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

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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

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

% of Patients Who Used Telehealth

- Dark Red: 35%
- Brown: 36% - 42%
- Orange: 43% - 47%
- Light Orange: 48% - 59%
- Light Yellow: 60% - 64%

Data source: HIV Casewatch, 12/9/2020
MO Utilization Overall and by Key Populations

Count of Patients

- Total
- Latinx
- Black
- Male

- February
- March
- April
- May
- June
- July
- Telehealth
MO Utilization Overall and by Key Populations

Count of Patients

- 60 and older
- At/below FPL
- Homeless
- Ever incarcerated

Percentage by Month:

- February: 16%, 18%, 14%, 16%
- March: 48%, 45%, 32%, 43%
- April: 57%, 55%, 38%, 51%
- May: 18%, 44%, 40%, 48%
- June: 42%, 49%, 43%, 43%
- July: 51%

Telehealth percentages:
- 42%, 44%, 43%, 43%
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 ($p=0.0004$)

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

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• **Key DHSP staff**: Wendy Garland MPH, Sona Oksuzyan PhD MD MPH, Janet Cuanas MPP
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