given

## Skills for Providing HIV care to Patients in Rural Alaska

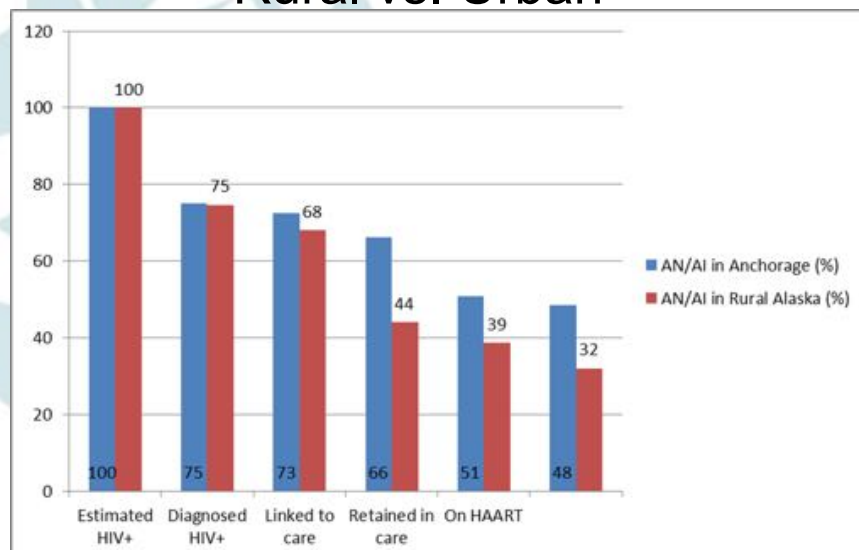
### Planning

- plan that meds will be delayed – encourage and help patients have a “stash” in anticipation of this
- Field clinics take a lot of coordination between providers, local clinics and the patients- can be a challenge to find the “best time” for everyone

Anticipate the worst but hope  
and plan for the best!



## 2013 Continuum of Care Rural vs. Urban



## Telemedicine in Alaska



*Providing medical care without boundaries*



## What is Telemedicine?

**Telemedicine is the delivery of health-related services and information via telecommunications technologies**

## Examples of telemedicine?

### Store and Forward:

Relating data in which messages are routed to one or more intermediate stations where they may be stored before being forwarded to their destinations. HIPAA compliant email with integrated peripherals!



### Live Delivery Video Teleconferencing:

Specialty Care providers give care to patients in home/village settings



## Why is telemedicine important to Alaska/rural areas?

- Lack of HIV experienced and specialty providers in the rural areas
- Patients health prevents travel
- Inconvenience for the patient to travel
- Expense to travel patients in
  - In Alaska travel expense to Anchorage could exceed \$1000 airfare PLUS lodging and food



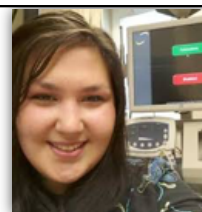


The screenshot displays a web-based telemedicine interface. On the left is a sidebar with navigation options like 'Home', 'Patient', 'Provider', and 'Consultation Results Form'. The main window is titled 'Consultation Results Form' and contains fields for 'Patient ID', 'Date', 'Time', and 'Location'. Below these are sections for 'Reason for visit', 'Assessment', and 'Recommendation'. The 'Assessment' section includes a 'Physical Examination' field with a dropdown menu and a 'Diagnosis' field. The 'Recommendation' section has a 'Recommendation' field. At the bottom, there is a 'Signature' field with a text input area.

What do telemedicine solutions look like?

## How do I start a telemedicine program?

- Identify gaps in service
- Review YOUR state's laws regarding telemedicine  
<http://www.telehealthresourcecenter.org/>
- Research a program similar to your needs
- Review existing policies and procedures at your organization
- Assemble core team of providers, case managers, nurses, administration and IT to create standards
- Assess tech options for privacy, reliability, ease of use and affordability
- Develop an appointment process for reimbursement and billing
- Create a patient/provider panel for feedback and quality assurance



# Thank You!

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