

HIV Testing in North Carolina Communicable Disease Funded Programs, 2010

Summary:

- From January through December 2010, a total of 227,038 HIV tests were processed through the State Laboratory of Public Health (SLPH) [Table 1].
- Of these SLPH tests, 1,011 were positive and 492 new cases of HIV were identified. These new cases represent 30 percent of all the new HIV cases reported to the N.C. Communicable Disease Branch (CDB) surveillance unit for 2010 (492 new cases through SLPH testing / 1,620 new cases reported to the surveillance unit) [Table 1].
- 91 percent of these new HIV cases were identified with samples processed through a local health department (447 out of 492) [Table 1].
- 50 percent of these new HIV cases were tested at a local health department STD clinic (246 out of 492) [Table 1].
- The overall new case positivity rate was higher for community-based organizations (0.34%) than for local health departments (0.21%) [Table 1].
- New case positivity rates were highest for disease intervention specialist (DIS) field visits (5.8%) and for local health department HIV counseling and testing sites (1.2%) [Table 1].
- New case positivity rates were also high for health department STD clinics (0.3%), testing done by health departments at drug treatment facilities (0.5%) and other outreach settings (0.3%); for community-based organizations testing at drug treatment facilities (0.4%); and for community-based organizations testing in outreach settings (0.5%) [Table 1].
- The overall new case positivity rate was higher for agencies funded by the CDB to do NTS/SEE testing and testing in substance abuse centers, compared to non-funded agencies (0.4% for NTS/SEE sites; 0.3% for substance abuse program sites; and 0.2% for non-funded sites) [Table 2].
- From January to June of 2010, 46 percent of new cases identified through SLPH were in care within three months of their HIV test (115/249 new cases) [Figure 1].
- From January to June 2010, 54 percent of previous positives were not in care during the 12 months prior to being tested again (115/213 previous positives). Of those 115 previous positives that were out of care, 62 percent then received care within three months of their most recent HIV test (71/115).

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Table 1. HIV tests submitted through NC State Laboratory of Public Health (NC SLPH) January to December 2010

	Number Tests	Number Positives	Percent Positives	Number New Cases	Percent New Cases
Total Tests	227,038	1,011	0.45	492	0.22
<i>Agency and Testing Venue</i>					
Health Departments	211,073	835	0.40	447	0.21
HIV CTS ¹	4,511	104	2.31	56	1.24
STD Clinic	87,500	447	0.51	246	0.28
Drug Treatment	1,073	13	1.21	5	0.47
Family Planning	46,378	11	0.02	9	0.02
Prenatal OB	31,175	11	0.04	5	0.02
TB Clinic	1,941	5	0.26	2	0.10
Jail	9,893	47	0.48	12	0.12
DIS Field Visit	625	55	8.80	36	5.76
Outreach	7,137	36	0.50	19	0.27
Other	20,840	106	0.51	57	0.27
Community-Based Organizations	7,045	70	0.99	24	0.34
Jail	2,127	16	0.75	5	0.24
Outreach	1,718	26	1.51	8	0.47
Drug Treatment	713	3	0.42	3	0.42
Other	2,487	25	1.01	8	0.32
Hospital	247	1	0.40	1	0.40
Community Health Centers	5,728	94	1.64	11	0.19
Other	5,279	92	1.74	11	0.21
Jail	449	2	0.45	0	0.00
College/University	1,672	6	0.36	4	0.24
Drug Treatment Facility	1,129	1	0.09	1	0.09
Corrections	3	0	0.00	0	0.00
Other/Missing	141	4	2.84	4	2.84

1 HIV Counseling and Testing Sites

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Table 2. HIV tests submitted through NC State Laboratory of Public Health (NC SLPH) January to December 2010: Special Testing Programs

	Number Tests	Number Positives	Percent Positives	Number New Cases	Percent New Cases
<i>Testing Programs</i>					
NTS / SEE ¹	17,957 ²	184	1.0	65	0.4
Substance Abuse	1,383 ³	4	0.3	4	0.3
Expanded Testing Jails	12,293 ⁴	65	0.5	17	0.1
Expanded Testing STD Clinics	23,137	121	0.5	70	0.3
CTR Testing (non-funded)	172,268	637	0.4	336	0.2
<i>Grand Total</i>	<i>227,038</i>	<i>1,011</i>	<i>0.5</i>	<i>492</i>	<i>0.2</i>

1 Non-traditional testing sites/Syphilis Elimination

2 An additional 1,883 tests (26 positives) were submitted to a private laboratory, and 1,961 additional rapid tests (9 positives) were done through the NTS program.

3 An additional 113 rapid HIV tests (0 positives) were done through the SAC program.

4 Some of these jail tests are directly funded by the NTS program but also receive indirect support through the expanded testing program; an additional 140 tests (1 positive) were submitted to a private lab.

Table 3. Total state-supported HIV testing January to December 2010: Testing through NC SLPH, private labs, and rapid testing programs ¹

	Number Tests	Number Positives	Percent Positives
<i>Testing Programs</i>			
NTS / SEE ²	21,801	219	1.0
Substance Abuse	1,496	4	0.3
Expanded Testing Jails	12,433	66	0.5
Expanded Testing STD Clinics	23,137	121	0.5
Expanded Testing Community Health Centers	8,904	21	0.2
Expanded Testing Emergency Departments	2,263	22	1.0
CTR Testing (non-funded) ³	172,268	637	0.4
Additional Rapid Testing ⁴	7,731	40 ⁴	0.5
<i>Grand Total</i>	<i>250,033</i>	<i>1,130</i>	<i>0.5</i>

1 This table includes data on HIV tests done at NC SLPH that were reported in tables 1 and 2, as well as other HIV tests done in private labs and through the rapid testing program. At the time of this report, only the tests done at NC SLPH were matched to EHARS to determine the number of new HIV cases found [tables 1,2].

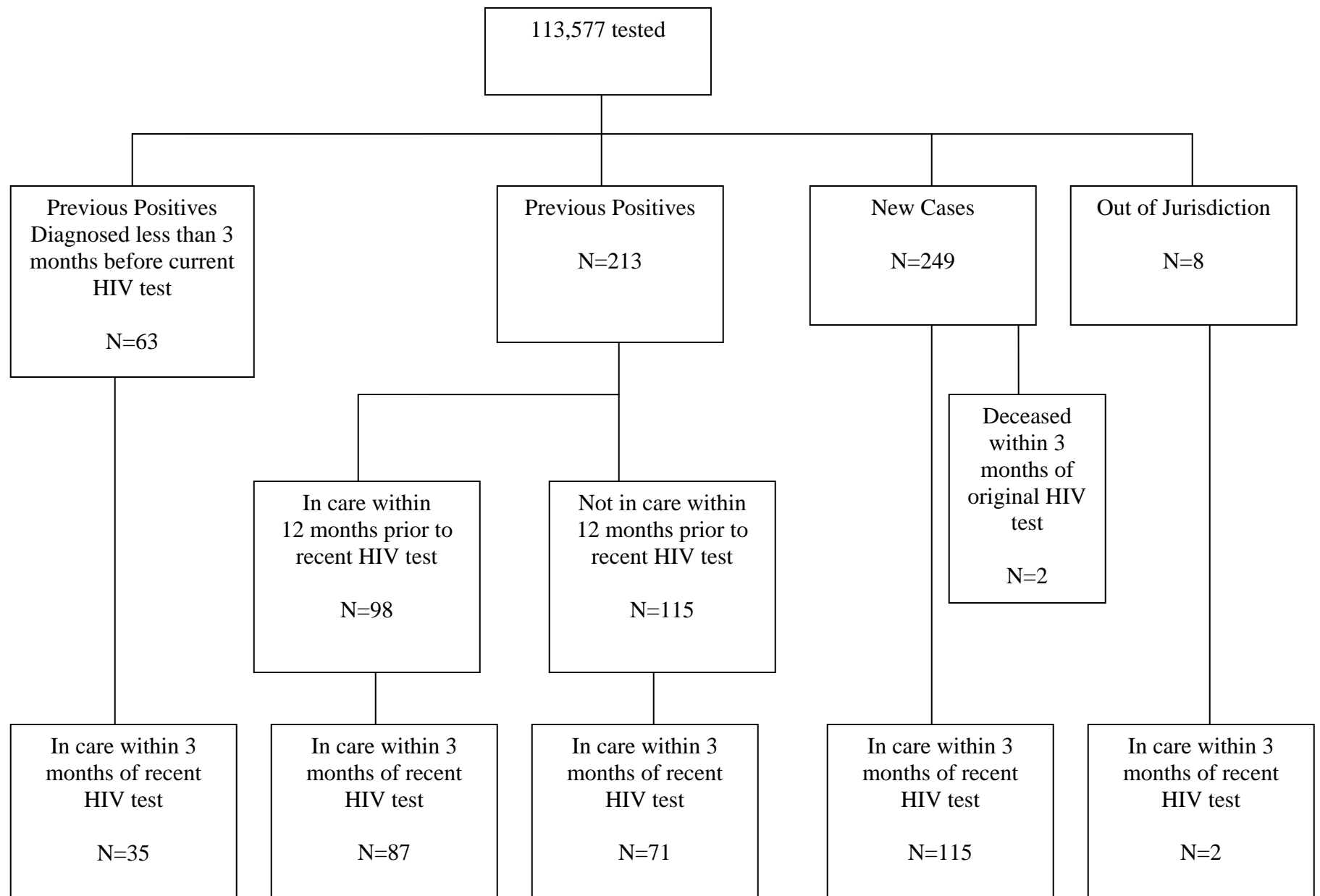
2 Non-traditional testing sites/Syphilis Elimination

3 These are SLPH tests that are not part of the NTS, SEE, SAC, or expanded testing programs.

4 These are rapid-only tests. Additional rapid tests were done through the state rapid testing program but are included in the testing numbers for NTS, SEE, SAC, expanded, or other CTR.

5 Number of preliminary rapid HIV positives

Figure 1. Cases Linked to Care among Persons Tested for HIV through NC SLPH, January to June 2010



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Notes:

The purpose of this report is to determine the number of new HIV cases indentified through state-sponsored HIV testing programs. At the time of this report, the determination of “new cases” was limited to the data on conventional HIV tests done through NC SLPH. During 2010, additional HIV tests were conducted through state-sponsored programs (NTS, SAC, expanded testing), but individual-level data on these tests is not available because those tests were processed through private labs. Individual-level data is available for HIV tests done through the rapid testing program, but at the time of this report, the number of new cases had not been verified. In addition, routine HIV testing of inmates is occurring in N.C. Department of Correction prisons. In 2009, 24,517 inmates were tested for HIV (340 positives) during an 11-month period. Data on the number of inmates tested in 2010 is not available.

For this analysis, “new cases” were determined by matching N.C. SLPH HIV testing data to HIV surveillance data. The date that the positive HIV test was conducted was compared to the date of HIV disease diagnosis (obtained from surveillance data). In previous analyses of testing data, new case status was determined by examining the client self-reported HIV status. If a test was positive and the client reported having no previous positive tests, then the case was considered to be new. The new method used for this analysis has resulted in a lower new-case positivity rate.

In Table 1, DIS field visit represents only a portion of all the testing done through the N.C. partner counseling and referral services program. Some of the persons tested through this program will be categorized under other health department venues (mostly health department STD clinics, and health department HIV CTS).

“Other CTR Testing” includes other HIV tests which were processed through the SLPH, but were conducted through testing activities not funded by the HIV/STD Prevention Program. The vast majority of these tests were submitted to SLPH by a local health department.

Data in Figure 1 was obtained by linking HIV SLPH testing data to data from EHARS, CareWare and Medicaid. A person was considered to be in care if, during the time period of interest, they had a CD4 cell count or viral load performed, or if they received anti-retroviral therapy.