

Care with Dignity: Understanding How to Care for HIV Positive and Formerly Incarcerated Populations

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Healthy People 2020

Bridging the Gaps Focus Areas

Adapted from HP2010 and HP2020

- Access to Health Care
- HIV
- Mental Health
- Responsible Sexual Behavior
- Substance Abuse

Summary

Philadelphia FIGHT is a comprehensive HIV/AIDS service organization providing primary care, consumer education, advocacy, and research on potential treatments and vaccines. FIGHT was formed as a partnership of individuals living with HIV/AIDS and clinicians, who joined together to improve the lives of people living with the disease. Today, FIGHT serves an even broader patient population and recently received designation as a Federally Qualified Health Center. FIGHT strives to address not only HIV-infected patients, but all at-risk populations through education, outreach, and preventative medicine.

The annual Bridging the Gaps interns are responsible for several projects, including a client satisfaction survey, a “Faces of FIGHT” client portrait project, and this year, a project on incarceration health for FIGHT’s new HIV-negative clinic, the John Bell Health Center.



“The things you learn at FIGHT make you want to help others. You can’t just sit here with this information and not want to give it to other people.”
-Cenquetta

Satisfaction Survey

Every year, FIGHT relies on the work of BTG interns to complete the annual Client Satisfaction Survey. FIGHT uses client feedback in order to ensure that FIGHT services are truly meeting the needs of the clients. The surveys also provide measureable data to share with supporting foundations. Additionally, the feedback helps FIGHT adapt their programming to the changing needs of their clients.

Client satisfaction with Project TEACH, an intensive 8-week HIV/AIDS educational course.

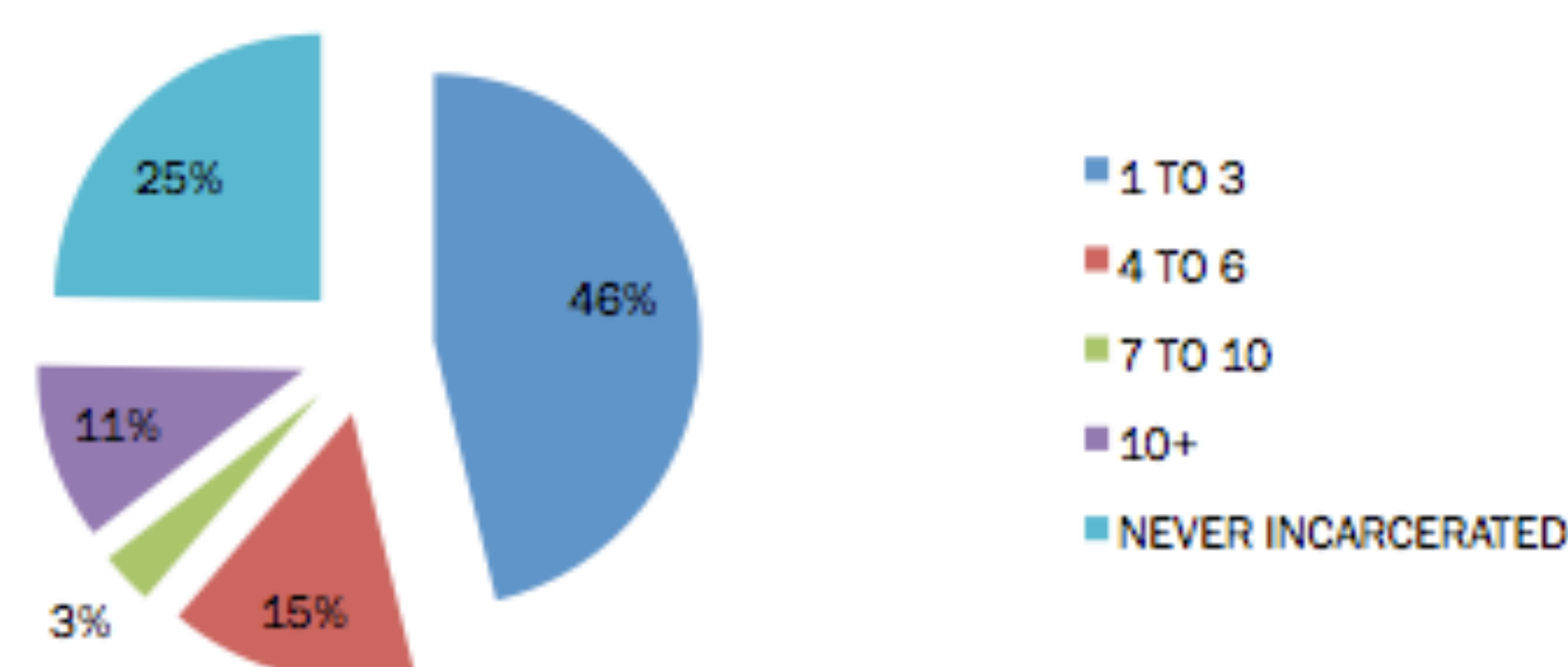
More likely to take their medications as prescribed after TEACH 4.7 out of 5 (+/-0.8)

More likely to see their doctor after TEACH 4.6 out of 5 (+/-0.9)

John Bell Health Center Survey and Focus Groups

The interns developed a new project this summer based on the needs of the organization. FIGHT opened a new health clinic at the end of the summer, which serves a HIV-negative formerly incarcerated patient population. The interns researched and developed a survey and conducted 3 focus groups specific to this unique clientele and recruited patients in the Institute for Community Justice. The interns enjoyed this project so much that they also taught a Prison Health class here every week.

Number of Times Incarcerated



What is the most difficult part of getting healthcare once you get out of prison?

- An identification card: Clients responded saying that it was difficult to get access to healthcare without an ID, and that after leaving prison many people do not know where their social security card or birth certificate is located. Even if there is access to these documents, often getting the money to purchase the ID card is difficult.
- Health insurance access: filling out a Medical Assistance form or other forms to get insurance
- Knowing where to go for shelter, information, or help



“Thanks to FIGHT, now I can have a vision that things will be better tomorrow without sorrow.”
-DeAlvin

Faces of FIGHT

Taking a more qualitative approach to understanding the client experience, the interns expanded upon the FIGHT Stories project that began in 2010. Nine clients were interviewed about their experience being diagnosed with HIV and what FIGHT offered them throughout their journey. These stories will be presented as poster profiles at the annual FIGHT Gala in December 2014 and will hang permanently in FIGHT community space.

“I had a wonderful experience at Philadelphia FIGHT. As someone interested in pursuing primary care, it was very fulfilling to work somewhere that truly exemplifies the ‘medical home’. With top quality medical care, case management, education programs, community outreach, mental health counseling, substance abuse treatment, a wide range of social services, and so many other patient resources all under one roof, FIGHT is very much at the forefront of holistic and culturally competent healthcare. I gained several inspiring mentors, both physicians and other health professionals, after whom I hope to model my future compassionate patient care.”

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