Adapting existing partner services programs to implement new HIV-related activities in Jackson, Mississippi: lessons from a novel process evaluation

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RESULTS

Background

- Partner services in the United States has traditionally focused on partner STD testing and treatment but adapting existing partner services programs to integrate HIV-related outcomes (e.g., HIV testing of partners) may require a significant change in workflow.
- Identifying barriers and facilitators to integrating HIV-related outcomes may streamline their integration and increase efficiency of partner services programs.

Objective

Describe barriers and facilitators to implementing new HIV-related activities into STD partner services in Jackson, MS

Methods

NEW PARTNER SERVICES ACTIVITIES:
- Overall barriers and facilitators identified during process flow mapping (maps shown on next panel)

We used three methods to evaluate barriers and facilitators to integrating new HIV-related activities into STD partner services:

1. Conducting HIV testing of partners of MSM index cases with gonorrhea (GC) and chlamydia (CT) identified through STD surveillance
2. PrEP Referrals to STD Cases and Partners
3. Re-engagement in care among previously HIV-diagnosed individuals with a recent STD

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RESULTS

Overall barriers and facilitators identified during process flow mapping (maps shown on next panel):

Activity 1: HIV testing of partners of MSM index cases with GC/CT

Activity 2: Re-engagement in care among previously HIV-diagnosed individuals with a recent STD

Activity 3: PrEP Referrals to STD Cases and Partners

SUMMARY:

Using three methods to evaluate barriers and facilitators to integrating new HIV-related activities into STD partner services, we identified the following barriers:

Barriers to implementing new HIV-related activities:

- Logistical and Financial
- Inadequate communication between clinics and DIS
- Disparate forms in multiple systems; tedious to complete
- Delays in process from referral to appointment

Facilitators to implementing new HIV-related activities:

- Activities and services are tailored to the needs of the client
- Clear and concise procedures for handling appointments
- Effective coordination between DIS and other stakeholders

DISCUSSION

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