

# What are the Benefits of PCSI to Clients?

*[Announcer] This podcast is presented by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. CDC – Safer, healthier people.*

[Host] Welcome to this podcast on Program Collaboration and Service Integration or PCSI. We will hear from several leaders in HIV AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention who will discuss the benefits of PCSI to clients.

Marlene McNeese-Ward, Bureau Chief of HIV, STD, and Viral Hepatitis Prevention at the Houston Department of Health and Human Resources.

[Marlene McNeese-Ward] The benefits to the city of Houston has been we've certainly seen increases in our ability to provide our partner services and other services available to the city, such as integrated HIV screens, as well as STD screening, along with hep A and B vaccinations.

[Host] Gustavo Aquino, Associate Director for Program Integration with CDC's National Center for HIV AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention.

[Gustavo Aquino] The benefit of PCSI to clients is that they have an opportunity to receive more comprehensive services. So, for example, if you have a person who is seeking services for sexually transmitted diseases -- a sexually transmitted disease -- they also have an opportunity to also receive screening for HIV, for a person who is receiving treatment for tuberculosis to also be tested for HIV.

[Host] Peter Whitarcar, Chief of the STD AIDS Prevention Branch an the State of Hawai'i Department of Health.

[Peter Whitarcar] I think what this has helped us do is really focus much more on the health of individuals, the risks of individuals, rather than individual diseases. So when we are dealing with populations in our state, what we're really trying to look at in a more holistic way is, what is the risk profile of the population of individuals that are coming in to see us, and what can we do to help them reduce that risk, to mitigate that risk, and if they are positive for either hepatitis, HIV, or one of the STDs, what is it we can do to reduce that disease burden? What can we do to provide treatment to those individuals? And I think this is providing much better, much more comprehensive services to the clients. But in a way, I think it's also good for the staff. You know, the staff that work in public health, that work in clinics, I think they really want to do the right thing for their clients. And this is really giving them the opportunity to look at their clients in a much more comprehensive way.

*[Announcer] For the most accurate health information, visit [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov) or call 1-800-CDC-INFO, 24/7.*