

AIDS Free Pittsburgh
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AN ALLEGHENY COUNTY INITIATIVE

2017 Annual Report

***MISSION.** Our mission is to achieve an AIDS-free County and reduce the rate of new HIV infections by 75% by 2020.*

***VISION.** We envision a community where new HIV infections are rare, people living with HIV receive the care they need and young people can grow up in a world without AIDS.*

ABOUT US

Partners



Strategic Plan

GOAL: Achieve zero new AIDS dx

GOAL: Reduce new HIV dx by 75%

Objectives

Diagnose the undiagnosed earlier in the course of HIV infection

Link HIV-positive individuals to care within 48 hours of dx

Achieve 95% VL suppression for pts. in HIV care

Support efforts to reduce HIV/AIDS transmission among high-risk groups

Build capacity for PrEP/PEP service delivery

Strategies

Improve access to HIV testing

Develop model to bring newly dx into care

Find HIV+ pts. who have been lost to care

Outreach to high-risk HIV-communities

Increase # of PrEP/PEP providers

Address HIV stigma to foster demand for HIV testing

Enhance HIV provider education – promote positive living

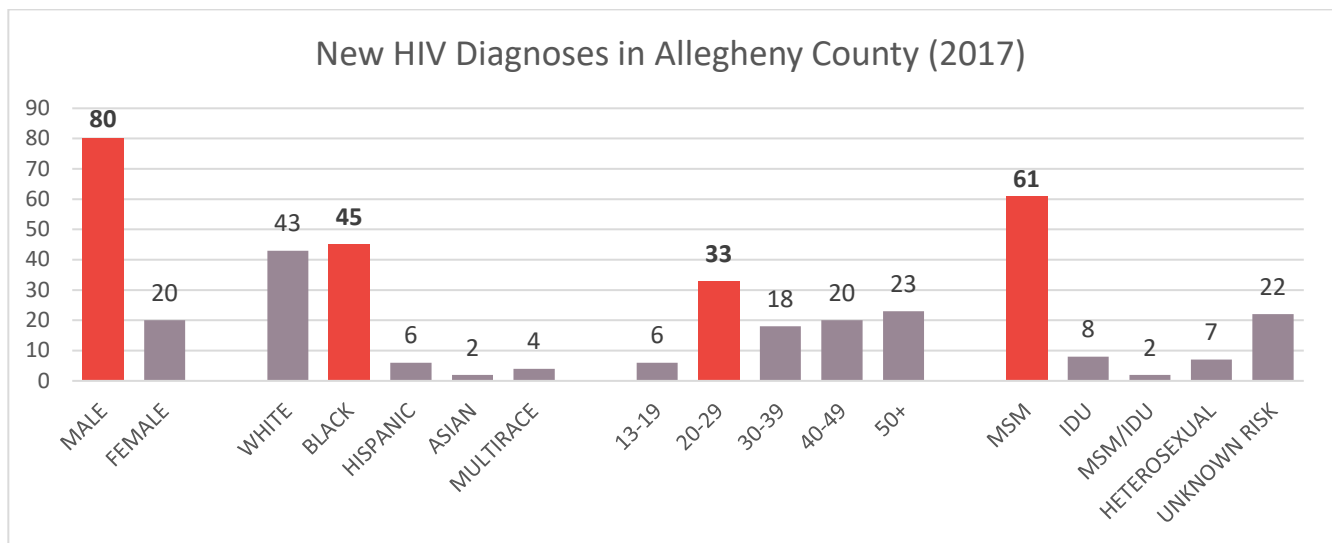
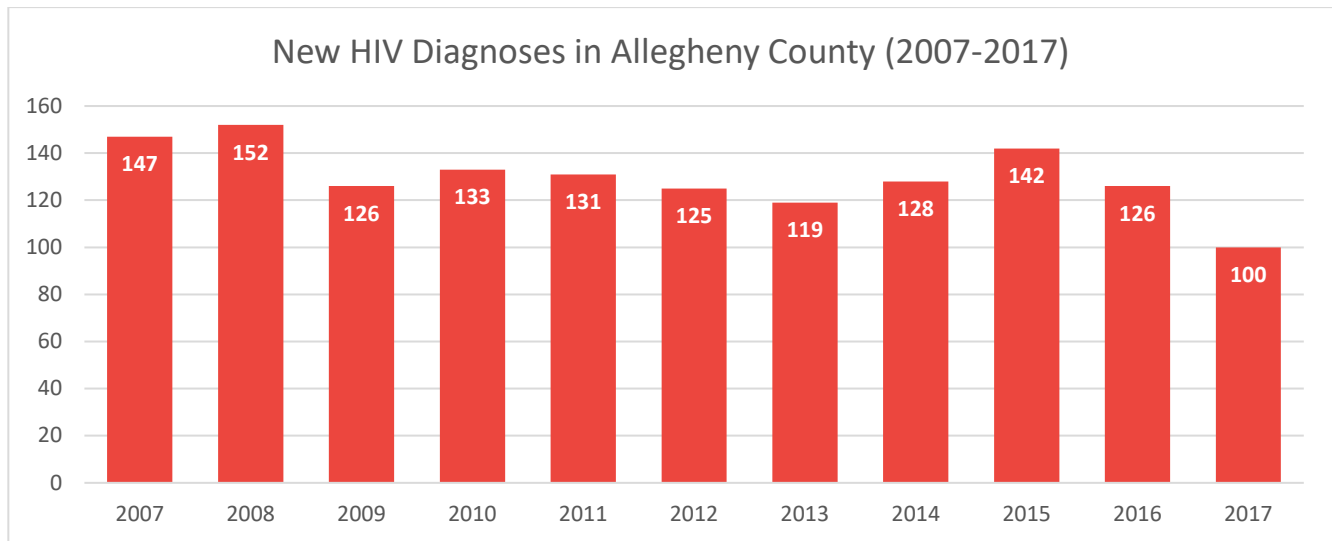
Increase awareness of pt. assistance programs

Increase HIV/AIDS education

Increase # of high-risk HIV- on PrEP

HIV/AIDS IN ALLEGHENY COUNTY

Progress to Date



Since AIDS Free Pittsburgh officially launched on December 1, 2015, the number of new HIV diagnoses in Allegheny County has declined by 30%. This is the lowest number of documented HIV diagnoses in Allegheny County over the past 10 years. This downward trend is promising and indicates the successful collective impact of more than 22 different AIDS Free Pittsburgh organizational partners and stakeholders. While it is important to celebrate this movement, we still have work to do in order to meet our ambitious goals by the year 2020. Only 39% of Allegheny County adults reported having ever been tested for HIV. Only 24% of Allegheny County residents surveyed last year have ever heard of PrEP for HIV prevention. Similar to other communities in the United States, some demographic groups in Allegheny County continue to be affected by HIV more than others. Men who have sex with men (MSM), people who identify as Black/African-American, and young adults (ages 20-29) are still disproportionately impacted by HIV in Allegheny County. HIV/AIDS Annual Summaries & other reports can be accessed from the Pennsylvania Department of Health at: <http://bit.ly/PADOHHIV>.

2017 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

AIDS Free Pittsburgh partners utilize the “collective impact” model in order to plan and implement strategic interventions both individually and in collaboration with other partner organizations.

Increase Routine HIV Screening



- **3,190 people screened** for HIV and **13 people identified** as HIV-positive (new cases and persons lost to care) by the AHN Center for Inclusion Health and UPMC Montefiore through the expanded HIV screening efforts of the Gilead Science [FOCUS Program](#).
- **132 people screened** and **3 people identified** as HIV-positive through Macedonia FACE's new [HIV Testing Program](#).
- **42 people screened** for HIV in just two months as part of Planned Parenthood of Western Pennsylvania's new [Care No Matter Where](#) program. This was in addition to **1,125 HIV tests** conducted at all of their Western Pennsylvania health centers.

Build Capacity for Biomedical HIV Prevention



- [PrEP Toolkit for Providers](#) created as a resource for primary care providers and others to learn how to provide or refer for PrEP services.
- **2,256 users** reached the [PrEP Pittsburgh](#) website through print and digital advertising campaigns, resulting in **4,298 page views**.
- **1,316 community members** surveyed about PrEP awareness & access.
- **\$25,000 awarded** to support a pilot program for community-based PrEP delivery for LGBTQ youth and young adults of color at [Project Silk](#).
- **92 people** attended continuing education events, including a day-long PrEP capacity building training with trainers from the San Francisco Department of Public Health and a “Harm Reduction Happy Hour”.
- **3,500 PrEP wallet cards** and **1,000 brochures** distributed.

Standardize Early Linkage to Care



- **29 people** participated in a RAPID linkage to care capacity building training with expert facilitators from the San Francisco Department of Public Health. **24 people** participated in a follow-up Community of Practice event in October where they shared experiences with RAPID protocol development and implementation. The [MidAtlantic AIDS Education and Training Center](#) at the University of Pittsburgh provided continuing education credits.
- **89%** of HIV-positive patients admitted through the RAPID protocols at the [Positive Health Clinic \(AHN\)](#) in 2017 have since achieved an undetectable viral load (less than 200 copies/ml). Preliminary data indicates that the average time from HIV diagnosis to viral load suppression was just **50 days**.
- Compiled an [HIV Care Options](#) resource guide to help healthcare providers facilitate linkage to care for persons newly diagnosed with HIV.

2017 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

2017 Expenditures

A total of \$273,968.60 in expenses were incurred to support AIDS Free Pittsburgh project activities during calendar year 2017. A balance of \$224,746.65 will be carried over to fund project costs in calendar year 2018. Note: this amount reflects subgrant funding from the HIV Prevention and Care Project (University of Pittsburgh) as well as a Positive Action Community Grant (ViiV Healthcare) awarded to AIDS Free Pittsburgh for activities to be implemented in 2018.

Below are a few snapshots of AIDS Free Pittsburgh in action throughout the year. The committed funds have enabled AIDS Free Pittsburgh partners to plan and implement community outreach initiatives, continuing education events and HIV/AIDS awareness campaigns focused in Allegheny County.



July 2017: AIDS Free Pittsburgh representatives share HIV prevention resources at the Black Pride Health Fair in Market Square, Downtown Pittsburgh.



September 2017: AIDS Free Pittsburgh joins other jurisdictions from the Act Now: End AIDS Coalition at the US Conference on AIDS in Washington, DC.



October 2017: More than 270 walkers raise a record \$10,800 at the 17th Annual HIV/AIDS Awareness Walk organized by the Mon Valley Providers Council in McKeesport, PA.



November 2017: Pittsburgh City Council President Bruce Kraus announces the World AIDS Day Will of Council with members of the Mayor's LGBTQIA+ Advisory Council and AIDS Free Pittsburgh.

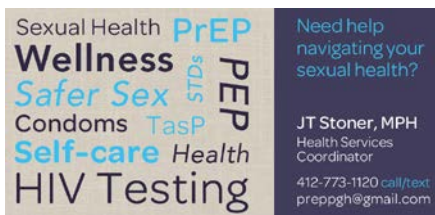
PLANS FOR 2018

Collaboration & Partnerships



- Working with Allegheny County Health Department epidemiology staff and regional stakeholders to monitor the annual rate of new HIV/AIDS diagnoses in Allegheny County and other related outcome measures.
- Convening PrEP/RAPID Community of Practice events with the MidAtlantic AIDS Education and Training Center to facilitate quality improvement and inter-professional collaboration.
- Conducting ongoing community assessment including the annual PrEP survey and an HIV stigma assessment project.
- Coordinating PrEP grand rounds events at several local hospitals.
- Reviewing opportunities for expanded HIV screening at the Allegheny County Jail and other key sites in the community.
- Continuing to explore a PrEP telemedicine pilot to increase access among people who face barriers to traditional healthcare settings.
- Providing technical assistance to healthcare providers in order to promote AIDS Free Pittsburgh goals and strategies.

Outreach & Awareness



- Hired a full-time Health Services Coordinator to facilitate centralized biomedical HIV prevention outreach & navigation (PrEP, PEP, and TasP).
- Designing PrEP materials for women and Spanish-speaking populations.
- Launching multi-channel HIV awareness campaigns throughout the spring and summer, including billboards, bus shelters, and digital media.
- Planning “Hotter Than July” – Pittsburgh’s first annual Biomedical HIV Awareness Party to honor those affected by HIV and to educate the community about advancements that can end AIDS as an epidemic.
- Implementing a digital marketing campaign to encourage routine HIV screening and immediate linkage to care among primary care providers.
- Partnering with Pittsburgh City Paper to bring nationally syndicated sex advice columnist and author Dan Savage to Pittsburgh.
- Developing HIV awareness videos in collaboration with the Consumer Health Coalition’s Human Library storytelling project.

Save the Date

- November 15: [Panel on HIV and AIDS Reporting](#)
- November 28: [Pitt Men’s Study World AIDS Day Commemoration](#)
- November 30: [Pittsburgh World AIDS Day 2018 Conference](#)
- December 1: [World AIDS Day](#)