

Community Engagement for the HPTN 065 (TLC-Plus) Study: A Community-Based Study Evaluating the Feasibility of a Combination of Interventions to Prevent HIV Transmission in the US

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INTRODUCTION AND STUDY DESIGN

HPTN 065 (TLC-Plus): A Study to Evaluate the Feasibility of an Enhanced Test, Link to Care, Plus Treat Approach for HIV Prevention in the United States is a research study exploring the feasibility of a new, promising strategy for HIV prevention that aims to decrease new HIV infections in an entire community. The study consists of 5 components described in Figure 1.

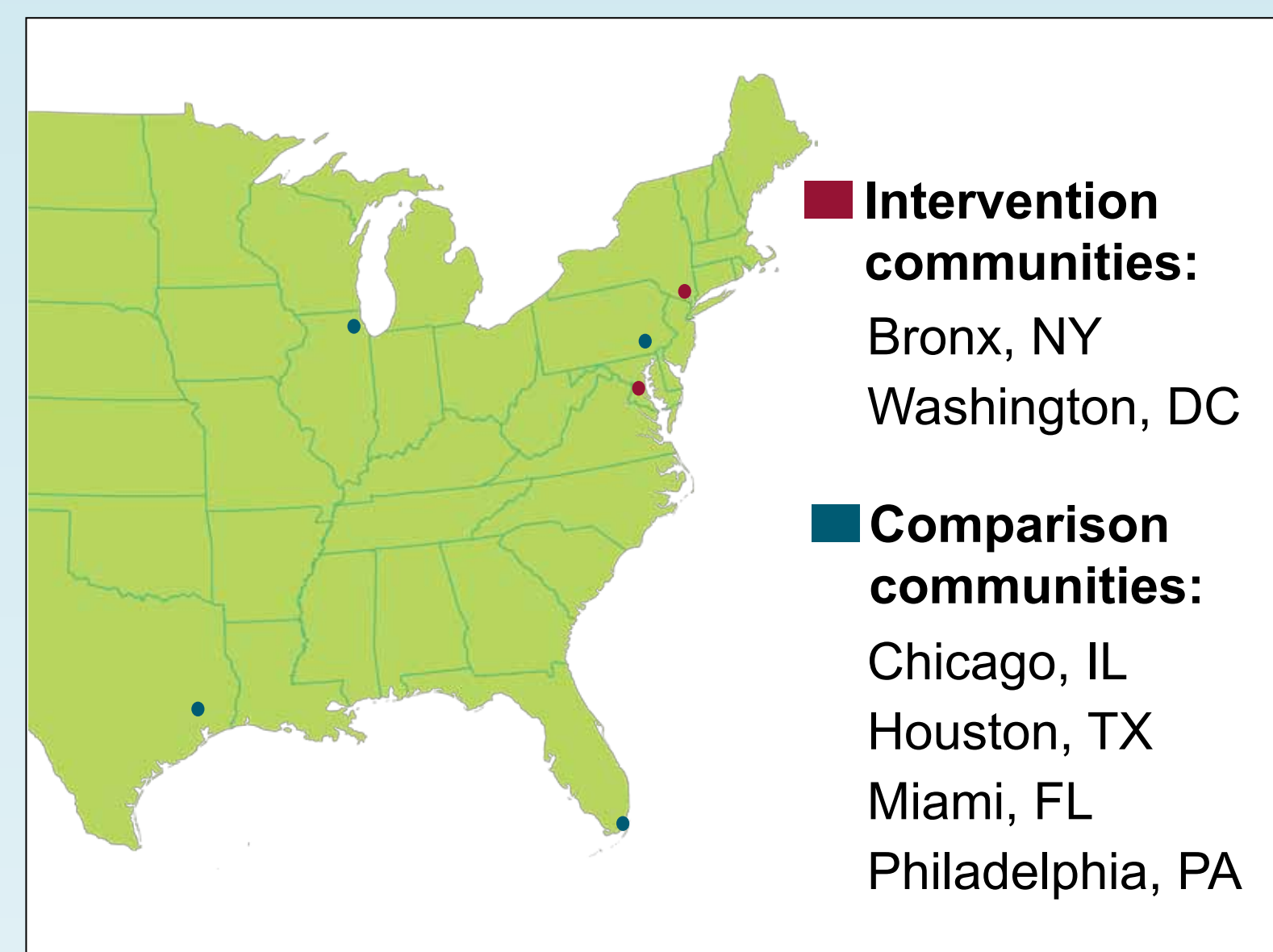
Figure 1: Study Components



HPTN 065 (TLC-Plus) represents a unique collaboration between:

- The National Institutes of Health
- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- Health departments
- Healthcare providers
- Community members

Figure 2: Study Locations



METHOD FOR FORMING THE COMMUNITY ADVISORY GROUP

- Community advisory groups (CAGs) for HIV network studies are traditionally drawn from the clinical research sites where studies are conducted. The HPTN 065 (TLC-Plus) CAG includes representatives on multiple levels:
 - Site
 - Community
 - National
- In 2009, potential members were sought using the following criteria:
 - Interest in the study
 - Relevant expertise
 - Familiarity with HIV/AIDS in Washington, D.C. and the Bronx, NY
 - Experience with AIDS service organizations (ASOs), community-based organizations (CBOs), or national advocacy groups
 - Availability and commitment to serve

- During the following year, similar process used to expand the CAG to include members from Chicago, Houston, Miami and Philadelphia.

Figure 3: Composition of the HPTN 065 (TLC-Plus) CAG

Bronx, NY	4	Miami, FL	2
Washington, DC	5	Houston, TX	1
Chicago, IL	2	Philadelphia, PA	3

A TOTAL OF 17 MEMBERS FROM INTERVENTION AND NON-INTERVENTION COMMUNITIES
FOUR OF THE CAG MEMBERS ALSO SERVE AS PROTOCOL TEAM MEMBERS

Figure 4: Members of the HPTN 065 (TLC-Plus) CAG



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT RESULTS

The CAG serves a vital role in HPTN 065 (TLC-Plus) community engagement

- During protocol development provided recommendations for
 - Financial incentive amounts that might motivate desired behavior
 - Participant-related procedures
 - Provider and patient surveys
- Continues to disseminate accurate information to communities
 - Developed and updates Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) for overall study and FI's
 - Reviews presentation and training materials
 - Provides study information to communities via blogs, meetings, conferences, etc.
- Ongoing communication with protocol team
 - Annual face-to-face meetings
 - Quarterly conference calls
 - Provides feedback/insight on community and provider responses to study implementation.

HPTN 065 (TLC-Plus) community engagement is furthered by the protocol team

- Presenting at community meetings, conferences and webinars
 - Scientific, community and non-HIV specific events
 - Webinars with diverse audience participation
- Using Social Media
 - Distributes study information via HPTN Facebook and Twitter
 - Engages in Twitter Chats, Meet-Ups, etc.
 - Encourages followers to post questions and provide information about local events
 - Monitors social media sites, including blogs and links to articles, to review local and national feedback

Community engagement is a bi-directional process, beginning during study design and continuing through implementation and results dissemination.

CONCLUSIONS

- Community engagement in the HPTN 065 (TLC-Plus) study has been bi-directional and has occurred at multiple levels.
- Successful community engagement has enriched study design and implementation.
- Communities have been routinely kept abreast of study information, updates and progress.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

HPTN 065 is sponsored by:

- NIAID and NIMH (Cooperative Agreement #UM1 AI068619; #UM1 AI068617)
- National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention, CDC

The content is solely the responsibility of the authors and does not necessarily represent the official views of the NIAID, NIH, or CDC.

