

# Arizona Border HIV/AIDS Care Project: Progress Summary FY1

A project of El Rio Health Center  
in collaboration with

Arizona AIDS Education Training Center

Chiricahua Community Health Center

Impact Consultants

Platicamos Salud

Puentes de Amistad

Special Immunology Associates

Border Health Foundation

Cochise County Health Department

Mariposa Community Health Center

Pima County Health Department

Sunset Community Health Clinics

Yuma County Health Department

# Project Goals

## The ABHAC Project will

1. Improve capacity to provide targeted outreach and counseling to at risk border populations that will result in increased testing and identification of those infected with HIV.

Outreach efforts reached over 338 individuals and 78 were tested for HIV. One positive test result was reported and one inconclusive.

2. Successfully engaging those who test positive with primary health care services.

Efforts are being make to locate and refer these individuals back to the counseling and testing site.

3. Enhance local capacity to accessible primary care providers skilled in the care of HIV disease.

SIA physicians are working with 4 rural physicians.

# ABHAC Project Progress of Activities in Year 1

- Outreach

To 13,000 individuals at risk for HIV infection living along the Arizona-Mexico border.

3925 outreach contacts were made in year 1 of the project. 338 individual and 3587 group.

- Counseling and Testing

Test 4,000 individuals for HIV.

78 individuals were tested in year 1, 1 reported positive and 1 inconclusive.

- Primary Health Care

Enroll 280 HIV positive individuals into primary health care.

To date 31 patients have been enrolled into the project 30 pre-SPNS and 1 post-SPNS.

# ABHAC Project Progress of Activities in Year 1

- Education and Training

Educate 1 to 2 physicians located at border health clinics/centers in the appropriate standard of care for HIV/AIDS.

To date 2 physicians from Yuma County, 1 from Santa Cruz County and 1 from Cochise County have been identified to participate in the project. The SIA physicians are working with the physicians on the co-management of patients with HIV/AIDS.

- Evaluation

The local evaluation is being conducted by Impact Consultants and the national multi-site evaluation is conducted by the University of Oklahoma and the University of California at Berkeley.

Local and multi-site data was collected on 31 patients in year 1.

# ABHAC Project Barriers and Implementation Issues

## Barriers and Issues:

- Confidentiality issues have been raised by the baseline patients regarding receiving care and treatment at a rural community health center.
- Limited time availability of physicians practicing in border communities to participate in the project.
- CHC participation in Cochise County due to organizational restructuring and staff turnover.
- Geographic distance.

# ABHAC Project Accomplishments in Year 1

- A baseline was established with 30 current patients at the SIA clinic that reported a residency in the Arizona-Mexico border.
- A patient satisfaction survey was administered to assess the quality and level of comfort of the patient receiving services at the SIA clinic.
- The Arizona AIDS Education Training Center has conducted 7 training needs assessments and 5 trainings at border health clinics/centers.
- Trainings were conducted in Nogales and Yuma for outreach staff. Farmworker Justice Fund conducted the training in Yuma December 2000.
- Local and multi-site data collection began in February 2001.

## FOR MORE INFO...

Arizona Border HIV/AIDS Care Project Coordinator Stephen Trujillo at (520) 628-8287.

# Local Evaluation Overview

The local evaluation of the ABHAC Project is collecting data on the following:

- Outreach Contacts  
338 individual & 3587 group Outreach Contact Card completed.
- Counseling and Testing  
78 CDC Bubble Forms completed.
- Referrals  
No data collected in year 1.
- Patient Health Status  
38 Karnofsky Performance Scale forms completed.
- Physician Consultation  
22 Physician Consultation Card completed.
- Provider Trainings  
5 Trainings were provided by the Arizona AIDS Education and Training Center.
- Patient Satisfaction  
31 Satisfaction Survey were completed.

# ABHAC Evaluation Summary

**August 1, 2000 – July 31, 2001**

Prepared For:

El Rio Neighborhood Clinic

HRSA SPNS Program

Prepared By:

**Impact Consults**

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# ABHAC Program Participants

## Sociodemographic Characteristics (n=31)

Characteristic	N	Percent
Age: Average = 40 years of age		
Gender:		
Male	25	80.6
Female	6	19.4
Sexual Orientation:		
Gay/Lesbian	13	43.3
Bisexual	4	13.3
Heterosexual	11	36.7
Refused	2	6.7
Hispanic Ethnicity:		
Yes	21	67.7
No	10	32.3

# ABHAC Program Participants

## Sociodemographic Characteristics (n=31)

Characteristic	N	Percent
Education:		
< High School	10	32.3
High School	8	25.8
Some College +	13	41.9
Employment Status:		
Employed	14	45.2
Unemployed	17	54.8
Marital Status:		
Single	16	51.6
Married	5	16.1
Living together	3	9.7
Separated/Divorced	7	22.6

# ABHAC Program Participants

## Sociodemographic Characteristics (n=31)

Characteristic	N	Percent
Annual Income:		
< \$10,000	19	61.3
≥ \$10,000	12	38.7
Primary Medical Insurance:		
None	8	25.8
Private	9	29.0
Public	13	41.9
Unknown	1	3.2

### Number of Miles to Program:

Average = 112 miles

Median = 75 miles

# ABHAC Program Participants

## Inferred Current Presenting Issues (n=31)

- 48% Low income
- 32% Advanced stages of disease affects ability to care for self
- 32% Mental health
- 29% Rural isolation
- 19% Drug abuse
- 13% Chronic unemployment
- 7% Methadone
- 6% Rural Isolation
- 3% Homeless
- 4% Criminal justice

# ABHAC Program Participants

## Risk Factors (Ever, n=31)

- 67% had unprotected sex with males
- 58% had unprotected sex with an HIV+ person
- 45% had unprotected sex with females
- 39% had been diagnosed with a new STD
- 26% had unprotected sex with an IDU
- 22% shared needles
- 19% had forced sex with an intimate partner
- 7% had engaged in survival sex
- 6% had a blood transfusion in Mexico

# ABHAC Program Participants

## HIV Profile (n=31)

Characteristic	N	Percent
Exposure Category:		
MSM	15	48.4
IDU	3	9.7
MSM/IDU	2	6.5
Heterosexual	9	29.0
Hetero/IDU	1	3.2
HIV Status:		
HIV+	17	54.8
CDC Defined AIDS	14	45.2
Years Since HIV/AIDS Diagnosis:		
< 5 years	12	38.4
6-10 years	6	19.2
> 11 years	13	41.6

# ABHAC Program Participants

## HIV Profile (n=39)

Characteristic	N	Percent
Karnofsky Performance Scale:		
Disabled	1	2.7
Considerable Asst.	1	2.7
Cares for Self	5	13.5
Normal Activity, Some Disease	10	27.0
Normal Activity, Minor Disease	16	43.2
Normal	4	10.8
CD4 Count:		
< 200	8	22.2
> 200	28	77.8

# ABHAC Program Participants HIV Profile (n=39)

Characteristic	N	Percent
Viral Load:		
< 500	20	57.1
> 500	19	42.9
HAART Therapy:		
No	6	15.8
Yes	32	84.2

# ABHAC Program Participants

## Quality of Life Profile (n=31)

- 84% of the participants describe their health as good to excellent
- 23% indicated they have moderate to severe bodily pain
- 58% indicated that their health limits vigorous activities
- 54% indicated that their health affected social activities
- 42% indicated that their health limits moderate activities
- 42% indicated that their health limits climbing hills or stairs
- 42% indicated that pain interferes with work
- 29% indicated that their health restricted work, housework, and school
- 26% indicated that their health prevented jobs, housework, and school