

# Improving HIV Diagnosis

Hazel Gusman, RN, BSN, ACRN, Amy Runge, MEd, BSN, RN, ACRN, Rachel Summers, BSN, RN, Sharon Warren, MSN, RN, CCM & Jocelia Sawyer, BSN, RN



## BACKGROUND

With many patients presenting to our Quick Care clinics and with the addition of our newest facility, Aliante Quick Care, we are able to provide the opportunity for our patients ages 15 and above, in various areas across the Las Vegas Valley, an opportunity to know their HIV status.

The importance of HIV testing helps aim towards the goal of Ending the HIV Epidemic in the United States, which is coordinated by the United States Department of Health and Human Services. The goal is to Reduce new HIV infections in the United States by 75% by 2025 and 90% by 2030.

## PURPOSE

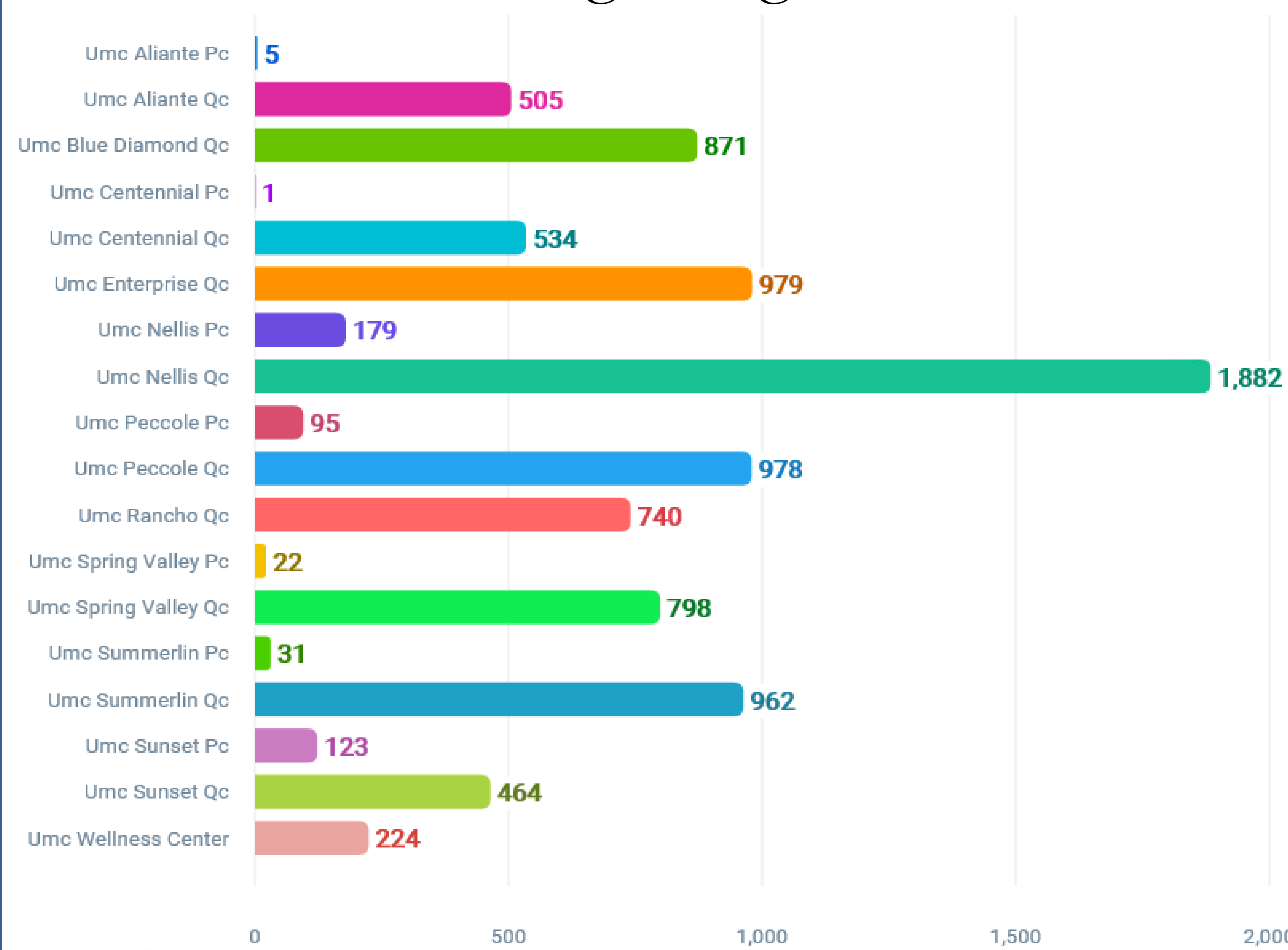
Providing the opportunity for patients to be aware of their HIV status will help end the HIV epidemic.

Once a patient is identified as HIV positive, they are linked immediately to care to the Wellness Center by nurse navigators. These patients establish a great rapport with nurses, nurse navigators, nurse case managers, a social worker, and care management specialists who ensures the patient has all of their resources needed to live a healthy, quality life, with HIV.

## METHODS

During triage, nurses ask patients 15 years old and above if they would like a rapid HIV point of care test (POCT). If the patients consent to a test, a rapid HIV POCT Insti is utilized. This test results in 1 minute and detects HIV 1 and 2 antibodies. If the test is Reactive (Positive), a confirmatory test is ordered. This confirmatory test called the Abbott determine, detects HIV 1 and 2 antibodies along with HIV antigens. This test results in 20 minutes. If positive, the nurses contact UMC Wellness Center nurse navigators who go to the clinic in person to establish rapport with patient and link them to UMC Wellness Center for services.

## 9,393 HIV tests completed since November 2021 through August 2023

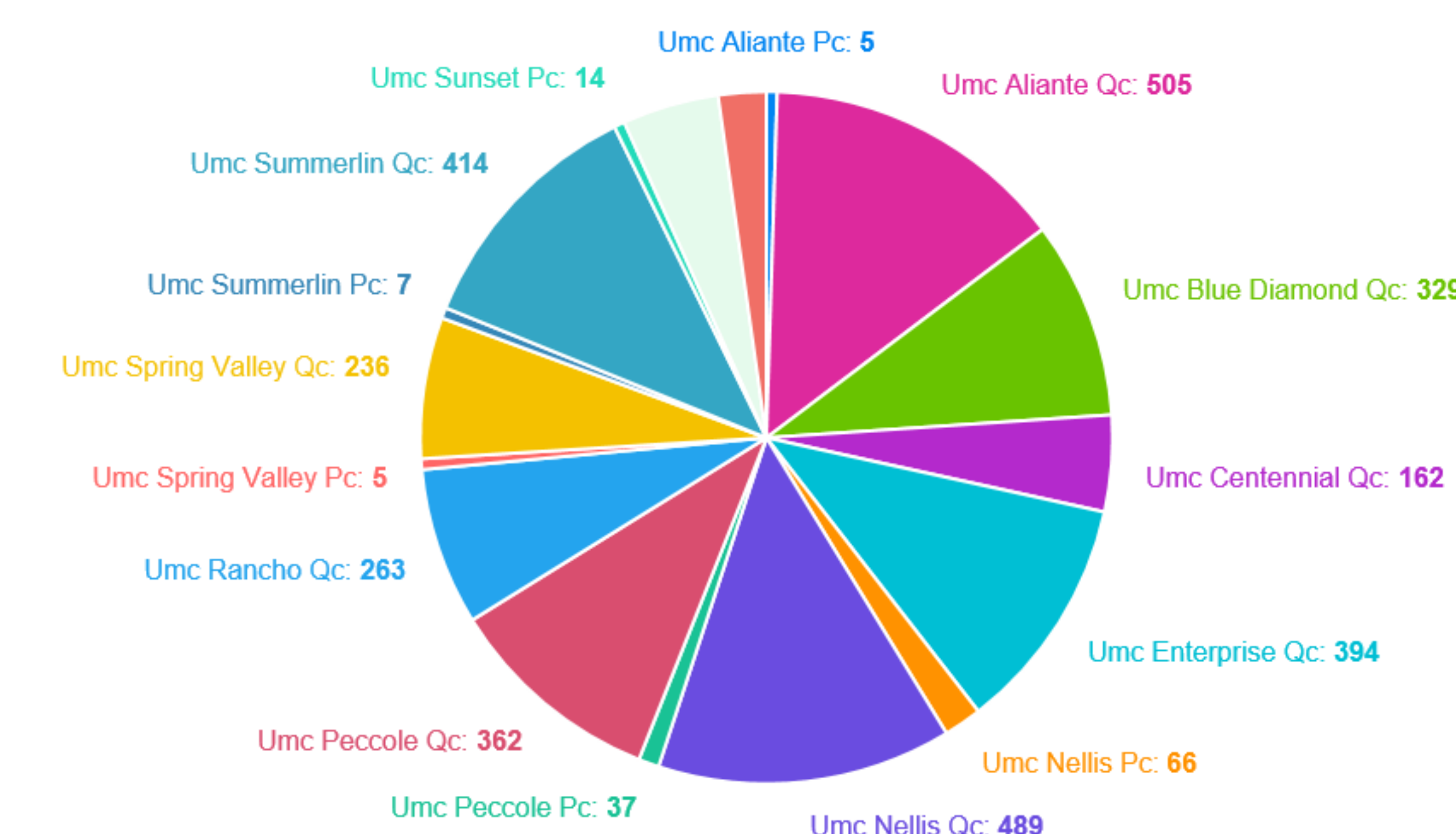


Did you know?

Nevada is ranked #5 in the nation for newly diagnosed HIV!

## RESULTS

### 3,532 HIV tests completed in 2023



6 patients since January 2023 were diagnosed with HIV during their Quick Care visit.

## CONCLUSIONS

Since implementing Rapid HIV POCT in the Ambulatory setting since November 2021, UMC has been able to identify 27 newly diagnosed patients in the Quick Care and Primary Care settings combined.

As of August 31, 2023, the ambulatory clinics have performed almost 9,393 HIV POCT. The availability of HIV POCT in ambulatory clinics allowed patients to receive immediate care at UMC Wellness Center and initiating proper medication regimens through the immediate linkage to care.

Linkage to care is a crucial early step in successful HIV treatment and is defined as the completion of a first medical clinic visit after HIV diagnosis. Linkage to care plays a key role in the HIV care continuum, it is a necessary precursor to antiretroviral therapy initiation and ultimately, viral suppression.

## REFERENCES

References available upon request

