



Improved HIV Detection and Treatment through Partner Notification Services

What are Partner Notification Services?

Partner notification services are a broad array of services offered to persons with STI and HIV infection and their partners. They include partner notification, where infected persons are interviewed to elicit information about their partners, and offered the opportunity to have a trained Disease Intervention Specialist confidentially notify their partners of their potential exposure and offer them HIV testing and referrals to HIV prevention and treatment services.

Why Partner Notification Services?

There is a need to accelerate scale up HIV testing services to reach the goal of 90% knowledge of HIV status among people living with HIV. New approaches are required to raise the bar in HIV diagnoses and treatment, including investments to identify PLHIV and their sexual contacts, link them to care, and ensure time-to-initiation is improved and loss to follow up is minimized

Will Partner Notification Services Work?

Partner services are a longstanding cornerstone of public health efforts to control the spread of sexually transmitted infections (STI) and HIV in the United States (US), where state and local health departments oversee the delivery of partner services guided by national guidelines. Partner services is emerging in sub-Saharan Africa, the Caribbean, and other developing countries as an efficient and effective strategy to increase the yield of HIV positives found through

counseling and testing. A randomized control study in Malawi of 245 newly diagnosed HIV patients identified 67 (64%) HIV-positive and 54 (81%) newly diagnosed partners, of 107 partners presenting for clinical care and 252 notified.ⁱ A program evaluation in Cameroon found similar results: A total of 451 (50%) partners were identified as HIV-positive and 386 (86%) were linked to HIV care and treatment, of 900 tested and 1347 notified.ⁱⁱ

NASTAD's Approach

Program Implementation

NASTAD is currently working with Ministries of Health in Ethiopia, Haiti, and Uganda to implement Partner Notification Services. Our approach to program development includes:

- Initial assessment of the health system processes and staffing, including roles and responsibilities, patient data collection, and existing monitoring and evaluation systems
- Develop a local framework and standard operating procedures for Partner Notification Services implementation that is based on assessment findings and leverages existing tools, knowledge, and structures.
- Modify and adapt US-based Partner Notification Services training curricula according to the local implementation approach and assessment findings.
- Conduct Partner Notification Services training with cadres identified through the assessment process, using a Train-the-Trainer model to assure sustainability.
- Conduct ongoing supportive supervision of trained cadres in collaboration with NASTAD and government partners to reinforce core components and competencies for Partner Notification Services.

Program Resources

NASTAD's US health department Technical Assistance providers experienced in state and local level Partner Notification Services program implementation play a critical role, providing support for development of program procedures, reporting tools, and implementation of monitoring and evaluation systems.

Program Evaluation

Key evaluation indicators

- HIV patients referred and receiving Notification Partner Services
 - Partners to HIV patients identified, tested, HIV-positive and linked to HIV treatment
- Improved capacity among staff at clinical sites and sub-national health units is measured and data quality, including timeliness, completeness and validity of program records is monitored.

Program Transition

Ultimately, transition of the Partner Notification Services program to the government is our goal, as evidenced by dedicated local staff and funding to program implementation and continued provision of services without external technical assistance.

Why NASTAD?

NASTAD is a membership organization of US state health department AIDS program directors, whose mission is to end the intersecting epidemics of HIV, hepatitis, and related conditions by strengthening domestic and global governmental public health through advocacy, capacity building, and social justice.

NASTAD provides peer-to-peer capacity building assistance in the US and internationally to promote the development of integrated public

health systems and support public health program management and leadership through education, technical assistance (TA) and mentoring.

NASTAD has a core staff, located in Washington, DC, with expertise in public health policy, health care access, health equity, and use of epidemiological data for targeted interventions; this staff is complemented by NASTAD's peer TA providers, who are recruited primarily from our membership of over 100 Masters and PhD trained public health specialists, disease interventionists, and epidemiologists from the 50 US health departments, as well technical experts located in three international field offices (Ethiopia, Haiti, South Africa) and technical consultants located throughout the Americas and Africa.

NASTAD is the current partner performing services through "Peer to Peer Capacity Building for Strengthening Public Sector HIV Management" (CDC U2GGH001508), to build strong, sustainable partnerships with national and regional health departments. Through provision of training, technical assistance and supportive supervision, we build public sector health workforce capacity, program infrastructure, and information systems. This cooperative agreement is available for PEPFAR country offices as a mechanism to request NASTAD support for Partner Notification Services program implementation.

Contact information

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ⁱ Brown et al. HIV Partner Notification is Effective and Feasible in Sub-Saharan Africa: Opportunities for HIV Treatment and Prevention. *JAIDS* 2011;56:437-442.

ⁱⁱ Henley et al. Scale-up and Case-finding Effectiveness of an HIV Partner Services Program in Cameroon: An Innovative HIV Prevention Intervention for Developing Countries. *Sex.Trans.Dis.* 2013;40(12):909-914.