

Responding to the HIV Epidemic in the U.S.

Guiding Development and Implementation of HIV Prevention, Care and Treatment Programs



Since 1985, Abt Associates has meaningfully responded to the tragic and changing HIV epidemic both at home and abroad. Today we are linking previously undiagnosed HIV-positive men who have sex with men to care, evaluating and improving culturally competent behavioral health services for minorities living with HIV, and evaluating the impact of the Affordable Care Act on Ryan White program services.

Responding to the HIV/AIDS Epidemic

For nearly three decades, Abt Associates has been in the forefront of providing rigorous research and bold thinking to guide development and implementation of HIV prevention, care and treatment programs nationally and locally. Our commitment to respond to the HIV epidemic has been unwavering, and we have remained ever mindful of the social urgency of preventing and controlling the spread of the disease and the humanitarian goal of enhancing the wellbeing of people living with it.

Developing, Supporting, and Evaluating HIV/AIDS Programs

Scaling Up HIV Testing among African American and Hispanic MSM: The MSM Testing Initiative

For the CDC, Abt and its more than 20 partners throughout the US provided HIV testing and linkage services to reach more than 70,000 men who have sex with men. Specifically the goal of this three-year project was to reach 3,000 men with undiagnosed infection and provide HIV testing and linkage services utilizing innovative strategies. This initiative documented effective strategies and best practices in reaching men as well as assessing the cost effectiveness of different strategies.

Assessing Best Strategies for Reaching African American MSM Unaware of Their HIV Status

This research for the CDC involved evaluating the relative effectiveness of strategies for identifying previously undiagnosed HIV-positive African American men who have sex with men (MSM) and motivating them to be tested for HIV and linked to medical care and prevention services.



Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program Outcomes within the Context of the ACA

Abt together with its partners is evaluating the effect of the Affordable Care Act on the health outcomes, service utilization, and gaps in care for HIV-positive persons. The study will assess how RWHAP provider sites meet the needs of clients under the variety of health care coverage types that clients are experiencing and focus on the health care needs of persons living with HIV/AIDS. The study will utilize data from medical records, provider interviews and site surveys.

Assessing Emerging Issues Related to ACA Implementation: The Future of Ryan White Services: A Snapshot of Outpatient Ambulatory Medical Care

This study assessed the status of Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program (RWHAP) services during the early and later stages of implementation of the Affordable Care Act (ACA). This research involved sampling 30 Ryan White provider sites, analyzing service utilization and clinical outcomes data, and conducting interviews with clinical and other care providers to assess the impact of the ACA on RWHAP providers and their Ryan White clients.

Expanding HIV-Prevention Activities at Minority-Serving Institutions

Abt provided technical assistance to Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Hispanic-Serving Institutions, and Tribal Colleges and Universities to promote HIV awareness, testing and prevention, and responsible sexual health and harm reduction. An earlier phase of the project for HHS's Office of HIV/AIDS and Infectious Disease Policy involved recruiting new community partners in HIV-prevention activities.

Coordinating and Evaluating Mental Health Services for Minorities Living With HIV

Abt evaluated culturally competent mental health services for HIV-positive individuals in racial/ethnic minority communities and provided technical assistance to improve them. This work was performed in partnership with 20 grantees for SAMHSA.

Evaluating Linkages to HIV Primary Care in Jails

This Special Program of National Significance was a collaboration between Abt Associates and the Rollins School of Public Health of Emory University. The Emory-Abt Evaluation and Support Center supported the multi-site evaluation of the effectiveness of innovative methods for linking persons living with HIV who were incarcerated in jails or had been recently released from prison to primary medical care and ancillary services in their communities.

Assessing Linkage to Care For Recently Released Prison Ex-Offenders

Abt and Rhode Island's Miriam Hospital are assessing the level and adequacy of linkage to HIV care for HIV-positive prison releasees. The study will examine the effects of the variation in local resources and relationships among criminal justice and public health systems and compare different strategies for improving a systems-wide, multi-agency approach to delivering HIV care to criminal justice populations.

Minority AIDS Initiative Evaluation

For SAMHSA, Abt is evaluating the Minority AIDS Initiative Targeted Capacity Expansion (MAI-TCE): Integrated Behavioral Health and Primary Care Network Cooperative Agreements Program. MAI-TCE facilitates the development and expansion of culturally competent and effective integrated behavioral health and primary care service networks, which include HIV services and medical treatment in 11 of the Metropolitan Statistical Areas most heavily impacted by HIV and AIDS as well as facilities that provide behavioral health services.

Coordinating Domestic Master Contract for HIV Vaccine Efficacy Trials

To assess HIV-candidate vaccines and other prevention strategies, the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases created a network of domestic and international clinical trial sites to enroll sufficient numbers of at-risk trial participants. As the operations coordinating center for the network, Abt developed the protocol, identified and prepared sites, conducted training, monitoring, and community education, and ensured regulatory and human subjects compliance.

Training And Technical Assistance

Strengthening and Improving the HIV Care Continuum within Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program (RWHAP) Part A Jurisdictions

Abt, together with its partners and expert consultants, will develop a virtual learning collaborative to provide training and technical assistance to support Ryan White funded Part A jurisdictions to develop tailored, innovative approaches to improve population health and specific HIV outcomes throughout the HIV care continuum.

Staff Development, Training, and Technical Assistance for the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program

For HRSA's HIV/AIDS Bureau (HAB), Abt designed the Training and Technical Assistance Institute to support the professional development of the bureau's staff. Abt drew upon its own expertise, as well as that of its partner consultants, to develop an integrated training curriculum designed to enhance HRSA's HAB staff expertise in management and specific HIV-related content areas.

Implementing the Ryan White Care Act Technical Assistance

Abt is implementing the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Treatment Extension Act technical assistance system for HRSA. We are also designing and conducting evaluations of technical assistance offered to more than 2,000 Ryan White grantees and sub-grantees nationwide.

Contact

For more information on Abt Associates and our work in HIV and AIDS, contact:

Christopher Spera, Ph.D.

Division Vice President, Health and Environment
301-347-5950
Chris_Spera@abtassoc.com

Abt Associates is a mission-driven, global leader in research and program implementation in the fields of health, social and environmental policy, and international development. Known for its rigorous approach to solving complex challenges, Abt Associates is regularly ranked as one of the top 20 global research firms and one of the top 40 international development innovators. The company has multiple offices in the U.S. and program offices in more than 60 countries.

