

Partner Services to Increase HIV Testing

The analytic framework postulates the pathway leading from HIV partner services to increased HIV testing.

Partner services interventions are offered to index patients, people newly diagnosed with HIV or newly reported HIV diagnosis. This is expected to increase index patients' knowledge of, and access to, partner services and lead to identification of their sexual and needle-sharing partners who are at risk for HIV infection. Once identified, partners receive notification of their potential HIV exposure through public health department personnel (provider referral), index patients (self-referral), or other healthcare providers (third-party referral). The notified partners are offered partner services, can access HIV testing and other services, leading to increased HIV testing and partners' knowledge of their status. The framework postulates that partners who test negative but remain at higher risk for HIV infection will be linked to preventive services such as PrEP, leading to improved health equity. It is expected that partners who test positive will be linked to, and retained in, HIV care in order to improve their viral suppression and other HIV-related health outcomes, leading to decreased HIV-related morbidity and mortality and improved health equity.

One postulated harm is the potential for intimate partner violence.

Some of the key effect modifiers include the type of referral approaches, notification delivery methods, and the time between index patients' HIV diagnosis and interview.

HIV-related health disparities exist among populations such as racial/ethnic minorities, men who have sex with men, transgender persons, and people who inject drugs.