Partnering with State Health Departments: A Road Map for Collaboration Using the Enhanced HIV/AIDS Reporting System (eHARS)

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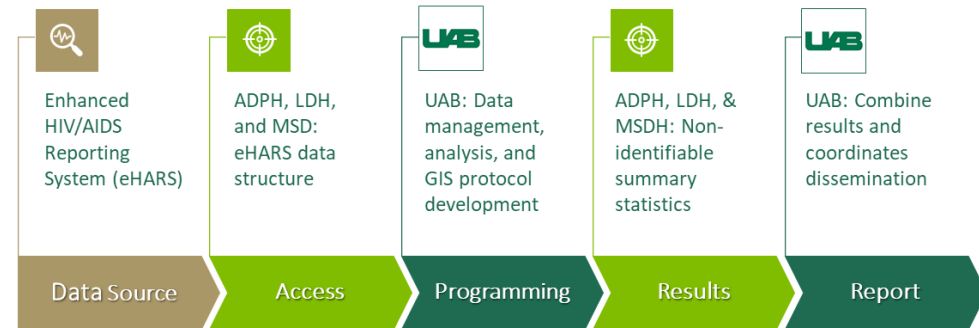
Introduction

- Innovative analysis of the Enhanced HIV/AIDS Reporting System (eHARS) surveillance database can inform targeted, evidence-based interventions to achieve the objectives of the Ending the HIV Epidemic: A Plan for America (EHE).
- **We developed a distributed data network approach to identify and investigate geographic differences in time to HIV viral suppression.**

Methods

- Partners
  - Louisiana Department of Health (LDH)
  - Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH)
  - Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH)
  - University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB)
- Confidentiality
  - eHARS is an HIV surveillance database and access to identifiable information is strictly limited to health departments
  - Study methods and design were approved by UAB IRB and each state health department
- Forging Goals and Communication
  - Identified key eHARS variables, established core objectives and outcome measures, and timeline for completion
  - Developed regulatory procedures to maintain confidentiality and integrity

A distributed data network allows for innovative research using eHARS surveillance data while protecting sensitive health information.

Distributed Data Network

Data Source	Access	Programming	Results	Report
Enhanced HIV/AIDS Reporting System (eHARS)	ADPH, LDH, and MSD: eHARS data structure	UAB: Data management, analysis, and GIS protocol development	ADPH, LDH, & MSDH: Non-identifiable summary statistics	UAB: Combine results and coordinates dissemination

https://github.com/JRBassler/Road-to-Zero.git
Questions or comments?
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Methods, cont.

- Distributed Data Network
  - Analysis planned and programmed centrally
  - LDH pilot site for data management methodology and statistical code
  - Development of synthetic eHARS dataset for testing of code (available by accessing QR code/link)
  - Non-identifiable, population-level summary statistics and figures shared and combined using meta-analytic techniques
  - Non-identifiable, community-level geospatial analysis of social determinants of health

Results

- Established successful partnership
- Protected sensitive health information
- Analytic data set created for each state and preliminary analysis completed

Conclusion

- We successfully developed a distributed data network that allows for research using eHARS while protecting sensitive health information.
- This approach can be adapted to inform delivery of targeted interventions at a regional and national level.

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