



# INFORMATION AND RESOURCES TO SUPPORT ON-SITE RAPID HIV TESTING

**Your Challenge:** Encouraging your clients to complete HIV testing and be informed of the results.

**An Evidence-Based Approach:** Strategic use of on-site rapid HIV testing as part of your regular standard of care.

**Where to Start:** Keep reading to learn about the NIDA/SAMHSA Blending Initiative resources for implementing on-site rapid HIV testing.

**D**espite substantial improvements in effective HIV management over the past 15 years, the rate of new HIV cases in the United States continues to hold steady. Identifying people who are unaware of their status, testing them, and linking them to care can help stop the spread of the disease.

*With on-site rapid HIV testing, substance abuse treatment patients don't have to be referred to another agency for testing—and they can get their results right away. The speed and convenience increase the likelihood that patients will take the test and get their results.*

## Consider These Facts

- About 50,000 new cases of HIV were reported in the United States in 2009.
- Nearly 21 percent of those infected with HIV don't know they are infected. Most new HIV infections are transmitted by individuals who are unaware of their HIV status.
- Substance use continues to be a major factor in the transmission of HIV via drug injection and risky sexual behavior. In 2009, 9 percent of new HIV cases were transmitted through injection drug use.
- Studies show that there is a high HIV prevalence among persons who are in substance abuse treatment programs, ranging from over 3 percent in noninjection drug users to 27 percent in injection drug users.
- Fewer than half of U.S. drug treatment programs offer on-site HIV testing.

## What Is On-site Rapid HIV Testing?

Advances in rapid HIV testing technology make HIV testing readily accessible, with fast results. New methods eliminate the need to refer clients to other agencies for the test. As a result, the client does not have to wait for days or weeks for results, and follow-up care can begin right away.

## Why Use On-site Rapid HIV Testing?

The answer is simple: It is affordable and right for your client. Recently, the National Drug Abuse Clinical Trials Network (CTN) conducted a study examining the use of on-site rapid HIV testing within community substance abuse treatment programs throughout the United States. Participating treatment programs represented all different levels of care (outpatient psychosocial, intensive outpatient, outpatient opioid maintenance, and residential programs). Results found that offering On-site Rapid HIV Testing in these treatment centers substantially increased the percentage of clients that completed HIV testing and received test results (84.8%) compared to clients who received a referral for offsite HIV testing (18.4%).

Many programs can provide on-site testing without cost by using the HIV outreach testing services funded through their health department. Test results can be obtained within community settings in as little as 1-20 minutes. Individuals who test positive can get preliminary information about their HIV status right away, which allows them to get the care they need to slow the progression of their disease—and to take precautionary measures and medications that help prevent the spread of the HIV virus.

## Where Can I Find Additional Information and Resources?

The Blending Initiative has prepared an On-site Rapid HIV Testing Website for treatment service providers. This Website includes

- Important links for implementing on-site rapid HIV testing.
- A brief video that provides additional information from researchers, treatment providers, executive directors, and clients about the value of on-site rapid HIV testing.
- Research and resources about on-site rapid HIV testing.
- Much more!

The screenshot shows the ATTC (Addiction Technology Transfer Center Network) website. The main heading is "HIV Rapid Testing in Substance Abuse Treatment Programs". Below the heading, there is a video player with a "Play" button and a "Next" button. The video player shows a man in a suit, identified as the "Substance Abuse Treatment Director". To the right of the video player is a "Did You Know" section with a question mark icon. Below the video player are three main sections: "Background Information", "Implementation Resources", and "Our Partners". Each section contains a list of links and logos for various organizations, including SAMHSA, NIDA, CDC, and AETC. The footer of the website includes the ATTC Network Home, Treatment & Help, The ATTC Hub, Contact Us, Site Map, Copyright Information, and Join Our Email List. The ATTC National Office contact information is also provided: 816-235-6888 | no@attcnetwork.org | 5100 Rockhill Road, Kansas City, MO 64110.

