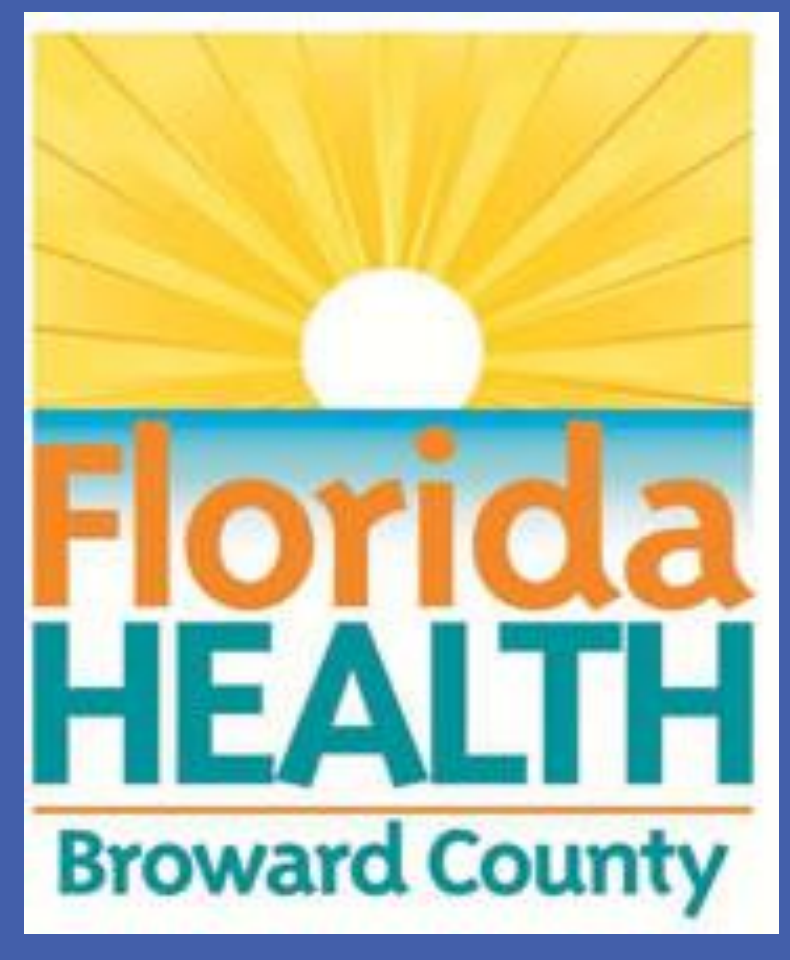




Test and Treat: Measuring the Impact of Client Outcomes along the HIV Continuum of Care in Broward County, Florida

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Introduction

Test and Treat (T&T) is a partnership between the Florida Department of Health in Broward County (DOH-Broward) and the Broward County Ryan White Part A Grantee Office that began May 1st, 2017. The program provides immediate linkage to HIV primary care and initiation of Antiretroviral Therapy (ART) at the time of HIV diagnosis or returning to care after a gap in services.

The program benefits the client's health and the community by providing initial ART while addressing client barriers such as issues of eligibility, linkage and retention to ongoing HIV primary care, and referral to services and social support. The goals and objectives of Broward County's T&T program are the following:

- Increase the percentage of persons linked to care and on ART medications
- Increase the percentage retained in care and percentage with suppressed viral load

Background

According to the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in 2016, the Fort Lauderdale Division of the Miami Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) has the second highest rate of new HIV infections (40.1/100,000 persons) and the third highest AIDS case rates in the United States (18.9/100,000 persons).

In 2016, Broward County had an estimated 20,041 people living with HIV/AIDS. In 2016, Broward County did not meet the National HIV/AIDS Strategy targets for the metrics associated with the Continuum of Care, except for linkage as per DOH surveillance data. Specifically, the percentage linked to care was 93% (target is 85%), the percentage retained in care was 69% (target is 90%), percentage with suppressed viral load (VL) was 64% (target is 80%).

The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Guidelines currently recommends universal ART for all people living with HIV regardless of CD4 count immediately after HIV diagnosis. T&T is also one of the FDOH's four key components as Florida's plan to eliminate HIV transmission and reduce HIV-related deaths.

Specific Aims

- To assess demographic characteristics of individuals enrolled into the Test and Treat program
- To assess median time from Test and Treat enrollment to viral suppression
- To evaluate impact of the Test and Treat program on linkage to care, retention and care, and viral suppression

Methods

A process evaluation was conducted utilizing non-identifying client information from the T&T database for the first month of program implementation which included 62 clients. Descriptive statistics and univariate data analysis were conducted using the 'Pivotal Table' feature on Microsoft Excel.

Results

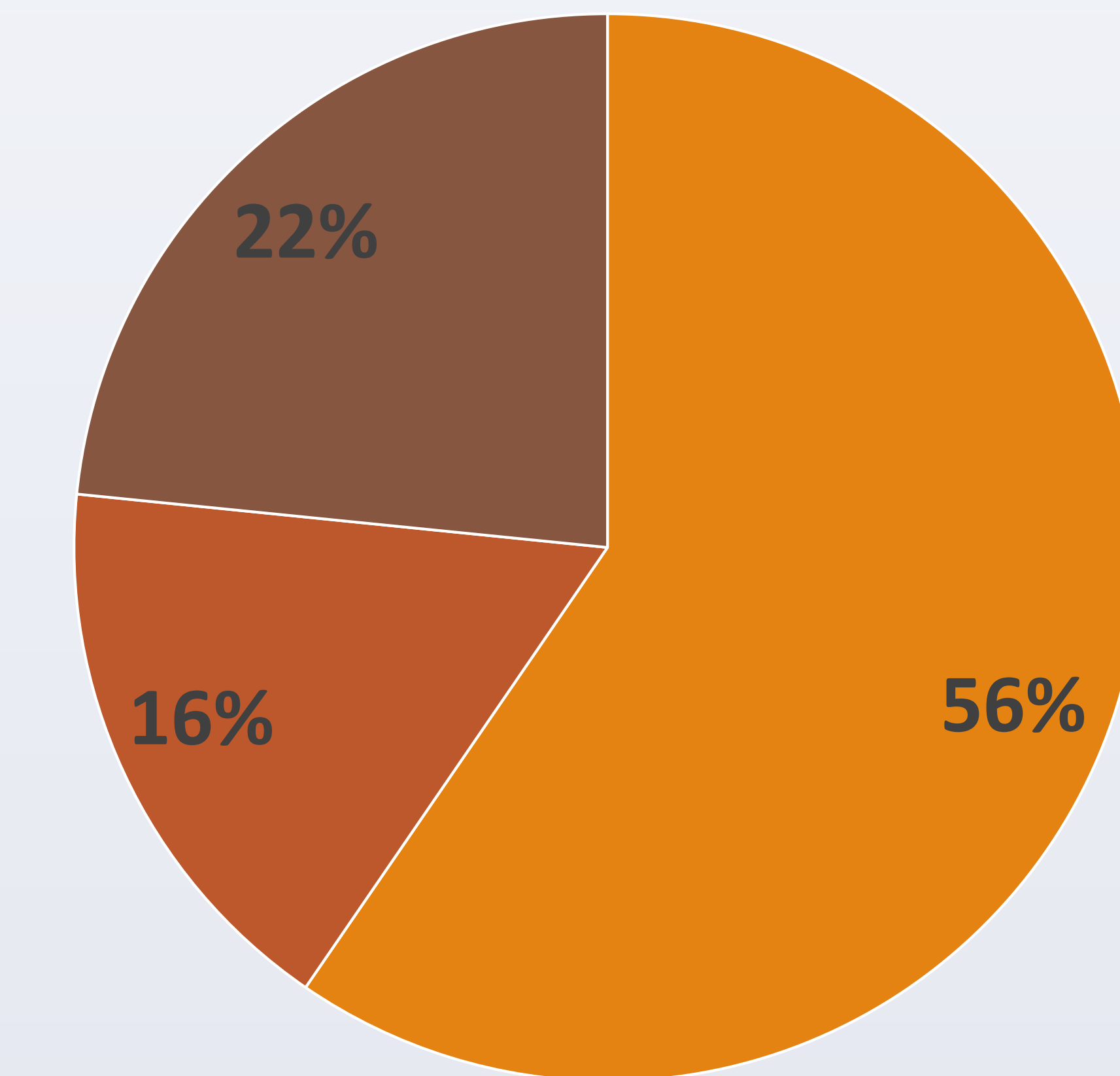
Table 1: Demographic Table

Variable	Total n(%)	Previously diagnosed n(%)	Newly Diagnosed n(%)
Enrolled in Test and Treat (n)	62 (100%)	26 (42%)	36 (58%)
Age (median, SD)	31		
Gender (n)			
Male	44 (71%)	15 (24%)	29(47%)
Female	17 (27%)	10 (16%)	7 (11%)
MTF	1 (2%)	1 (2%)	
Race/ethnicity (n)			
NHW	20 (32%)	10 (16%)	10 (16%)
NHB	35 (56%)	15 (24%)	20 (56%)
Latino/Hispanic	5 (8%)	1 (2%)	4 (7%)
Other	2 (3%)		2 (3%)

Among the 62 individuals enrolled in the T&T program, 42% (26/62) previously diagnosed and 58% (36/62) newly diagnosed (see Table 1). Eighteen (29%) individuals had an initial V/L lab indicating a suppressed Viral load around time of enrollment (<200 copies). Of those with a documented initial T&T start date, 53% (33/62) individuals got ART the same day as their T&T enrollment date. Of the total individuals enrolled, 56% (35/62) individuals had achieved virologic suppression at 6 months (see Figure 1). Overall, the median days from T&T enrollment to viral suppression were 47 days.

Figure 1: Viral Suppression at 2nd Viral Load Date

Viral Suppression at 2nd Viral Load Date*



- Virally Suppressed (<200 copies)
 - Not Virally Suppressed
 - Undocumented/Missing Viral Load
- *Please note this is provisional data

Conclusion

The T&T program provided immediate ART initiation to most clients. The data also shows evidence of early linkage to care and achievement of viral suppression. Increasing the percentage of persons linked to care and on ART medications, percentage retained in care and percentage with suppressed viral load, the long-term outcome will be a reduction in community viral load; therefore, decreasing transmission of the virus and rates of new HIV infection in Broward County. Ongoing retention and re-engagement of clients is imperative in addressing the health outcomes of HIV individuals.

Although a preliminary evaluation of the T&T program has been conducted, a 12-month evaluation of the T& T program will truly assess client outcomes along the HIV Care continuum and identify possible trends or disparities in care.

Thank you to the Florida Department of Health Broward County and the Florida Department of Health Research Excellence Initiative Class

For additional resources email Simone.McPherson@flhealth.gov