

EVALUATION OF THE PACIFIC AIDS EDUCATION AND TRAINING CENTER

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PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The AIDS Policy Research Center at CAPS provides external evaluation and technical assistance to the Pacific AIDS Education and Training Center (PAETC). The PAETC provides AIDS-related training and education to health care providers in 15 local sites in California, Nevada, Arizona, Hawaii, and the six US-affiliated Pacific Jurisdictions. In conducting external evaluation, the Policy Center provides PAETC with information to determine training effectiveness, shape future programs and report on training innovations.

The external evaluator works with PAETC to develop, implement and analyze evaluations of training efforts. In particular, the evaluator guides activities focusing on training outcomes and the results of capacity-building efforts. In addition to implementing evaluations of specific trainings or training series, the evaluator provides technical assistance to staff at the local sites in various aspects of evaluation, needs assessment and research design.

SIGNIFICANCE

The PAETC provides medical providers with critical education and training that can improve access to and quality of HIV care. Evaluation of PAETC activities is essential to determining which training approaches are most effective and have potential to impact the quality of HIV medical care. On-going evaluation of multiple training activities enables the Policy Center and PAETC to disseminate information about HIV medical training on a near continuous basis – reporting information to federal funders, colleagues nationally and internationally and the greater medical community alike.

INTERESTING FINDINGS

Recent evaluation activities have included the following:

- Almost half of participants at a 2007 training on the implementation of rapid HIV testing said they made changes in the way they work with their patients based on the training. Smaller numbers of participants also reported changes made on a clinic, organization, or agency level.
- Evaluation of the faculty development conference showed that the conference has value for the participants in four areas: networking, clinical information updates, training skill-building opportunities, and identification as a member of the AETC.
- A qualitative evaluation of the UC Irvine Native American provider clinical training found barriers to transfer of learning. Most training participants did not apply skills in their workplace after the training due to the low numbers of clients at their clinics because of community stigma and competing health priorities in the clinics. Future trainings will be targeted towards capacity building at the clinics to increase testing services and patient identification and also toward providers with larger caseloads of HIV clients.
- Evaluation of a 5-year clinical capacity building project in the US-affiliated Pacific Jurisdictions has shown changes in clinical skills and knowledge among doctors and nurses trained in the program. The evaluation has also shown progress in the development of training and informational support infrastructure in the region.
- A revised centralized evaluation form has been developed for use by local training sites to ensure rigorous cross-site evaluation. The form is currently being piloted.
- The evaluator and the publications and dissemination committee have established dissemination protocols and procedures and resources to help local training sites develop posters, publications and other products about their training and education programs and program evaluations.