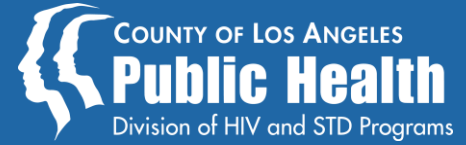




Ending
the
HIV
Epidemic



2025
CHIPTS HIV NEXT GENERATION
CONFERENCE
Community Health Ambassador Program

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Community Health Ambassador Program

Key Takeaways

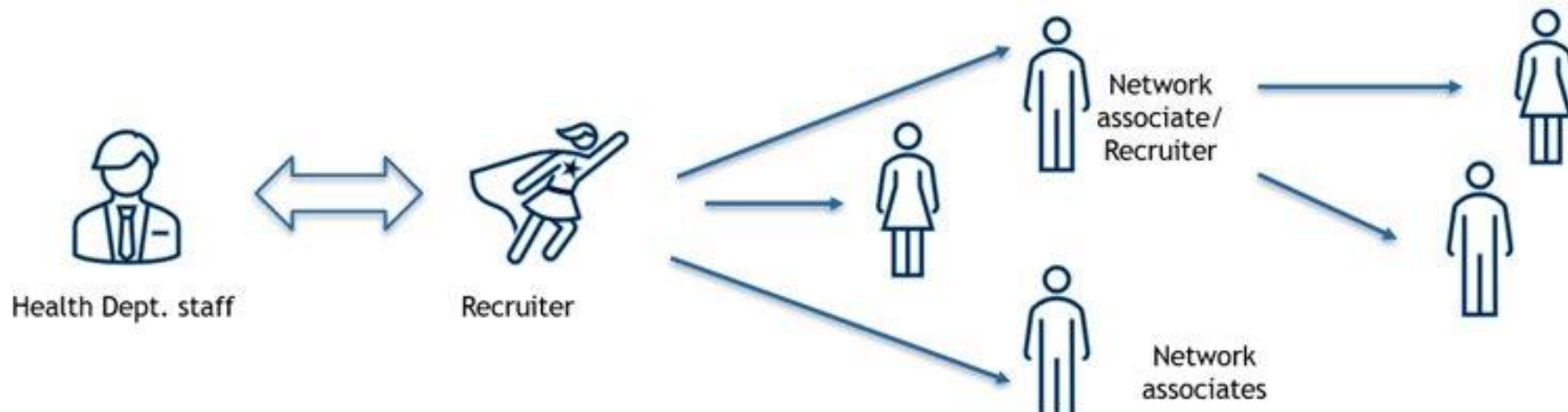
- **This program is highly effective at reaching first time testers.**
- **Preliminary findings have shown a high positivity rate.**
- Increased understanding of characteristics that may be driving HIV transmission.
- High return on investment for an HIV testing program.



Background and Objective

Community Health Ambassador Program (CHAP)

- Los Angeles County (LAC) implemented a social network strategy (SNS) to address service gaps and bring individuals into HIV prevention and care, preventing further HIV transmission.
- **Social Network Strategy (SNS)** is an evidence-supported approach to identify, engage and motivate people with undiagnosed HIV infection to accept HIV testing.
- **HIV transmission clusters** include groups of people with shared sexual and social networks who are experiencing recent and rapid HIV transmission.



Methods

Community Health Ambassador Program

Purpose

- Apply SNS testing strategy to HIV Cluster Detection and Response (CDR) Efforts.

Population

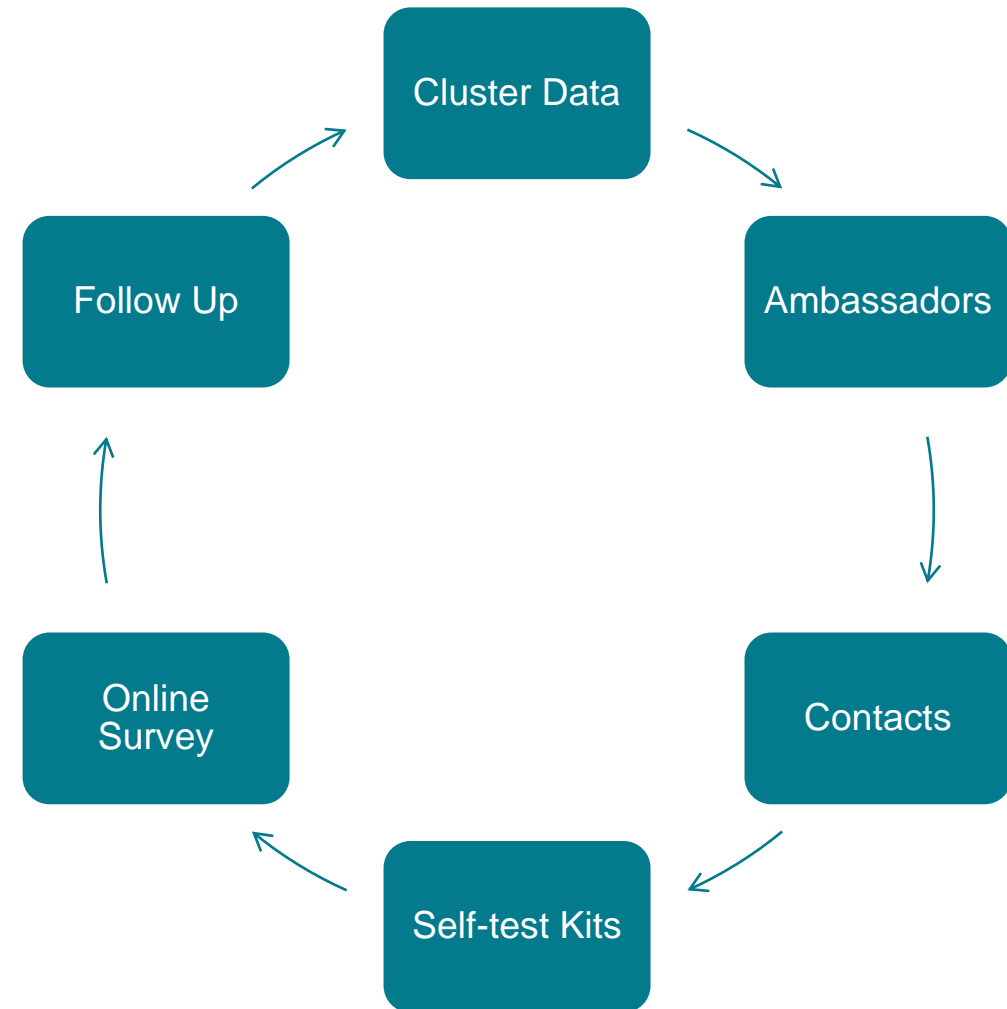
- Ambassadors recruited from high-priority clusters.

Method

- Ambassadors distribute self-test kits to Contacts among their social, sexual, and drug-sharing networks.

Follow Up

- Contacts complete a short survey via a QR code to report test result.



Results

12 Ambassadors were recruited for CHAP.



24 clusters



165 individuals



362 phone calls



19 people scheduled for CHAP orientation



**12 Ambassadors
(8 Active Ambassadors)**

Results

121 unique test results were received from 132 Contacts.



12
Ambassadors



161 test kits distributed to Ambassadors



132 test kits distributed to Contacts



121 unique test results reported



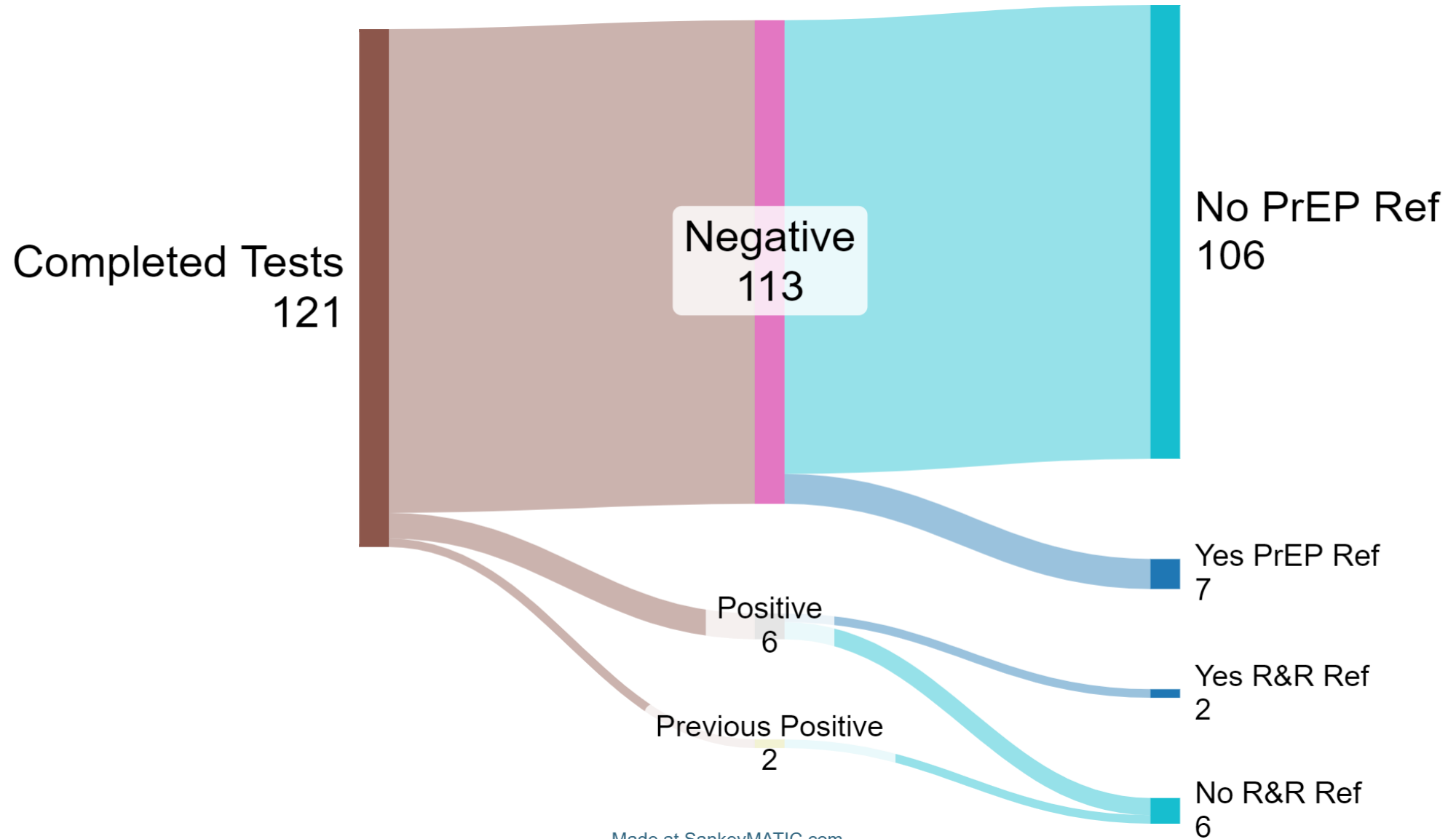
54 first-time testers (45%)

28 haven't tested > 1 year (23%)

6 new positive test results (5%)

2 previous positives

121 unique surveys were received: 6 individuals were newly HIV positive, 2 of whom requested referral to care.



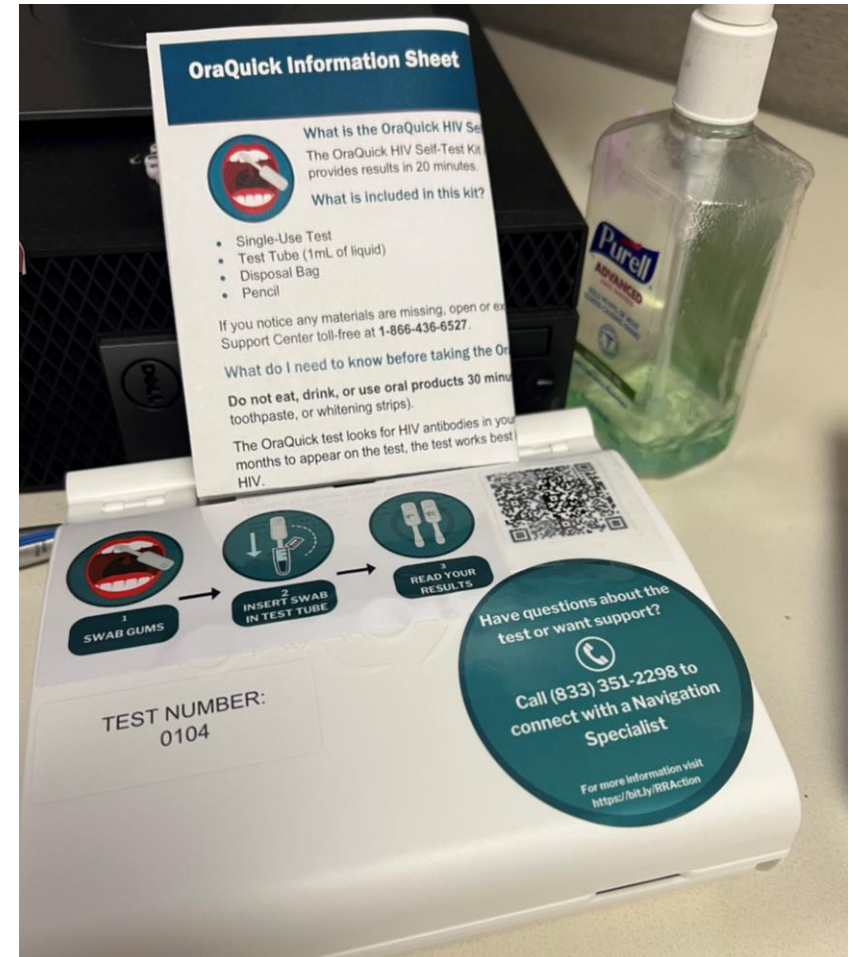
Discussion

Successes

- Successful model for data to action implementation.
- Collaboration across Health Department units.

Challenges

- Low response rate for Ambassador recruitment.
- Transportation to office for picking up test kits.
- Size of test-kits.
- Program geared towards clients who are comfortable with technology.
- Inability to compensate Ambassadors with cash.
- Difficulty in recruiting Spanish-speaking clients as Ambassadors.



Discussion

- **Program Costs**

- Total Program Cost for 1 Year:
\$12,600 (test kits and gift cards)

- **Future Direction of CHAP**

- Expanded CHAP to include all clusters identified in LA County.
- Will extend the program for another year (200 additional unique test results), contingent on funding.
- Providing technical assistance to other jurisdictions who want to implement a similar program.



Acknowledgments

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