

# NACCHO's STD Express Initiative

## Optimizing STD Testing to Benefit Clinics and Communities

### Background

Sexually transmitted disease (STD) rates have reached record-high levels in the United States. As STD rates rise, resources have declined. Due to funding cuts to the public health system, STD specialty clinics have been forced to reduce hours, services, or even close. Given these circumstances, innovative approaches to STD testing and treatment are needed. STD express services—which refer to triage-based STD testing without a full clinical examination—have been shown to increase clinic capacity, reduce time to treatment, reduce visit time, and decrease visit cost, and therefore have the potential to increase access and testing, while maximizing available resources.



### NACCHO's STD Express Initiative

In January 2018, NACCHO launched the STD Express Initiative, which aims to increase the capacity of STD clinics to offer express services that are responsive to patient, clinic, and community needs and advance STD prevention efforts. To achieve this goal, NACCHO is undertaking a number of activities to expand the evidence base for STD express services and increase the capacity of clinics to establish, scale-up, and evaluate STD express services. These efforts include working with STD clinics across the country to assess common motivations, challenges, and practices related to express services in order to synthesize express models and better understand their utilization.

### STD Express Services

To address rising STD rates and related health care costs, some U.S. and international STD clinics have introduced STD express services, and many more are considering it. Clinics have a number of motivations for implementing express services, including reducing clinic clog, gaining staffing efficiency, reducing time to treatment, and increasing access to care. Creating more patient-centered experiences and decreasing stigma associated with STD testing are also key motivating factors to considering alternative approaches to providing STD testing. Through its STD Express Initiative, NACCHO has identified five key aspects of express services that alter the clinic design from a traditional STD model:

1. Implementation of triage
2. Staffing models that maximize top of license strategies
3. Patient self-collection of swabs
4. Technology and automation to conserve time and staffing
5. Opportunity to implement in diverse settings

### Get Involved

Interested in learning more about STD express services? Looking to improve and scale-up existing STD express services at your clinic?

#### Join NACCHO's STD Express Community of Practice.

Participants will be given access to an online discussion portal to connect and learn from peers and subject matter experts across the country. NACCHO will also facilitate additional learning opportunities, such as calls and webinars. Discussion topics will include electronic health records and billing, staffing models, and automation and technology. New insights, best practices, and successful tools identified by the Community of Practice will be shared with the broader STD community.

**SIGN UP TO JOIN AT:**  
[BIT.LY/STDEXPRESSCOP](https://bit.ly/stdexpresscop)

### Get the Latest Updates

Visit [bit.ly/NACCHOHSHDigest](https://bit.ly/NACCHOHSHDigest) to learn how to sign up for NACCHO's *HIV, STI, & Viral Hepatitis Digest* and get the latest information and updates about NACCHO's STD Express Initiative. Contact Samantha Ritter, Senior Program Analyst for HIV, STI, & Viral Hepatitis, at [sritter@naccho.org](mailto:sritter@naccho.org) with any questions.