

# Enhancing Linkages to HIV Care for Jail Detainees Through HIV Testing and Connecting to Services: Multisite Evaluation Findings from a HRSA Demonstration Project

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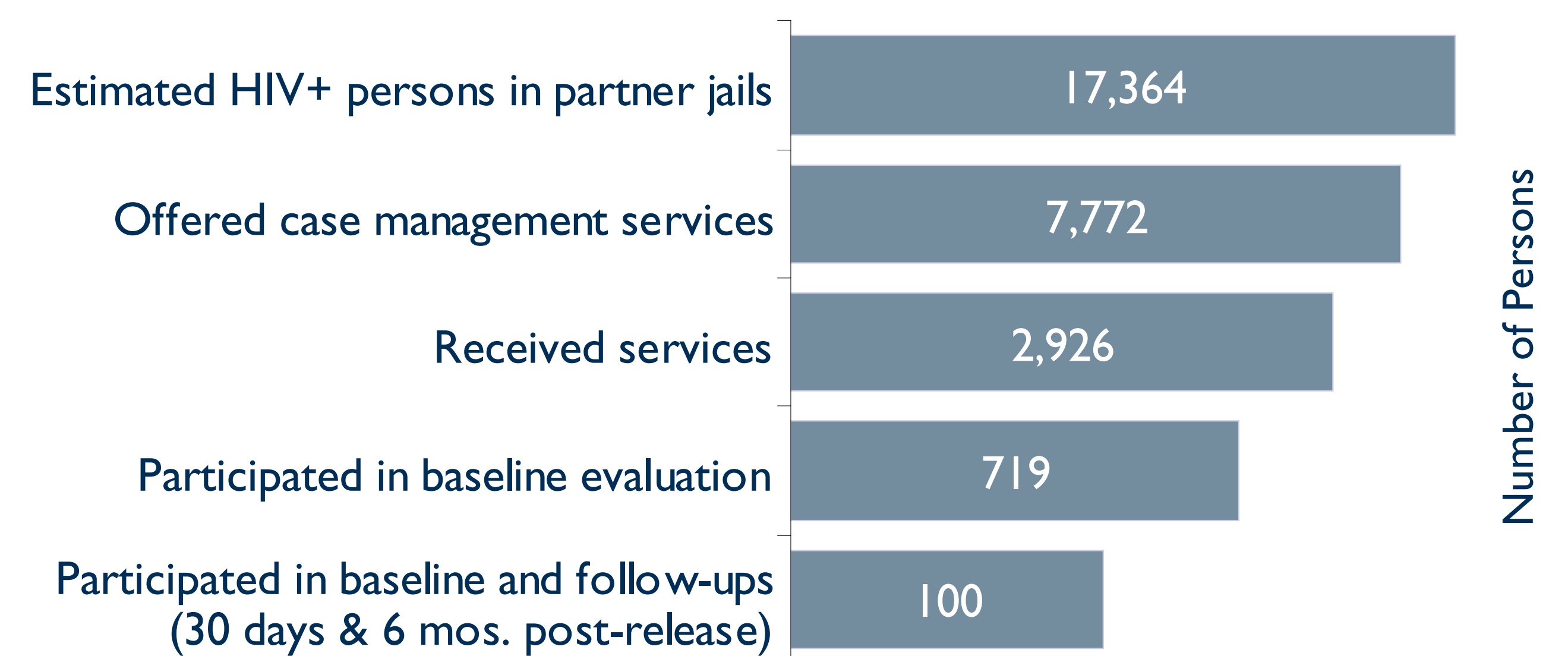
## Issues

- Most studies of HIV-infected, incarcerated individuals have focused on prisons, although 95% of releasees come from jails (Spaulding et al., 2009)

## Description

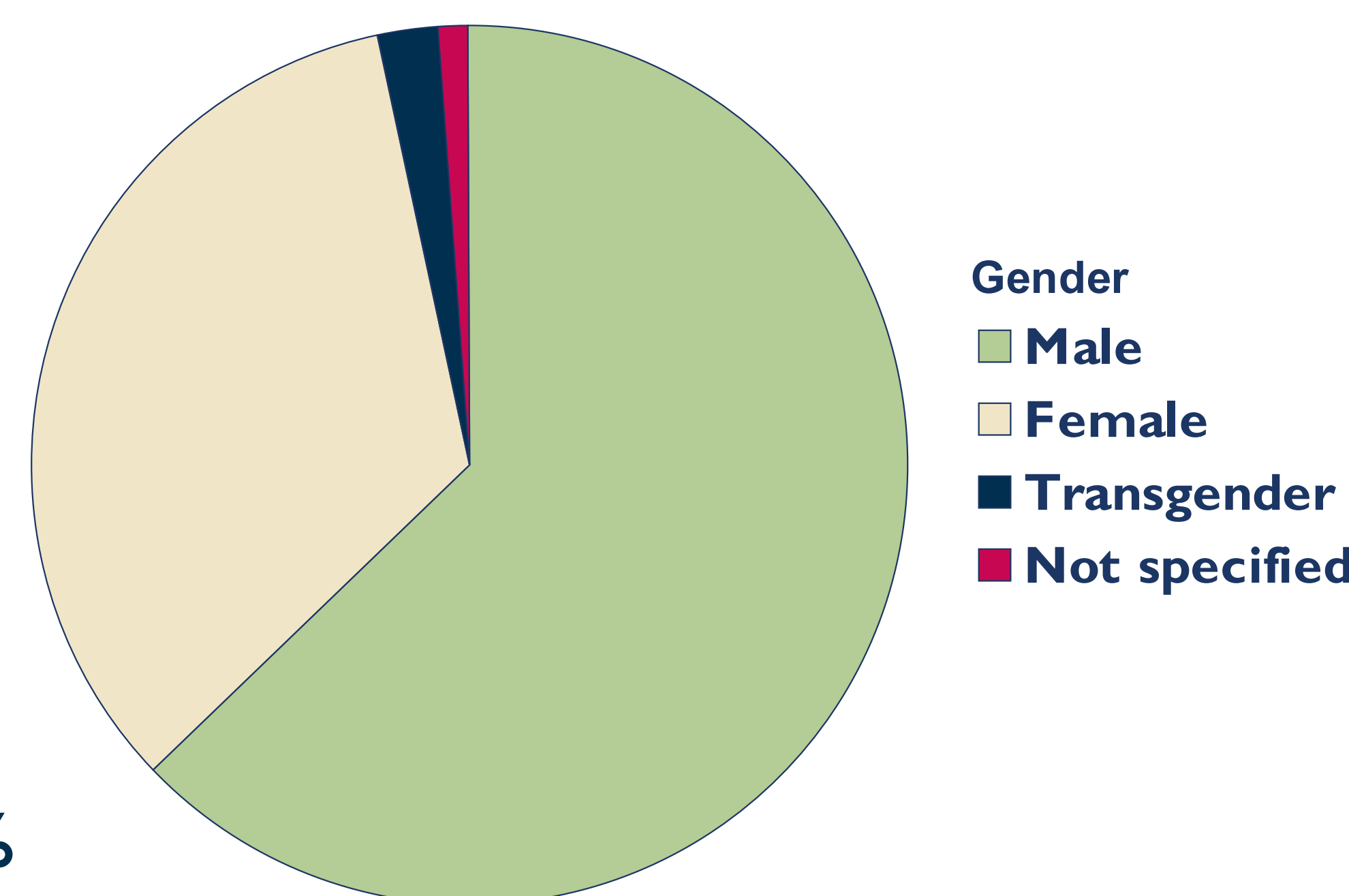
- EnhanceLink initiative
  - 10 U.S. demonstration projects provide HIV testing and case management services to link jail detainees to primary care
- Evaluation
  - Client-level outcome data collected at baseline/enrollment and 30 days and 6 months post-release. Separate from service provision.
  - Quarterly aggregate program data

## Portion of HIV+ Persons who Participated in EnhanceLink Services & Evaluation at 10 sites (log scale)



## Client Characteristics at Baseline (n=719)

- Mean age at enrollment:
  - 33 years
- Ethnicity:
  - Hispanic 22%
- Race:
  - Black/African American 62%
  - White 22%
  - Other 18%
  - Missing/Not Specified 4%



## Criminal Justice History at Baseline (n=719)

- On average, clients had been arrested 19 times over their lifetime (Range: 1 - 200 arrests)
- 43% booked on felony charges
- Frequent charges: assault; drug possession, drug sales; violation of probation/parole

## EnhanceLink HIV Testing

- To demonstrate feasibility of rapid HIV testing and other HIV detection methods
- To make initial or confirmatory diagnosis in jail
- 8 projects offered HIV testing primarily in jails with limited or no established HIV testing programs

	TOTAL
Offered HIV test	35,782
Tested	12,335
HIV-positive result (%)	82 (0.67%)

## EnhanceLink Case Management Services

- To conduct assessments in jail and develop discharge plans
- To refer or directly link clients to HIV care and other services while in jail and after release in the community

	Mean # encounters per client	MIN	MAX
Jail	4.3	0	46
Community	8.7	0	66

- Jail encounters most frequently lasted 1-15 mins.
- Community encounters most frequently lasted >60 mins.

## Linkages to Care in Jail

- Linkage to care analyses of clients with evaluation data at baseline, 30 days and 6 months after release from jail (n=100)

Linkages to care in jail	%
Attended face-to-face clinical HIV care appt.	95%
Had a recorded CD4 count in their chart	89%
On HAART in jail	74%
Completed discharge plan in jail	76%
Released with HAART supply	27%

## Linkage to Care and Status 30 Days Post-release

Linkages to community care & status	%	n
HIV provider contacted on clients' behalf	88%	100
Attended first HIV primary care appointment	67%	100
Still participating in EnhanceLink case management	77%	100
Mental health care indicated & kept first appointment	43%	61
Substance abuse treatment indicated & kept first appointment	53%	83

## Linkage to Care and Status 6 Months Post-release

- Outpatient visits within 6 months post-release
  - 73% had >1 outpatient clinic visits for healthcare
  - Mean # visits: 3 (Range: 0 to 14)
- Of those with an HIV provider before incarceration, a higher # of jail-based case management encounters was associated with maintaining linkage to care after release (p<0.01)
- 27% reincarcerated within 6 months

## Early Findings

- HIV screening and linkage programs in jail settings are feasible & important
- Some linkages to HIV care are stronger than others:
  - A large percentage of clients received HAART in jail, far fewer left with a medication supply
  - Linkage to community HIV primary care was high
  - Attendance at community mental health and substance abuse services was moderate
- We found that engaging jail administrators in linkage to care initiatives is critical for implementation

## Next Steps

- Continued service delivery
- Other predictors of successful linkage are being evaluated
- Final results will be disseminated to correctional administrators, HIV policy makers, and broader public health stakeholders to help identify and promote best practices in linking jail-based populations to HIV care

## References and Resources

Spaulding AC, Seals RM, Page MJ, Brzozowski AK, Rhodes W, Hammett TM. HIV/AIDS among inmates of and releasees from US correctional facilities, 2006: declining share of epidemic but persistent public health opportunity. PLoS One. 2009 Nov 11;4(11):e7558.

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