

## **Surveillance of HIV-related Events Among Persons Not Receiving HIV Care**

### **“Never In Care” (NIC) Project**

The “Never In Care” (NIC) project is a research study sponsored by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Nationally, New Jersey is one of five sites participating in the project along with Indiana, Washington, Philadelphia and New York City. Locally, the goal of the NIC is to describe the population of persons in New Jersey who have been diagnosed HIV positive for at least three months, but less than 18 months and have never received HIV care. A minimum of 300 HIV-infected persons will be interviewed for the NIC during the data collection period, which ends September 2009. The 30 minute survey will assess demographic factors, risk behaviors, barriers to accessing medical care, and alternative health modalities. The project will also provide CD4 and viral load testing to assess the participants’ current health status. Participants will be given an incentive for their participation in both the interview and laboratory testing phases of the project. All participants will be referred for case management and HIV care and treatment at participating service providers.

At the end of the project, data collected from this survey will be analyzed to explain the NIC population with respect to:

- ◆ The demographic characteristics, social support, HIV testing history, mode of exposure to HIV, utilization of medical services unrelated to HIV infection, and unmet needs of persons who have been diagnosed with HIV for at least 90 days, but who have never received medical care for their HIV infection;
- ◆ Barriers to receiving HIV care, how circumstances, experiences, beliefs, attitudes and culture norms may contribute to barriers to care, and possible facilitators of entry into care, and possible facilitators of entry into care in this group, and
- ◆ Immunologic status and use this information to estimate the resources that would be required if these individuals were linked to care.

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