



In March 2012, Project ASSERT celebrated their 18 year anniversary. In 1998, they won the City of Boston's Customer Service Award.

Project ASSERT Staff

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- Brent Stevenson, LADC II
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- John Cromwell
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- Manager: Emma Riley, MSW
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Project ASSERT helps patients with:

- Alcohol or Drug Abuse
 - Finding a Primary Care Doctor
 - Finding a Detox Program
 - Finding a Shelter
 - Opioid Overdose Prevention
 - Other Resources at Boston Medical Center
- Encontrar un Medico de Cabecera
 - Drogadiccion o el Alcoholismo
 - Encontrar una Programa de Deshabitacion Alcoholica
 - Encontrar un Refugio Otros Recursos en el BMC
- Encontrar un Medico Clinico General
 - Abuso de Drogas ou Alcool
 - Encontrar um programa de Desi
 - Encontrar um Abrigo
 - Outros Recursos no BMC
- Trouver un Medecin Generaliste
 - L'Abus de Drogues ou d'Alcool
 - Trouver un Programme de Desintoxication
 - Trouver un Abri
 - D'Autres Ressources a BMC

Contact

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Project ASSERT

SBIRT in Emergency Care

Boston Medical Center

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Boston University
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Project ASSERT

Project ASSERT stands for improving Alcohol & Substance Abuse Services, Education, and Referral to Treatment. It was funded by a grant from the U.S. DHH Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration (SAMHSA) from 1993-1997. Since 1998, Project ASSERT has been an ongoing component of safety net services at the Boston Medical Center Emergency Department (ED).



Health Promotion Advocates

A team of Health Promotion Advocates (HPAs) consult and collaborate with hospital staff to offer ED patients alcohol and drug screening, brief intervention, and referrals to health and social resources, such as substance abuse treatment and primary care services.

Project ASSERT 's HPAs affirm the dignity of patients and their cultural backgrounds, beliefs, and values during their hospital visit by establishing a relationship with patients based on emotional support and advocacy. This gives patients an opportunity to consider making healthier changes in a non-judgmental environment.

For patients with risky alcohol and drug use, HPAs have a Brief Negotiated Interview (BNI), a motivational interviewing conversation, to help them explore how ready they are to make any changes, to assist them in developing a behavior change action plan, and to connect them to any needed services.



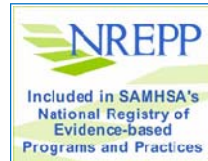
Fast Facts

Since its beginnings in 1994, Project ASSERT has served more than 60,000 patients. In 2011, HPAs:

- consulted on 5,158 patients referred by the BMC Adult and Pediatric EDs and Urgent Care staff
- made 1073 primary care appointments to BMC Clinics and affiliated Neighborhood Health Centers
- placed 50% of 3,689 patients who screened positive for alcohol or drug addiction in a detox program with transportation provided
- placed 486 patients in outpatient treatment
- referred 1,984 to NA/AA
- placed 510 patients in shelters
- referred 431 patients to behavioral health services
- referred 233 patients to local Hepatitis-C and HIV Testing

Impact

Project ASSERT served as a model for SAMHSA's National SBIRT (Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment) programs that address the treatment gap for the those with addictions and the unmet needs of the population whose unhealthy alcohol and drug use puts them at risk for injury, illness, legal and mental health and social problems. The Project ASSERT model was recognized in 2012 for the high quality of its supporting research and dissemination materials by SAMHSA's National Registry of Evidence Based Programs and Practice.



Dissemination

Boston Medical Center's ED Project ASSERT, in collaboration with the Boston University School of Public Health's BNI-ART Institute, has provided SBIRT training and technical assistance for hundreds of health professionals at medical settings throughout Massachusetts and across the nation, from Bethel, Alaska to New York City.

For more information: www.bu.edu/bniart

To see examples of SBIRT and the Brief Negotiated Interview (BNI), visit: www.youtube.com/sbirtinstitute