

Leveraging Telehealth to Promote Access to HIV Primary Care among Persons Living with HIV in LAC During COVID-19

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CHIPTS HIV Next Generation Conference
January 22, 2021



Background and Objectives

- COVID-19 pandemic impacted medical care access, including HIV care (Medical Outpatient, MO)
- In LAC, Ryan White Program (RWP) HIV clinics serve approximately 1 in 3 people living with HIV (PLWH)
- Phone/video telehealth authorized for RWP providers and added to the data system
- We describe MO utilization during COVID-19 among RWP patients and examine differences in telehealth utilization by patient characteristics

Telehealth Capacity among MO Providers

- 43 clinics across LAC operated by 19 RWP providers
- Telehealth capacity
 - 21 clinics (49%) in March operated by 7 providers
 - 39 clinics (91%) by October operated by 16 providers



Study Population and Methods

Study Population: RWP patients with ≥ 1 MO visit in the observation period:

- Pre-COVID (N=3,668): 2/01/20-2/28/20
- COVID (N=6,894): 3/1/20-10/31/20



Data Source: HIV Casewatch (LAC RWP reporting system)

Statistical Analysis:

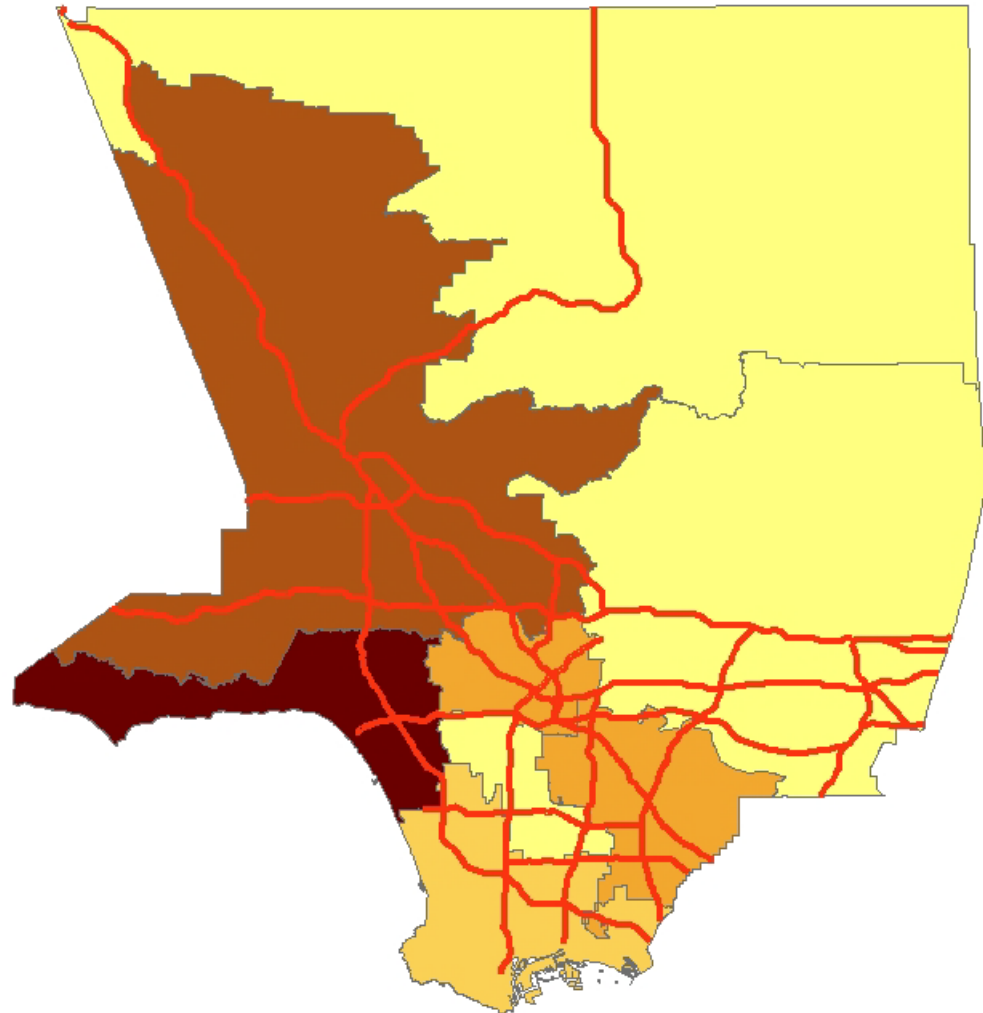
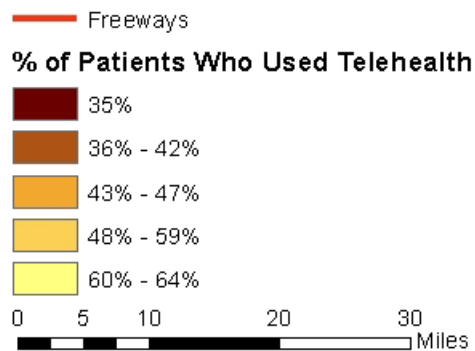
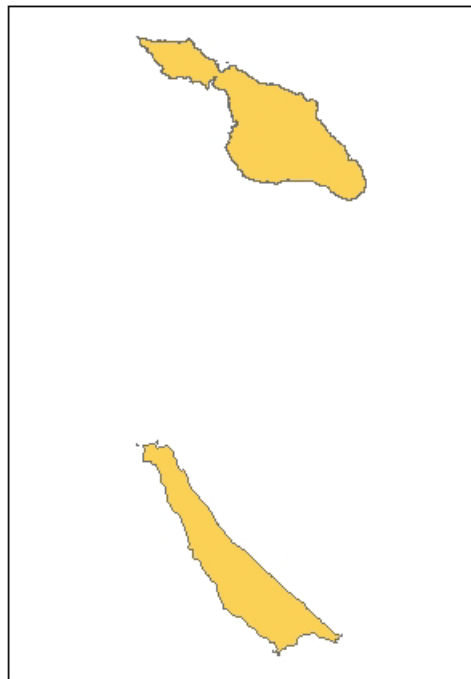
- Descriptive statistics – summarize characteristics
- Chi-square – telehealth users compared to non-telehealth users
- Multivariate logistic regression to estimate odds ratios (OR) and 95% confidence intervals (CIs)

MO and Telehealth Patient Characteristics

Total N=13,467; Telehealth N=6,894

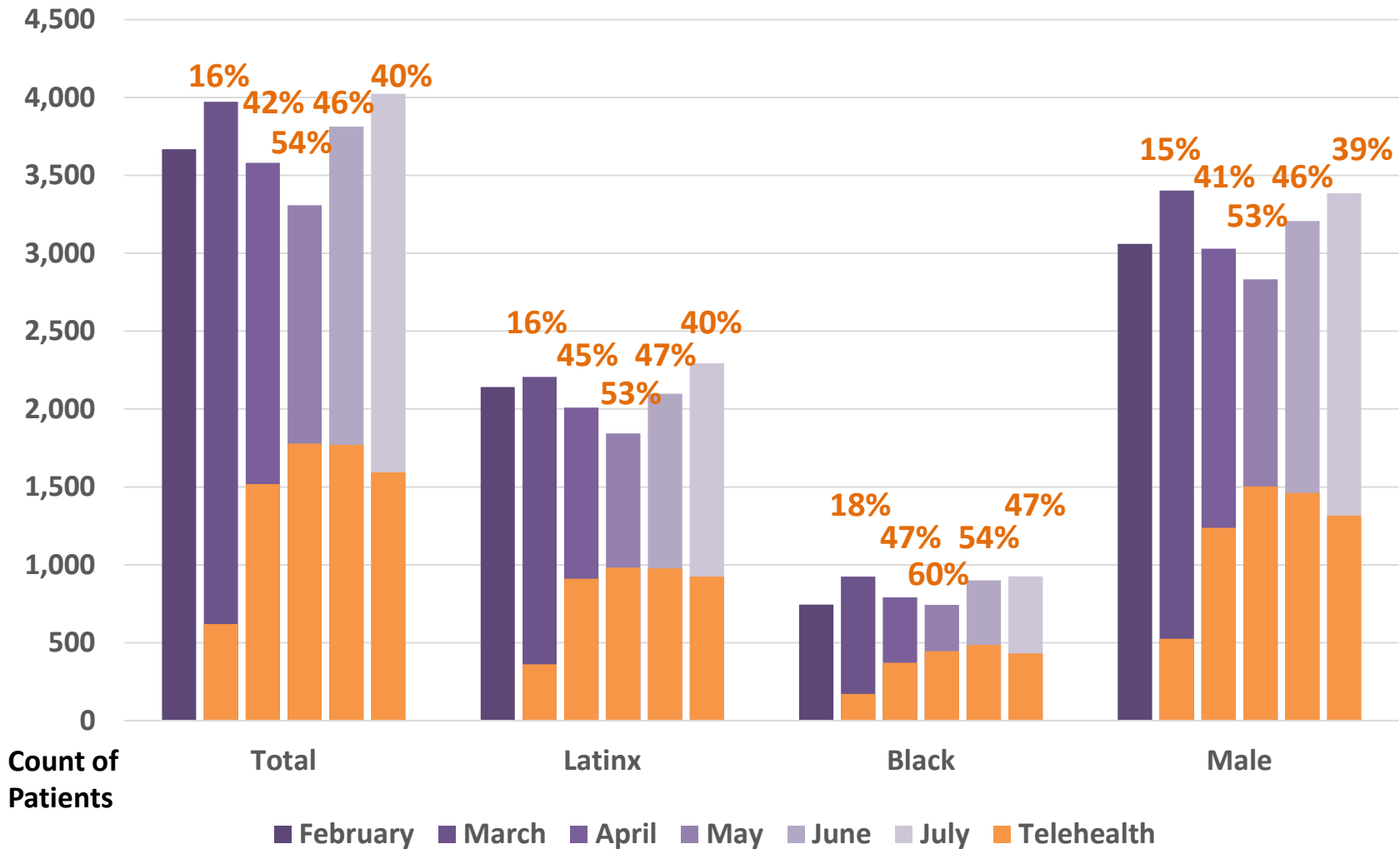
		Total	Telehealth			Total	Telehealth		
Gender	Male	85%	84%	Housing Status	Homeless	8%	7%		
	Female	13%	15%		Language	Spanish, primary	33%	35%	
	Transgender	2%	1%			Ever Incarceration	Yes	15%	16%
Race	Latinx	56%	57%	Income			At/Below FPL	63%	67%
	Black	23%	25%		Insurance Status		Uninsured	38%	42%
	White	17%	14%			Service Planning Area (SPA)	Metro	28%	26%
	Other	4%	4%				South	16%	19%
Age	29 and Younger	9%	8%	San Fernando			15%	13%	
	30-39 Years	22%	20%						
	40-59 Years	52%	53%						
	60 and Older	17%	18%						

Telehealth Use by SPA of Residence

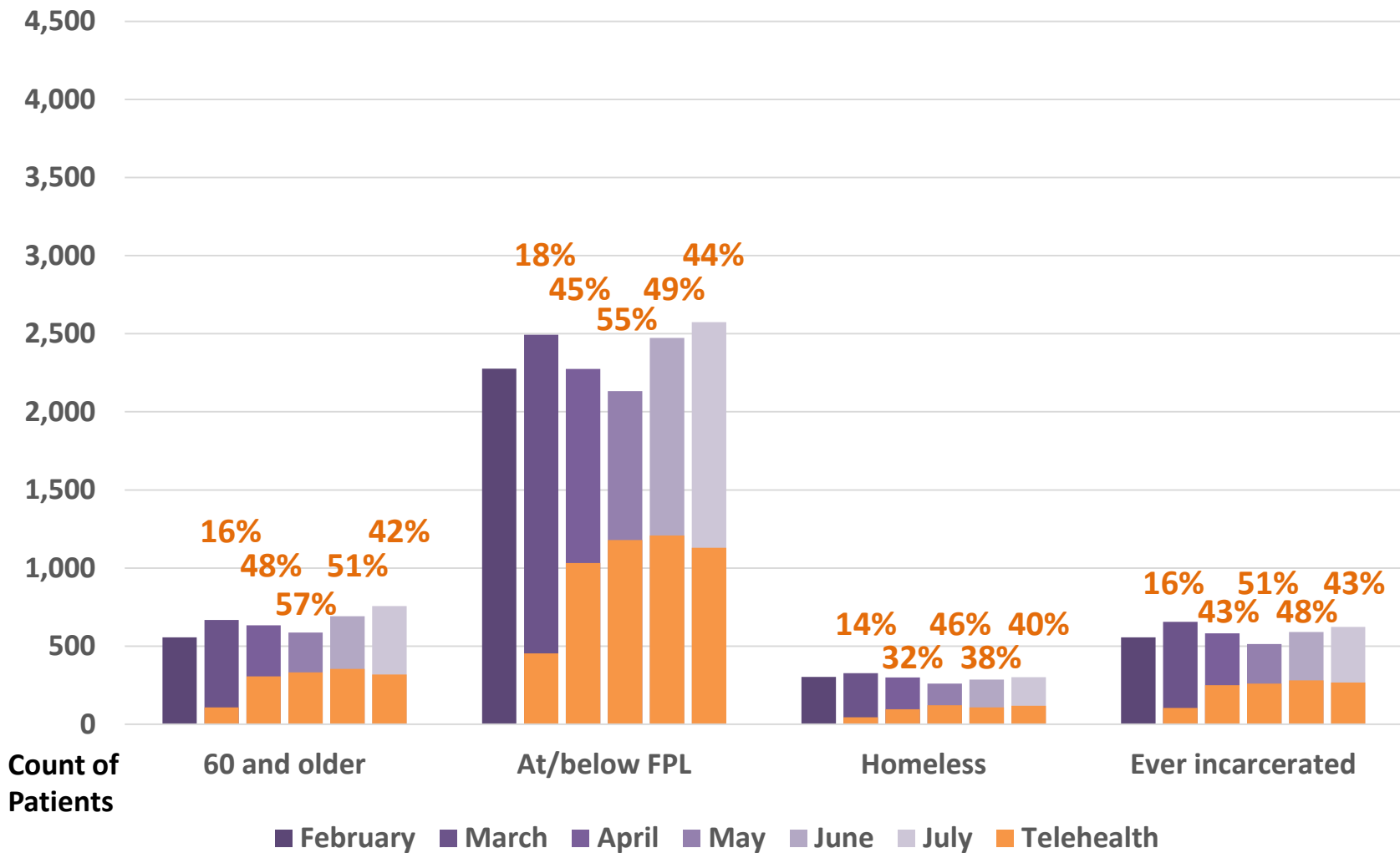


Data source: HIV Casewatch, 12/9/2020

MO Utilization Overall and by Key Populations



MO Utilization Overall and by Key Populations



Analysis of Telehealth Use

- Bivariate analysis (chi-square): Gender, Race, Age Group, Housing Status, Language, Income, Insurance, SPA ($p < .0001$)
- Multivariate Logistic Regression:
 - Main outcome: Telehealth use at least once (Yes)
 - All model predictors: Gender ($p < .0001$), Age Group ($p < .0001$), Housing Status ($p=0.0004$)

Characteristic		OR	95% CI
Gender (Ref=Male)	Female	1.3	1.1-1.4
	Transgender	0.9	0.7-1.1
Age Group (Ref=29 and younger)	30-39 years old	1.1	<1.0-1.3
	40-59 years old	1.3	1.2-1.5
	60 and older	1.5	1.3-1.7
Housing Status (Ref=Permanent)	Homeless	0.8	0.7-0.9
	Institutionalized	0.7	0.6-0.9

Key Findings and Recommendations

- Telehealth helped maintain HIV care access during COVID-19, 51% of patients used telehealth
- Telehealth use was unequal across patient populations
 - Younger patients and those experiencing homelessness or institutional living situations are more likely to NOT use telehealth services
 - Patients living in the West SPA used telehealth least
- Promote telehealth during COVID-19 to maintain HIV care access and progress towards Ending the HIV Epidemic LAC

Acknowledgements

- All Ryan White service recipients as well as participating agencies
- **Key DHSP staff:** Wendy Garland MPH, Sona Oksuzyan PhD MD MPH, Janet Cuanas MPP

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