

# Identifying, Engaging, and Retaining Young MSM of Color in HIV Care: Accomplishments of the HRSA Young MSM of Color SPNS Initiative

[www.YESCenter.org](http://www.YESCenter.org)

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- The content of this publication does not necessarily reflect the views or policies of DHHS
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## Today We Will...

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- **Provide an overview of the SPNS YCMSM Initiative**
- **Summarize the multi-site evaluation**
- **Present the Initiative's major accomplishments**



## **YCMSM SPNS Initiative Quick Facts**

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- **The Initiative funded in Fall 2004, with five-year grants**
- **The Initiative is completing its fifth year**
- **Eight demonstration sites and a TA and evaluation center (GWU YES Center)**



# YCMSM SPNS Initiative Quick Facts

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## ■ Demonstration site grantee goals

- ◆ Develop, implement, and evaluate innovative models of care for YCMSM
- ◆ Apply intervention models that identify, engage, link, and retain HIV-infected individuals in care
- ◆ Conduct local evaluation

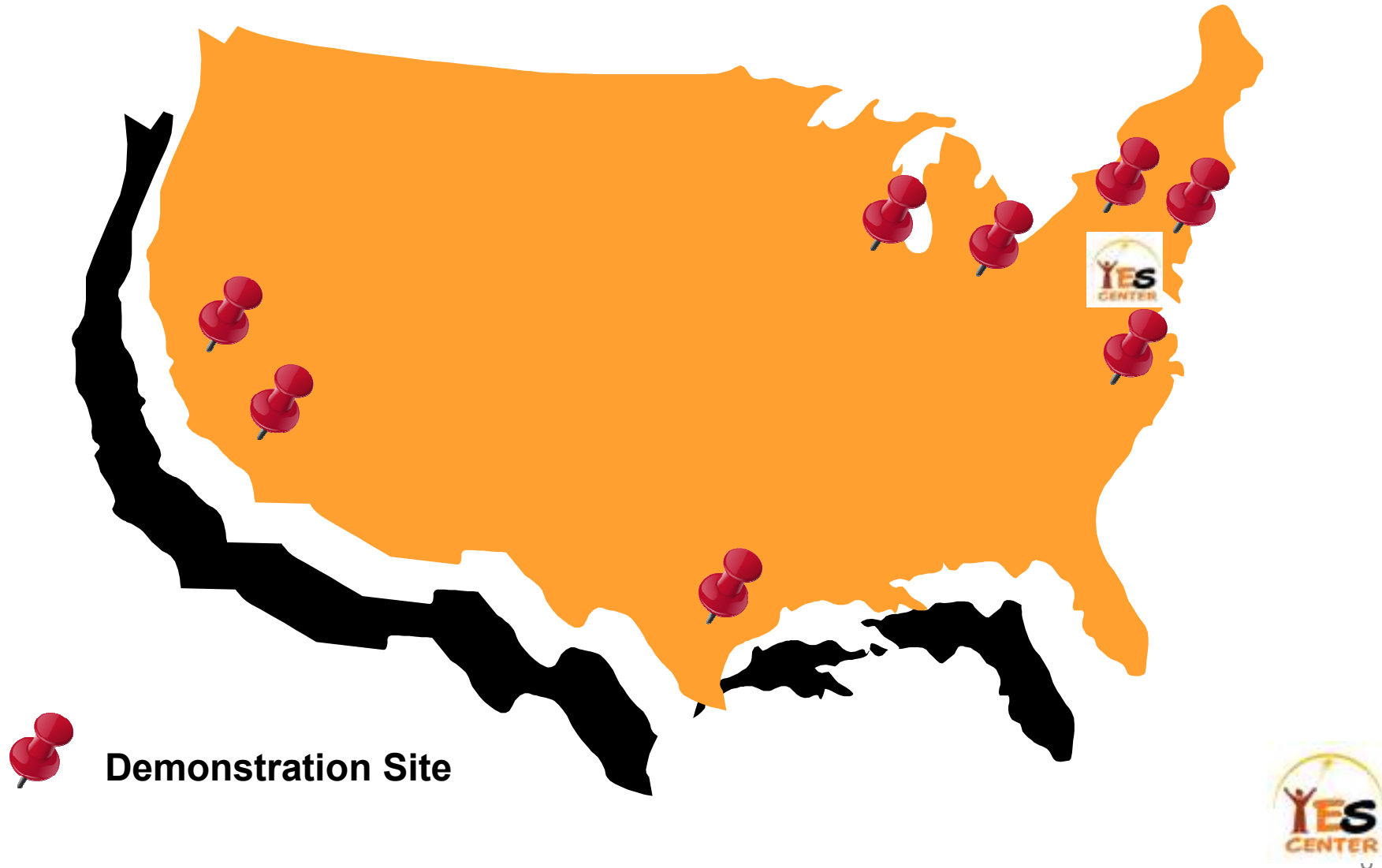
## ■ GWU YES Center goals

- ◆ Support intervention and local evaluation efforts of grantees, with capacity building, TA, and training
- ◆ Conduct a comprehensive, multi-site program evaluation



# YCMSM SPNS Initiative Grantee Sites

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## Demonstration sites were organizationally diverse at the time of award

Characteristics	# of Grantee
CBOs + county or community-based clinics	3
County-operated integrated health system	1
County health department epi program + two community health center HIV clinics	1
University medical school and historically black college	1
<b>Part D (Title IV)-funded grantee prior to the Initiative?</b>	
Part D (Title IV)-funded grantee prior to the Initiative?	2
<b>CDC-funded prevention grantee prior to the Initiative?</b>	
CDC-funded prevention grantee prior to the Initiative?	3
<b>&gt; 3 years directly providing HIV services before SPNS</b>	
> 3 years directly providing HIV services before SPNS	6
<b>Operating in a service area also targeted by Part D and/or CDC funds?</b>	
Operating in a service area also targeted by Part D and/or CDC funds?	6
<b>Defined and organized HIV care continuum?</b>	
Defined and organized HIV care continuum?	1

# Methods

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- **In-depth assessment of HAB-funded adolescent HIV program “best practices”**
- **Establishment of HIV care continuum linking outreach, clinical, and support services**
- **Intensive TA to address organizational and service delivery challenges**
- **Quantitative and qualitative used methods to longitudinally follow a**



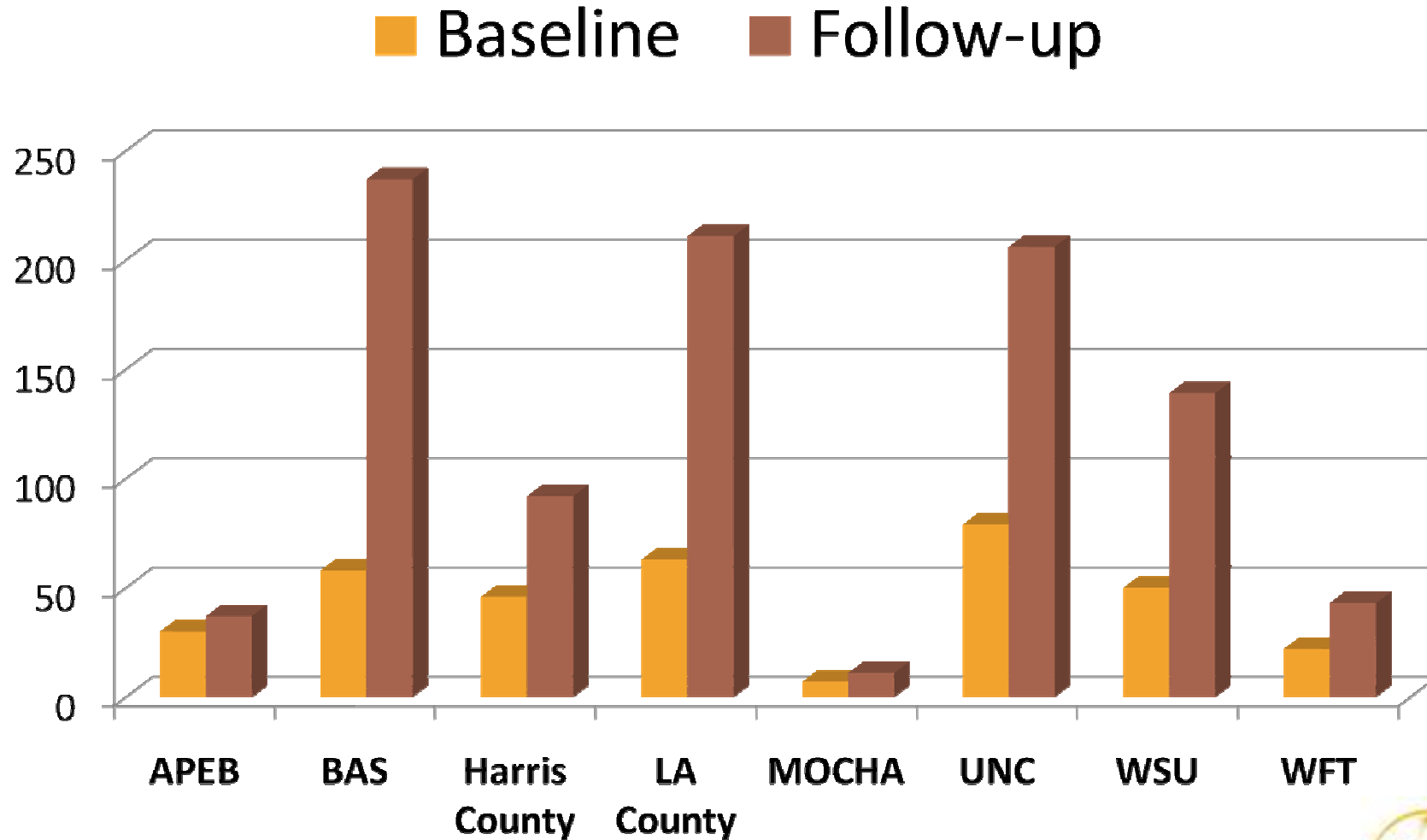
# Methods

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- **In-depth structured interviews at baseline and three-month follow-up → 355 clients enrolled to date, with 976 follow-up interviews at three-month intervals**
  - **Enrollment ends August 2009**
- **Design and implementation of multi-site evaluations**
- **Tracking of turnover among grantees' Initiative staff**
- **Annual continuum of care exercise to document the evolution of grantees' care continuum**



# Baseline and Follow-up Interviews By Grantee, As of July 23, 2009



# What We Have Learned From the Young MSM of Color Participating In The SPNS Initiative



# Multisite Baseline and Follow-up Data Domains

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- **Baseline Data**
- **Demographic Questions**
- **Social Support**
- **Sexual Behavior**
- **Gender Identity**
- **Sexuality**
- **Discrimination**
- **Racial Discrimination**
- **Violence and Environment**
- **Depressions and Suicide**
- **Substance Use**
- **HIV Testing**
- **Clinical Utilization**
- **Clinical Program data**

## Demographic characteristics of participants at baseline (N=353)

	%
<b>African-American</b>	<b>66</b>
<b>≤ 18 years at first interview</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>Age at first interview (years)</b>	<b>Mean 20.3 (sd 1.9, 15-24)</b>
<b>In school</b>	<b>39</b>
<b>Have a job</b>	<b>45</b>
<b>Unemployed</b>	<b>53</b>
<b>Ran out of money for basic needs, 3 months</b>	<b>52</b>
<b>No health insurance</b>	<b>33</b>
<b>Insured by parent</b>	<b>23</b>



# Behavioral characteristics of participants (N=353)

	%
Homosexual/gay identified	69
Mean age first sex with a male	Mean 14.6 (sd 3.1, 4-21)
Male gender identity	96
Very comfortable or comfortable with sexual orientation	86
Not only attracted to males	47

### Participant sexual orientation:

“I am a man with a diverse sexual preference” ... “I’m a man who enjoys alternative things”... “A guy struggling to be heterosexual”...”DL to people who matter...” “Two-spirited”... “Bisexual”... “Confused, I don’t know” ... “Open-minded...I don’t put a label on it”



# Behavioral characteristics of participants (N=353)

	%
Reported sex with male, 3 months	79
Reported sex with female, 3 months	5.9
More than one sex partner, 3 months	44.0
No condom use last anal sex*	31.7
Where met last male sexual partner?	
Internet (18%), friend/acquaintance (19%), clubs (4%), parties (5%); others included school/work, community and community centers, parks, parties, sex chat phone lines, getting and HIV test	

\*Among respondents reporting anal sex at last encounter



# Psychosocial and psychological characteristics of participants (N=317)

	%
Disclosed status to mother	54
Disclosed status to father	24
Disclosed status to at least one sex partner	22
Ever depressed	45
Depressed last 3 months*	51
Ever any parental physical abuse	67
Ever attempted suicide	23

\*of those who were ever depressed



## Clinical and health care utilization characteristics of participants (N=353)

	%
First known absolute CD4 count < 350	61
First known viral load >10,000 copies/mL**	25
Most common reason tested 1 <sup>st</sup> positive, “I was sick”	28
Time to enter care from 1 <sup>st</sup> positive, months	Mean 1.98 (sd 4.8, 0-36)
Any medical care, last 3 months	65
Mean times tested for HIV [lifetime]	Mean 4.5 (sd 6.2, 1-80)

# Behavioral characteristics of participants (N=353)

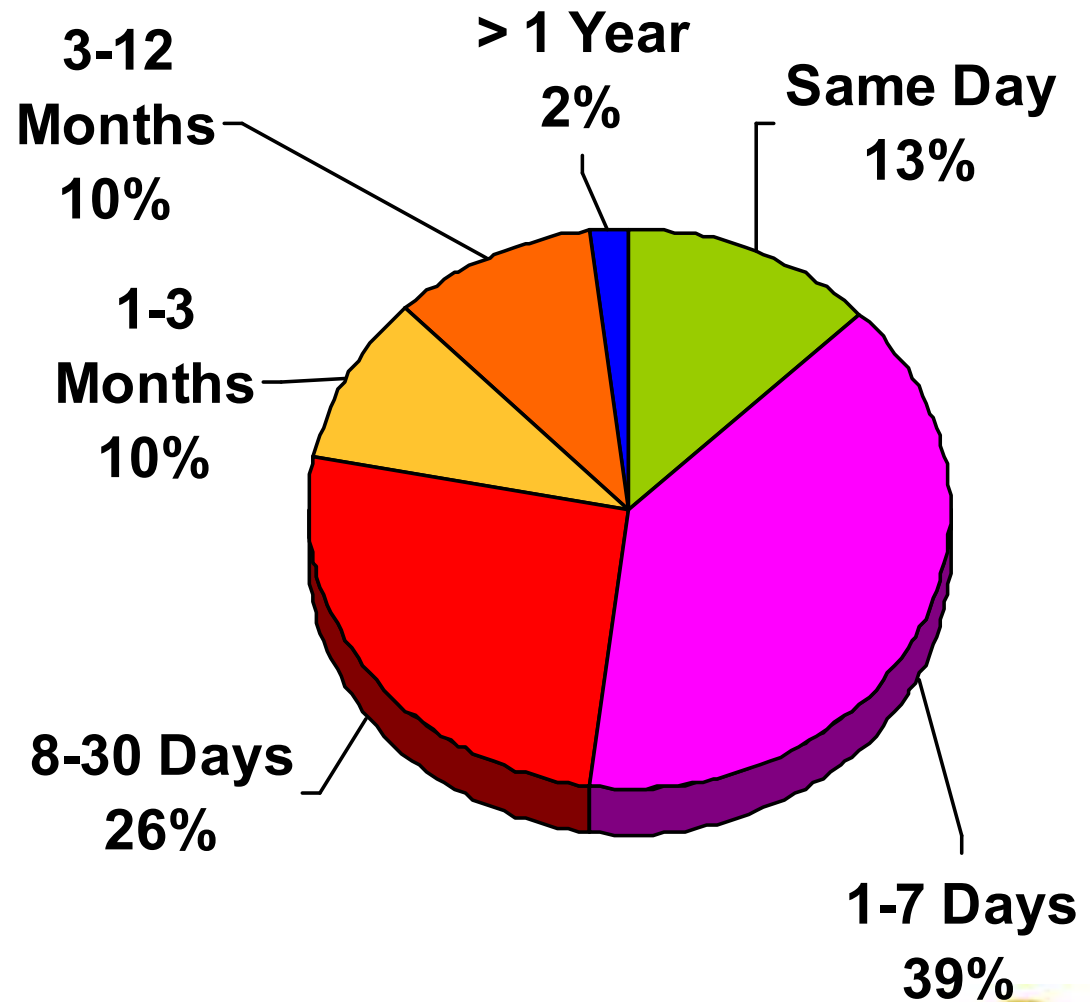
	n	%
<b>Ever use any drug (non-alcohol)</b>	<b>211</b>	<b>67</b>
*Marijuana (95.7%), painkillers (26.1%), crack/cocaine (20.9%), inhalants (14.2%)		
<b>Ever drank alcohol, 2 weeks</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>52.7</b>
Number of days drank alcohol, 2 weeks, mean days 1.8 (sd 2.8, 0-14)		

\*of those who reported drug use



# Weak Links: HIV Testing Experiences Prior to Enrolling in the YCMSM Initiative

- 16% of enrolled youth received their first HIV+ test at an Initiative site, while 28% received their test at a clinic or doctor's office, 14% at a hospital, 8% at a HIV testing site, and the balance elsewhere



## **Weak Links: Health Care System Experience in the Three Months Before Enrolling in the YCMSM Initiative**

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- **13% of enrollees were hospitalized overnight or longer**
- **36% had visited an ER or urgent care center**
- **38% had an ambulatory care visit**
- **13% had a oral health visit**
- **10% had been turned away from medical care**
- **33% missed a health care appointment**



## **Longitudinal Findings: Baseline to Third Follow-up**

- **Rates of enrollment in school were stable**
- **Employment rate rose, number of hours worked remained stable**
- **Rate of no health insurance decreased, enrollment in Medicaid increased, commercial insurance was stable**
- **Rate of drinking increased slightly, marijuana use increased**



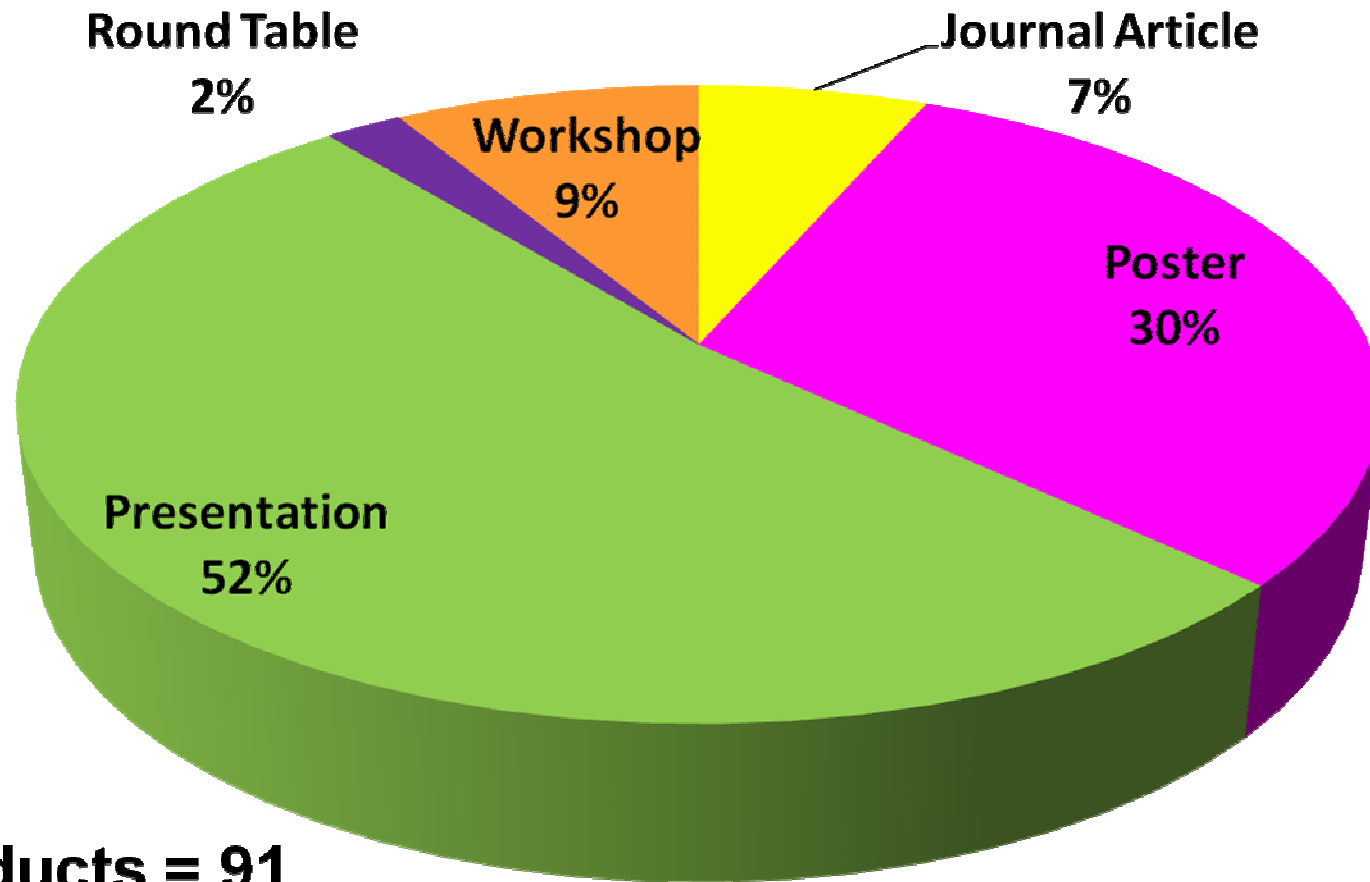
# Longitudinal Findings: Baseline to Third Follow-up

- Rate of clients with CD4 less than 200 decreased
- Viral loads remained stable, percent undetectable increased slightly
- Inpatient admission rates dropped
- ER utilization rates dropped
- Number of HIV primary care visits in last three months dropped slightly by the third follow-up
- Missed primary medical care appointment rates increased slightly, with missing an appointment due to having to work increasing



# Other Accomplishments: Dissemination Efforts

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**Products = 91**

