

Background

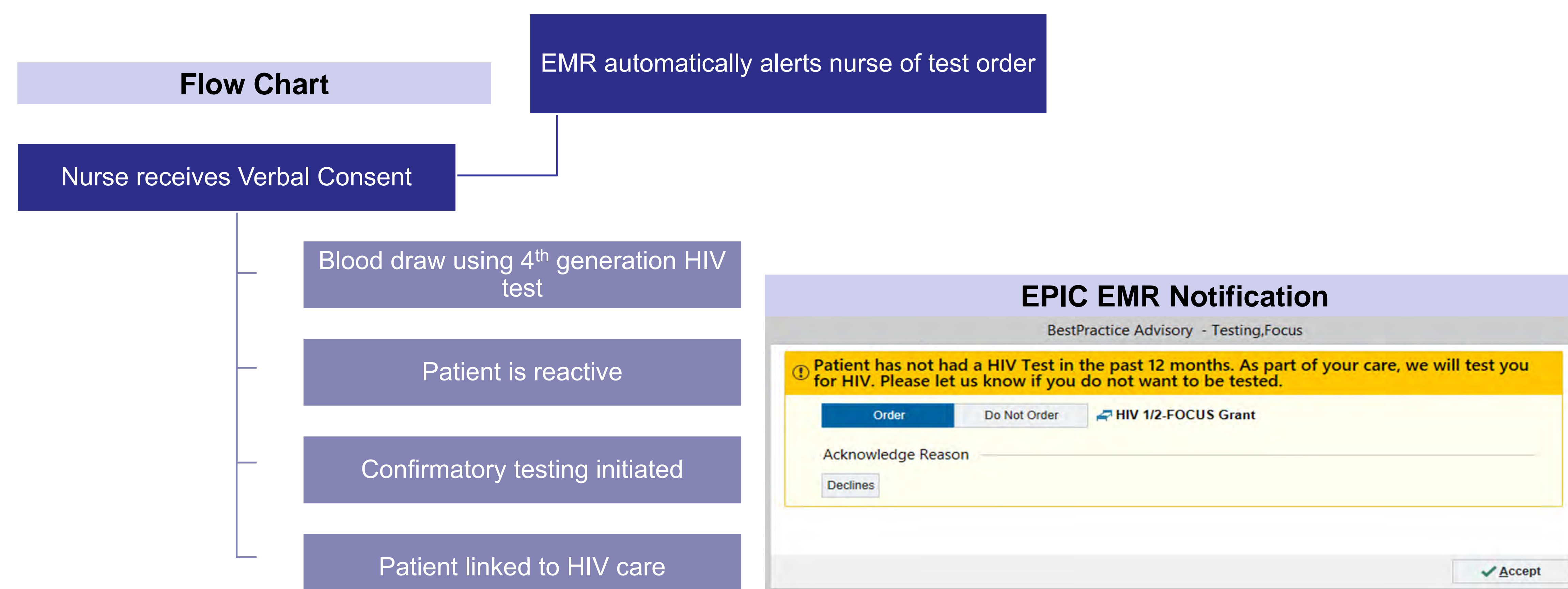
- ▶ Transmission of HIV infection continues to rise in rural “Deep South” states, including the eastern North Carolina region.
- ▶ Approximately 1,800 people living with HIV in eastern NC are unaware of their infection.
- ▶ Many emergency departments find difficulty implementing Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC) recommended guidelines, although recommendations were released in 2006.

Project Aim

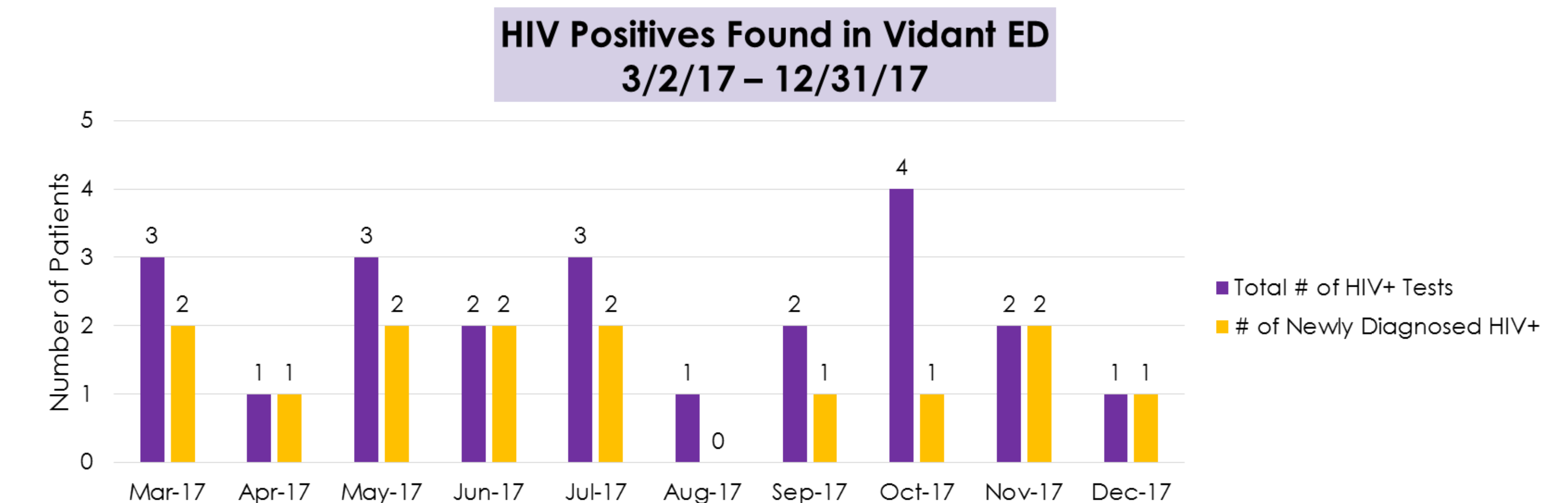
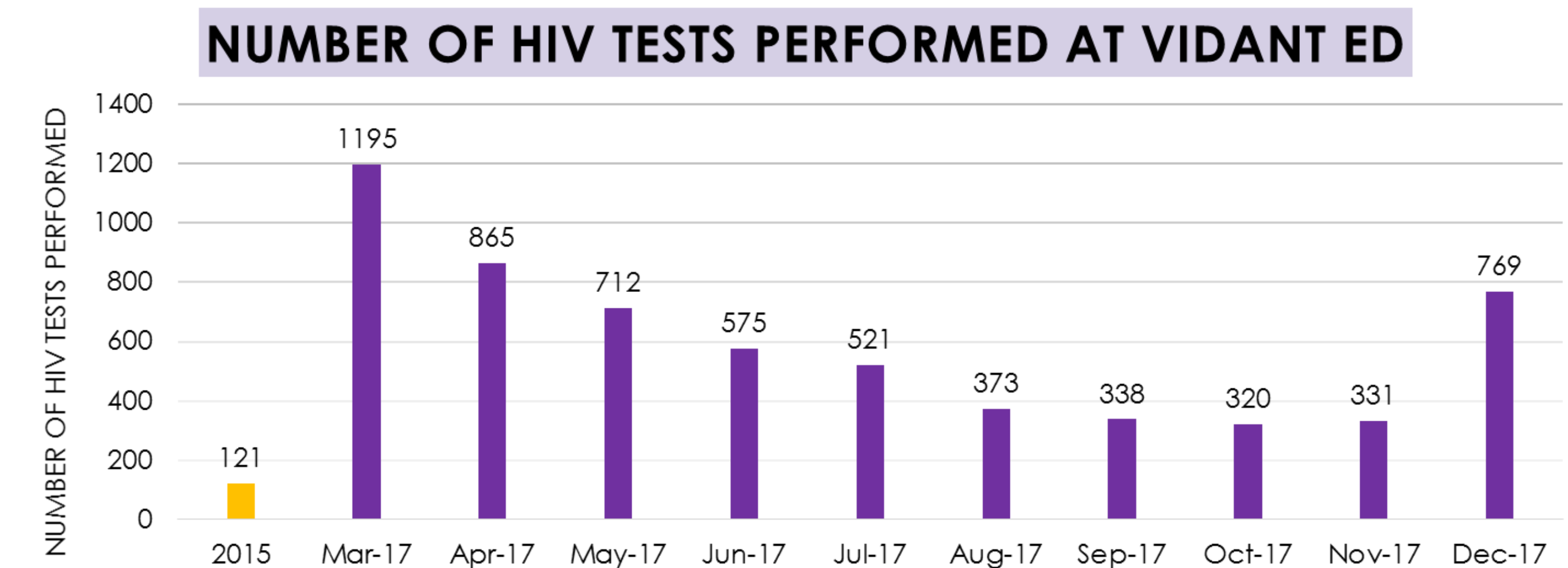
The goal was to implement CDC’s recommended guidelines to routinely test patients between 18-65 years at Vidant Medical Center’s Emergency Departments (VMC-EDs) and to successfully link those found HIV positive to HIV care at the ECU Division of Infectious Diseases and International Travel Health or other preferred provider of HIV care services. A secondary goal was to develop a statewide model of linkage of positives to HIV care.

Project Design/Strategy

- ▶ Surveyed ED providers and identified major barriers to routinely screen, track, report and link HIV positive patients to care within a short timespan
- ▶ Modified EPIC electronic medical record (EMR) to automatically populate HIV test orders on eligible patients
- ▶ Eligible patients included the following:
 - ▶ Between 18 and 65 years of age
 - ▶ No documented HIV test in EPIC EMR in past 12 months
 - ▶ Not already known to be HIV positive
 - ▶ Other order for blood work is part of evaluation
- ▶ Hired a dedicated linkage and retention coordinator to assist in tracking positive clients, linking positive patients to HIV care, and providing adequate posttest counseling
- ▶ Incorporated routine HIV testing in the acute VMC-ED with the goal of developing a statewide model of testing and linkage to care



Results and Outcomes



Demographic Characteristics of Patients Testing HIV Positive & Linkage to Care, N=18

Characteristic	n (%)
Age, average (range)	40 yrs. (18-64yrs.)
Gender	
Male	15 (83.3)
Race	
Black/African-American	16 (88.9)
White	2 (11.1)
Diagnosis	
Newly Diagnosed	13 (72.2)
Chief Complaint when Presenting to ED	
Chest Pain	3 (16.7)
Cough	2 (11.1)
Difficulty Breathing	2 (11.1)
Sore Throat	3 (16.7)
Syncope	2 (11.1)
Linked to Care	15 (83.3)

Conclusions and Next Steps

- ▶ This QI project provides support for the use of the EMR to automatically order HIV tests for eligible persons, reducing need to manually order tests
- ▶ Implement routine testing for adolescents between 13 -17 years of age
- ▶ Implement routine testing to locate Hepatitis C in VMC-EDs