Visualizing the Local Experience: HIV Data to Care Tool

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Objective

To describe Denver Public Health’s model for designing a business intelligence (BI) tool for HIV surveillance and outreach and the impact after implementation.

Introduction

Recently signed in Denver, the Paris Declaration demonstrates a collective resolution to end AIDS by continually monitoring these goals. However siloed data and in/out migration results in poor capacity to track population level care indicators for persons living with HIV (PLWH). Surveillance should not only enumerate PLWH but also support prevention and care programming (1). We designed and implemented the HIV Data to Care Tool to describe the continuum, from case finding to HIV care. This study describes a system to combine data sources to inform local HIV surveillance, outreach, and care. Development objectives included targeted community and clinical interventions and evaluation, user defined reports to identify subpopulation disparities, and a persistent data visualization readily available to stakeholders.

Methods

Existing local data sources were integrated into a common data infrastructure, including: CDC’s HIV surveillance system from Denver and 4 Denver-adjacent counties, US Census denominators and demographics, state mandated clinical measure reporting (viral load and CD4 counts), and HIV clinic encounter data (e.g., sexually transmitted infections, pharmacy and prevention measures). Denver Health, an integrated safety-net provider, serves 25% of Denver’s residents with electronic health record data for its patients. Collaborative requirements gathering defined needs and specifications, including wireframes, a data dictionary, and business needs. The web-based, custom developed business intelligence dashboard was built with MS-SQL Server Reporting Services and deployed after testing for quality assurance and usability.

Results

Requirements gathering identified six population health use cases (and dashboards) for integrated data analysis, within a BI environment: Diagnosis Summary, Linkage to Care, Retention in Care, Care Summary, Community Viral Load, and a Surveillance Summary Page. Three patient line lists were also developed to meet outreach worker needs. Users control content through configurable parameters including demographics, location of PLWH residence, care site, and transmission category, allowing custom reporting to identify disparities (i.e., black MSM incidence rates), see Figure 1.

Conclusions

The tool integrated existing regional data sources and permitted new, near real-time visualization of complex information. Utilized locally for program planning and patient management, it provided a more nuanced understanding of the local epidemic and benefited resource allocation. It has improved evaluation, assessment and quality improvement of linkage, reengagement, and clinical outcomes by subpopulations, including identification of those not in care. Additionally reporting has supplemented the Denver Community Health Assessment, grant applications, and strengthened regional relationships through collaborative development. New efforts are focused on extending the tool to serve adjacent counties and integrating new data sources for more comprehensive reporting. A jurisdiction may benchmark an HIV-infected individual’s or population’s movement through the care continuum (2), gauge intervention effectiveness, and generate timely, user driven reports. The tool’s development and implementation model have proven reusable and translatable to address other priorities (e.g., chronic disease and immunization coverage).

Keywords

Informatics; Visualization; HIV

References


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