

**HIV** *HIV is integrally linked with other public health issues, such as substance abuse, family planning, and infectious diseases including tuberculosis, STDs, and viral hepatitis. Providing HIV prevention, care, and support at primary care clinics, substance abuse treatment centers, and other service arenas is a powerful way to reach people who have multiple health needs. Likewise, successful approaches for people at risk for or living with HIV must address the possible impact of concomitant substance abuse, contraceptive concerns, STD infection, or other issues on each client's decisionmaking process and quality of life.*

*JSI helps to promote, design, and evaluate integrated approaches to HIV prevention, care, and support in many kinds of public health programs in the United States. JSI's work is based on our strong belief—documented by our own research, and that of others—that integrating HIV services across multiple, relevant public health areas is well worth the effort it requires. JSI brings a portfolio of technical skills including needs assessment, program evaluation, training, and organizational capacity building. Below, we highlight selected recent projects.*

### **Integrating HIV and Substance Abuse**

On a national level, JSI served as the Program Coordinating Center for a major initiative of the Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Center for Substance Abuse Prevention to address the impact of the intersecting epidemics of substance abuse and HIV in communities of color. In 47 communities, SAMHSA asked community-based programs to deliver and evaluate new, integrated services.

HIV and substance abuse providers traditionally represent two, different bodies of health knowledge and two cultures of service delivery. JSI provided technical assistance—working with the sites to identify training needs, develop curricula, and generate strategies for reaching clients—and led a national evaluation of the integrated approaches which aimed to determine their effectiveness in reducing substance abuse and HIV risk behaviors among youth and women of color. As the evaluator, JSI conducted in-depth site visits to document the new service delivery models, interventions, and curricula, and engaged program staff in all 47 communities to develop the data collection tools and protocols to evaluate the integrated approach.

The communities gained the capacity-building experience of helping to create and implement an evaluation, which in turn generated concrete evidence that the integrated interventions worked. Quantitative data across all sites revealed reductions in alcohol, tobacco, and drug abuse and sexual risk behaviors, and increased knowledge and perception of HIV risk among clients reached by the integrated services. Staff and clients reported on the content, delivery, and effects of the interventions at their sites, as well as on their personal experience of active participation in the study. JSI was able to document that although integrating HIV and substance abuse services in the 47 communities demanded hard work, the effort made a difference in people's lives.

## **Integrating HIV and Viral Hepatitis**

With the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH), JSI has played an important role in focusing attention on the needs of HIV- and hepatitis C-affected populations in Massachusetts. We conducted a serosurvey of hepatitis C infection in two Massachusetts community health centers, and reported to the MDPH on the impact of hepatitis C co-infection on the care and treatment of HIV-positive individuals. The serosurvey revealed important links that informed a subsequent project in Massachusetts to help state-funded hepatitis C treatment facilities integrate HIV counseling and testing into their standard interventions.

On another project, JSI evaluated a MDPH initiative to integrate hepatitis A, B, and C immunization, counseling, and testing into five existing HIV counseling and testing sites. Pre- and post-surveys showed that after targeted training, HIV clients were three times more likely to be offered hepatitis immunization and testing and the HIV counseling and testing providers were more likely to meet and discuss hepatitis issues with HIV testing clients on a regular basis.

## **Integrating HIV and Reproductive Health**

As a crucial source of health care for women, reproductive health providers are essential service providers in HIV prevention. In the New England and Rocky Mountain Regions, JSI conducts training and on-site technical assistance as part of the HIV Integration in Reproductive Health Project, funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. JSI's support helps reproductive health providers to integrate HIV risk assessment, prevention education, and client-centered counseling into their services.

As part of this project, JSI developed two risk assessment guides: *Asking the Hard Questions: A Reproductive Health Provider's Guide to Client-Centered HIV Risk Assessment* and *Supporting Quality HIV Risk Assessment: A Guide for Reproductive Health Clinic Managers and Supervisors*. Both guides are available online at [www.famplan.org](http://www.famplan.org).

For the national Office of Population Affairs, JSI conducted regional needs assessments in the New England and Rocky Mountain regions' Title X-funded family planning clinics. JSI used site visits, provider interviews, and secondary data on HIV rates and family planning clients to explore and describe strategies for and barriers to integrating HIV prevention into family planning visits.

In response to the findings, JSI is developing an Organizational Self-Assessment Manual (OSAM) to help providers plan incorporating integrated HIV services in the context of their own clinics. The OSAM will be useful to management teams at family planning clinics, including administrators, supervisors, and training coordinators. JSI expects to complete the OSAM in early 2004.

**For more information about JSI's capabilities in integrating HIV prevention and care into other health services, please visit [www.jsi.com](http://www.jsi.com) or contact:**

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