

JSI-Denver Approach to Using the Roadmap to HIV Integration and Checklist

JSI-Denver has implemented the HIV Prevention Intergration checklist, developed in partnership with CDC and the HIV Integration Regional Project, to assist some of our sites in preparation for HIV integration services as well as assessing their readiness to apply for funds for the next HIV OPA funding cycle. Currently we have implemented the checklist with five sites:

4 Title X Family Planning Site within our region

1 Model Clinic for our Regional HIV Prevention Integration Porject, Urban Indian Clinic

In collaboration with the Region VIII Title X Program Office, JSI is offering assistance to Title X sites to work through the 7 key steps of HIV Prevention. Through the use of the HIV Integration Checklist, we can help you determine where you are and where you want to go in regards to integrating HIV services. The checklist serves two functions: 1) measuring improved proficiency in the HIV prevention services provided by reproductive health clinics and 2) educating clinic staff on what constitutes good HIV prevention services and successful HIV integration.

I would encourage you to utilize the toolkit, "Roadmap to HIV Integration: HIV Prevention is Reproductive Health" which is a collaborative of the Division of RH, CDC and each of the regional HIV Integration Training, as the framework for the implementation plan to integrate HIV prevention and testing services, in particular the levels of integration and 7 key steps of integration. These 2 sub-frameworks, along with the checklist, incorporate evaluation into the program development and implementation phases.

As a first step, we work with the site to define integration, what constitutes integration?

The International Planned Parenthood Federation describes HIV integration as the incorporation of the prevention, detection and treatment of HIV into sexual and reproductive health services. HIV integration “makes explicit the connection between sexually, contraceptive choice and STI/HIV prevention and harnesses the inherent synergy between preventing unwanted pregnancy and preventing STI/HIV.”

The Advocates for Youth define an integrated approach as:

Adding STI and HIV prevention to pregnancy prevention information and services;
Adding pregnancy prevention to HIV/STI prevention information and services;
Incorporating sexual health information into youth development programs.

After a review of integration definitions, the CDC and Integration Grantees developed the following definition of integration:

HIV integration into family planning clinics is the routine provision of easily accessible and client-centered HIV prevention and care services in reproductive health programs. These services may include but are not limited to information and education, counseling, testing, referral, and treatment.

To help formulate the site’s pproach to HIV integration, ask, “Why are we integrating HIV services into reproductive health? and How will we recognize integration in our clinic (s)?

HIV integration may be implemented differently from one setting to the next. One clinic may only offer education and counseling and refer to other sites for testing, another may offer all of the previous plus on site testing, and yet another may offer the full range of services in addition to services for HIV positive women. One size doesn't fit all. Per the CDC's *Technical Guidance for the Integration of HIV Prevention in Family Planning*, we have focused our efforts on primary prevention efforts in Region VIII. Based on the prevalence of HIV, STD and fertility in most of the areas in Region VIII, which encompasses prevalence levels of low for HIV and low to high for STD and fertility, JSI has focused its work with reaching or enhancing integration at levels one, two and three. See the integration grid below:

Integration Grid			
HIV integration level	Prevalence		
	HIV	STD	Fertility
Component Four: HIV health care for HIV+ women	High	High	High
Component Three: Testing services	Low	High	High
Component Two: Education and counseling service	Low	Low	High
Component One: Education (baseline)	Low	Low	Low

The Integration Checklist correlates to each of the integration levels by asking questions which indicate a level of integration based on the level which is being assessed. For example, FP Clinic # 1 completed the checklist and their scores are below for each level and overall:

Level One: HIV Prevention Education Scored 23 out of 80 points = 28.75%
 Level Two: HIV Counseling Scored 13 out of 65 points = 20.31%
 Level Three: HIV Testing Scored 27 out of 93 points = 29.03%
 Level Four: HIV Reproductive Health Care to HIV+ Women Not applicable
 Total Score 63 out of 238 points = 26.58%

FP Clinic #2:

Level One: HIV Prevention Education Scored 74 out of 80 points = 92.50%
 Level Two: HIV Counseling Scored 61 out of 65 points = 93.84%
 Level Three: HIV Testing Scored 73 out of 93 points = 78.49%
 Level Four: HIV Reproductive Health Care to HIV+ Women Not applicable
 Total Score 208 out of 238 points = 87.81%

FP Clinic #3:

Level One: HIV Prevention Education Scored 33 out of 80 points = 41.25%
 Level Two: HIV Counseling Scored 35 out of 65 points = 53.84%
 Level Three: HIV Testing Scored 33 out of 93 points = 35.48%
 Level Four: HIV Reproductive Health Care to HIV+ Women Not applicable
 Total Score 101 out of 238 points = 42.43%

FP Clinic #4:

Level One: HIV Prevention Education Scored 50 out of 80 points = 62.50%

Level Two: HIV Counseling Scored 0 out of 65 points = 0%

Level Three: HIV Testing Scored 0 out of 93 points = 0%

Level Four: HIV Reproductive Health Care to HIV+ Women Not applicable

Total Score 50 out of 238 points = 21.01%

Model Clinic-Urban Indian :

Level One: HIV Prevention Education Scored 26 out of 80 points = 32.5%

Level Two: HIV Counseling Scored 14 out of 65 points = 21.53%

Level Three: HIV Testing Scored 21 out of 93 points = 22.58%

Level Four: HIV Reproductive Health Care to HIV+ Women Not applicable

Total Score 61 out of 238 points = 25.63%

Within each section for the level of integration, the toolkit provides background information for the level; recommendations for elements that should be included in that level, an implementation guide and the staff competencies expected at the level of integration. Once you have established the current level of integration, the 7 key steps in HIV Integration will provide you with a plan to get you to your desired goal or level of integration:

