



# Program Succeeds at Better Keeping People With HIV in Medical Care

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A program designed to rate the rate of HIV-positive people who stay in routine medical care has succeeded, and at a cost deemed reasonable. Publishing their findings in the *Journal of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndromes*, researchers randomized 1,229 people with HIV, who were receiving care through six academically affiliated HIV clinics, into two groups: One received enhanced personal contact from clinicians along with basic HIV education; and a second received the current standard of care.

A total of 45.7 percent (280 out of 613) of the participants in the standard-of-care group were retained in care, defined as attending at least one primary care visit every four months during a one-year period. By comparison, 55.8 percent (343 out of 615) of those in the intervention arm of the study were retained in care, meaning the intervention was associated with a 22 percent improvement in the group's retention rate.

The intervention's annual cost was \$241,565, for an average of \$393 per participant. The estimated cost to retain each additional individual in care was \$3,834.

To read the study, [click here](#). (Free registration with Medscape is required)

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<http://beta.docker.poz.com/article/retention-program-27067-6417>