



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

Bassler, J.R. ¹, Levitan, E.B. ², Ostrenga, L. ³, Crear, D.C. ⁴, Johnson, K.L. ⁵, Cooper, G. ⁵, Kay, E.S. ⁶, Parman, M. ⁷, Nassel, A.F. ⁸, Mugavero, M.J. ⁷, Batey, D.S. ⁶, & Rana, A. ⁷

¹ University of Alabama at Birmingham, Department of Biostatistics; ² University of Alabama at Birmingham, Department of Epidemiology; ³ Louisiana Department of Health; ⁴ Office of HIV Prevention and Care, Alabama Department of Public Health; ⁵ STD/HIV Office, Mississippi State Department of Health; ⁶ University of Alabama at Birmingham, Department of Social Work; ⁷ University of Alabama at Birmingham, School of Medicine; ⁸ University of Alabama at Birmingham, Lister Hill Center for Health Policy



Introduction

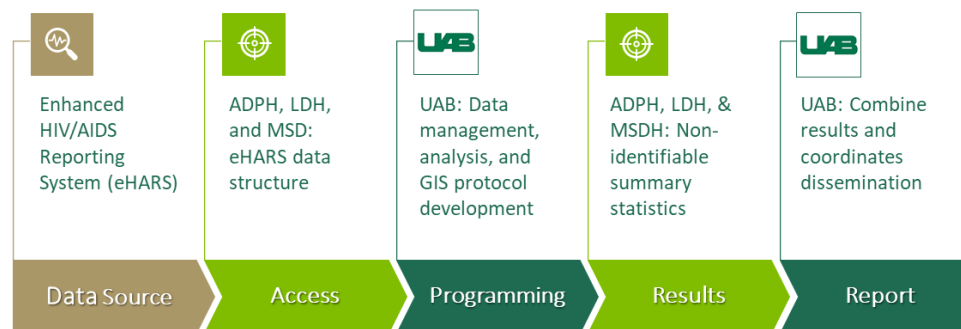
- Innovative analysis of the Enhanced HIV/AIDS Reporting System (eHARS) surveillance database can inform targeted, evidence-based interventions to achieve the objectives of the Ending the HIV Epidemic: A Plan for America (EHE).
- We developed a distributed data network approach to identify and investigate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



<https://github.com/JRBassler/Road-to-Zero.git>
Questions or comments?
jbassle1@uab.edu

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.

Acknowledgement

- NIH/NIAID grant R01AI142690
- UAB Center for AIDS Research
 - Grant P30 AI027767-31

