

How FoundCare Changed Its Clinical Culture



FOUNDCARE FACTS

- FoundCare is a Federally Qualified Health Center that offers pediatric and adult primary care, chronic disease management, behavioral health counseling, laboratory services, X-rays and dentistry.
- FoundCare (formerly Comprehensive AIDS Program of Palm Beach County) is the oldest and largest community organization providing HIV/AIDS services in Palm Beach County.
- FoundCare is the Palm Beach County Health Department's first choice for hepatitis C linkage to care referrals.

COMMUNITY CONCERNS

- Palm Beach County has one of the most severe opioid epidemics in the United States, resulting in one of the highest rates of deaths attributed to opioid overdoses.
- Increased intravenous drug use has led to Palm Beach County having the highest rates of hepatitis C virus cases in the State of Florida.
- In addition to the rise of local hepatitis c cases, Palm Beach County remains fifth in the State of Florida for HIV infections.
- Uninsured and underserved populations lack access to affordable quality hepatitis C care.

SUCCESSFUL SOLUTIONS

- Implemented an agency-wide HIV and hepatitis C virus testing initiative to identify undiagnosed individuals and linked those individuals to care.
- Created one of Palm Beach County's most comprehensive hepatitis c linkage to care programs.
- Integrated Behavioral Health into the linkage to care process with the agency's medical providers to assist in alleviating any potential barriers to care.



RESULTS

03/01/2017 –
02/28/2018



CONDUCTED

7,018 HIV Tests
5,958 HCV Tests



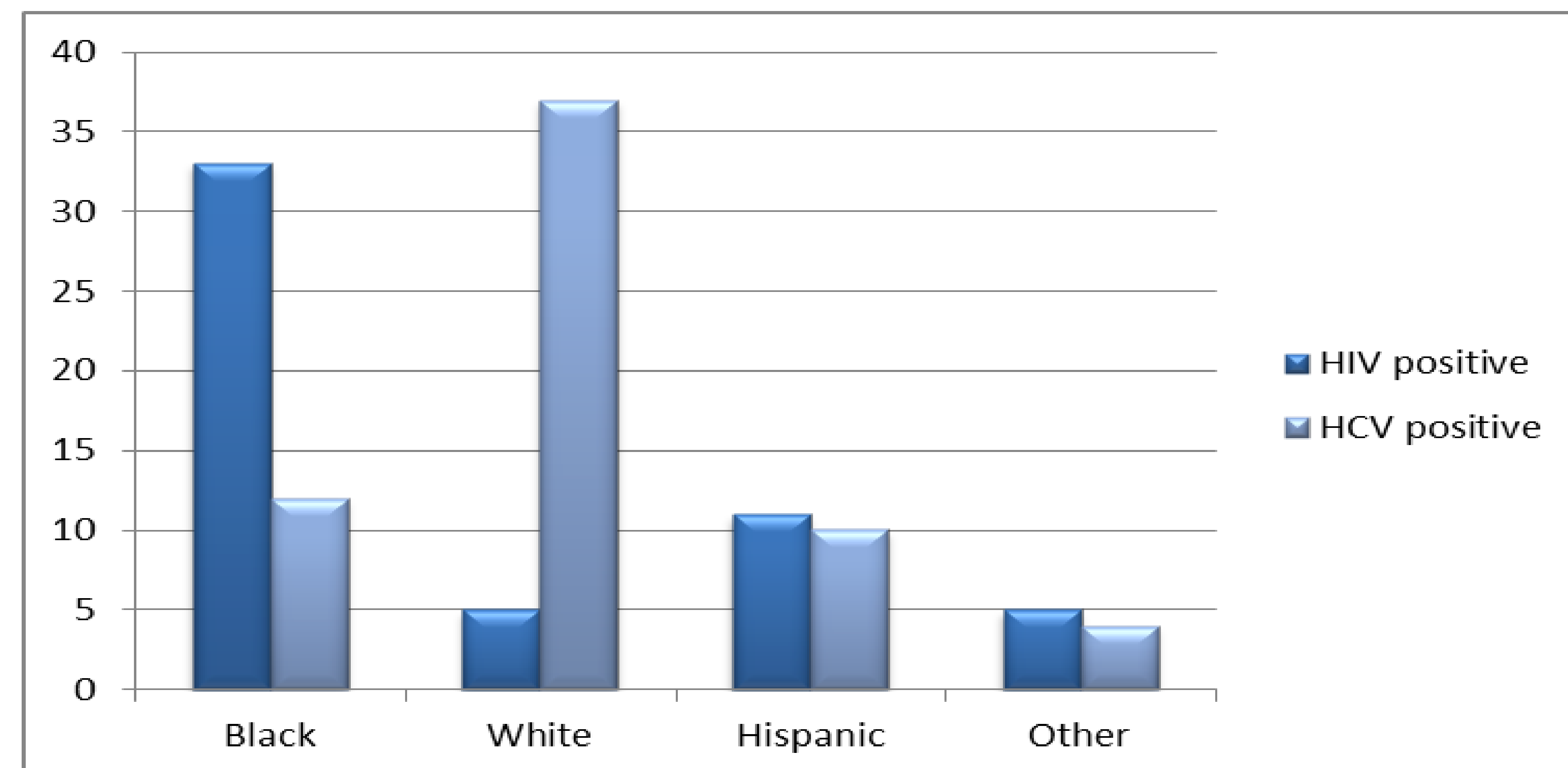
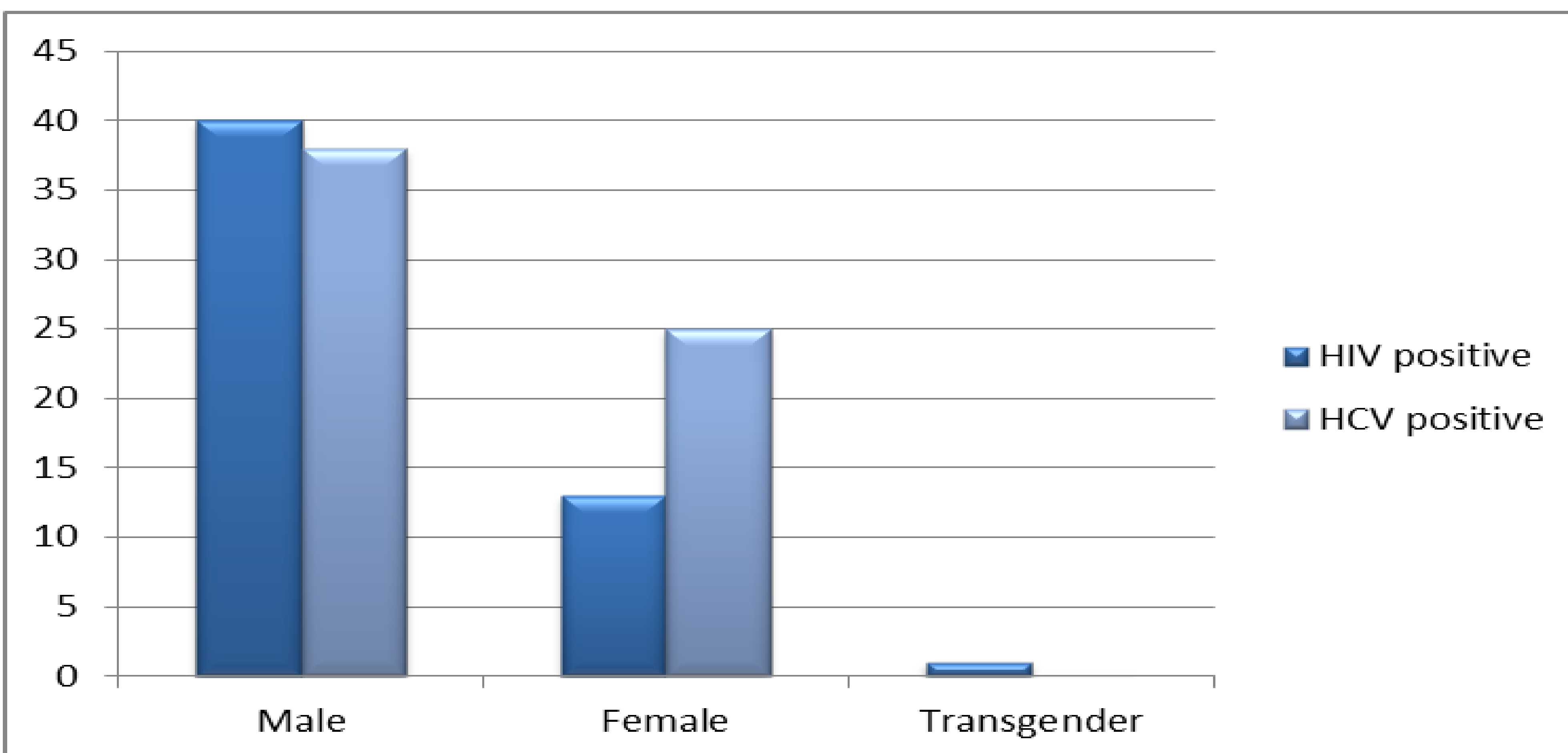
IDENTIFIED

69 New HIV Positives
73 New HCV Positives



LINKED TO CARE

95% HIV-Positive Patients
92% HCV-Positive Patients



CONCLUSION AND FUTURE GOALS

- FoundCare proved the importance of routine screenings in a clinical setting by identifying newly diagnosed individuals who normally would not have been tested.
- Thanks to additional training for, and involvement by, the medical team, FoundCare was able to provide more risk reduction counseling, which increased testing buy-in.
- FoundCare plans to expand its Health Center's hepatitis C clinic and explore resource options for individuals with hepatitis C in order to link patients to care more efficiently.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This work was supported in part by grant funding through the Frontlines of Communities in the United States (FOCUS), Gilead Sciences. The FOCUS program (a branch of Gilead's Government Affairs division) partners with health care providers, government agencies, and community organizations to implement HIV and hepatitis C virus screening programs and develop replicable models that embody best practices in screening and linkage to care. The program pays for partial salary support for principal investigators to develop protocols and manage the screening program, administrative staff to assist with data acquisition and linkage, and meeting-related travel expenses.