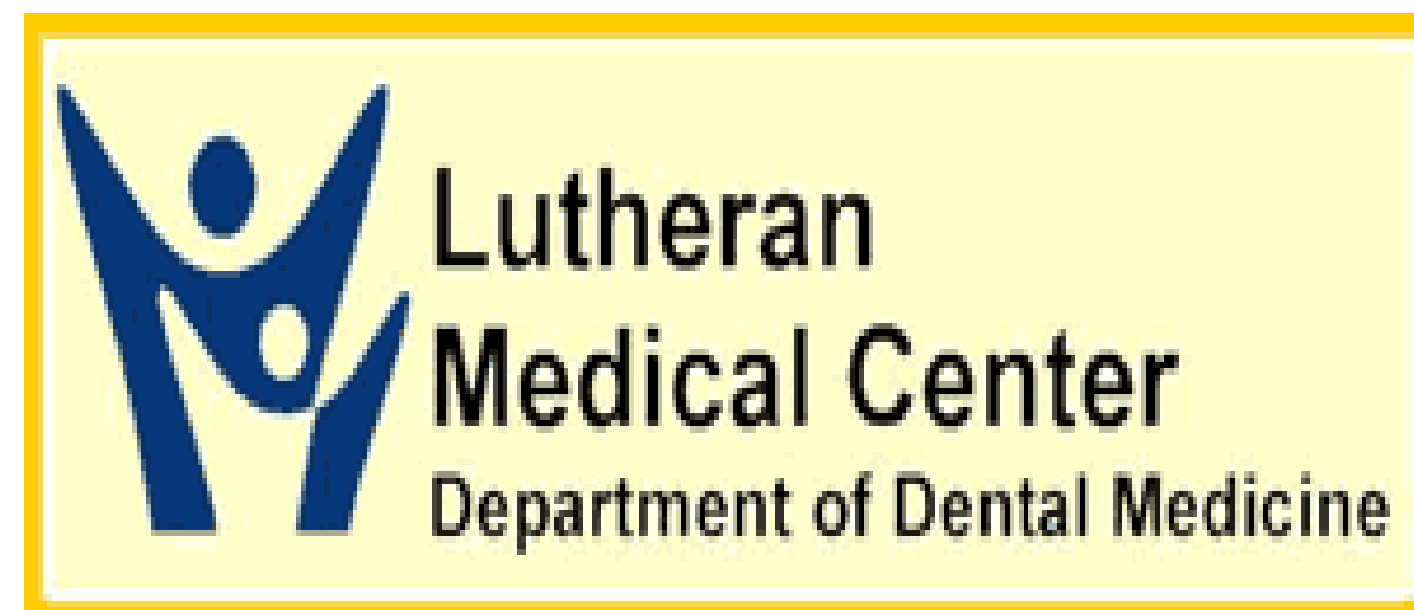


Lutheran Medical Center Department of Dental Medicine Oral health services for HIV+ individuals in the U.S.V.I.



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Patient Retention

**SPNS Participant Retention and Drop Out Rates
12/2007 to 8/2009**

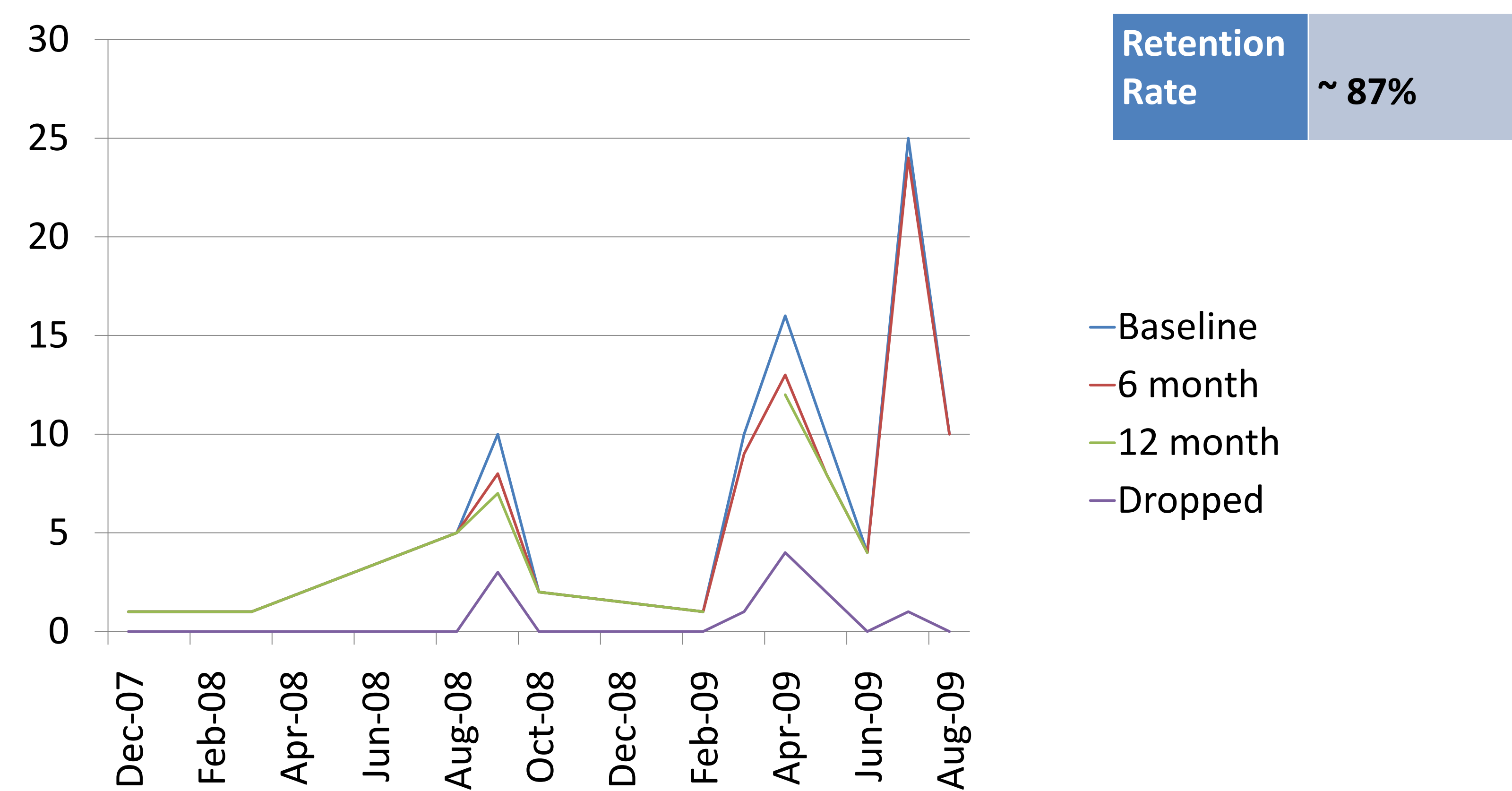


Table 1. Recruitment and retention of patients in SPNS study, 12/07 to 8/09

Dates of recruitment and retention of participants (initial enrollment)	Baseline interviews (#)	6 month (#)	12 month (#)	Total dropped (#)
December 2007	1	1	1	0
March 2008	1	1	1	0
August 2008	5	5	5	0
September 2008	10	8	7	3
October 2008	2	2	2	0
February 2009	1	1	1	0
March 2009	10	9	-	1
April 2009	16	13	12	4
May 2009	10	8	8	2
June 2009	4	4	4	0
July 2009	25	24	-	1
August 2009	10	10	-	0
Total	95	86	-	11

Initial retention plan

- Using Department of Health (DoH) case managers to coordinate recruitment and retention of participants on the island

Adjustments to retention plan

- Hiring Ms. Sharon DuPree to head patient interviewing, recruitment and retention in the USVI
- Hiring of Ms. Yeniffer Calixte to assist Ms. Dupree in recruitment and retention of the French Creole and Patois population in the USVI.

Barriers

- Workload and accountability of DoH case workers made for slow progress in participant follow up
- Severe social stigma surrounding HIV/AIDS
- Patient distrust of new case workers, questions of confidentiality
- Language barrier with the French Creole and Patois speaking populations
- Lack of and difficulty with cell phones or other methods of communication
- Fear of dental and oral health care treatment
- Lack of knowledge regarding oral health

Successes

- Having a head case manager and case manager assistant who are dedicated to a patient centered approach to the study goals have increased retention rates
- Enrollment and retention of the hard to reach French Creole and Patois speaking population
- Having case manager on site to help participants through dental care and follow up treatment has built trust and foster retention.
- Consistent sensitivity to the importance of confidentiality has fostered trust over time
- High retention rate due to the hiring of dedicated case managers in the USVI

Participants Dropped (#)	Reasons participant drop out
4	Deceased
2	Moved off island
2	Did not show for initial exam
3	Unable to contact participants

Next steps

- Continuing with what has worked, learning from what has not
- Allowing for flexibility due to the constantly changing political and social climate in order to adjust the approach if needed.