

AIDS Free Pittsburgh
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AN ALLEGHENY COUNTY INITIATIVE

2019 Annual Report

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

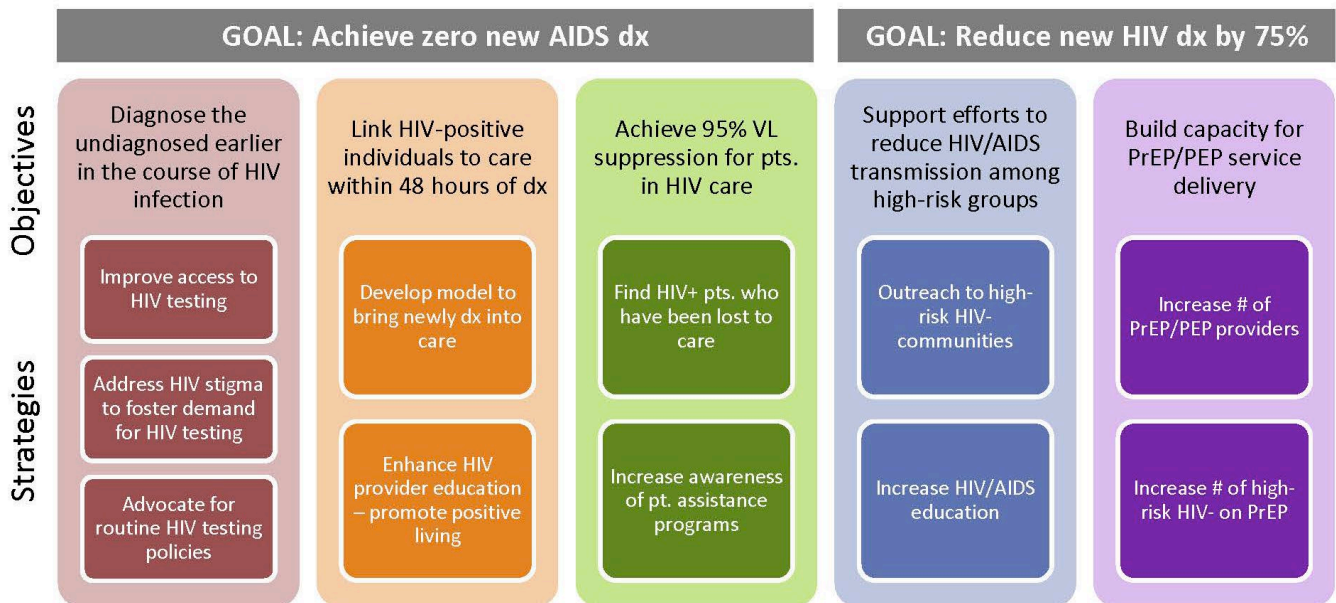
***VISION.** We envision a community where new HIV infections are rare, people living with HIV receive the care they need and young people can grow up in a world without AIDS.*

ABOUT US

Partners

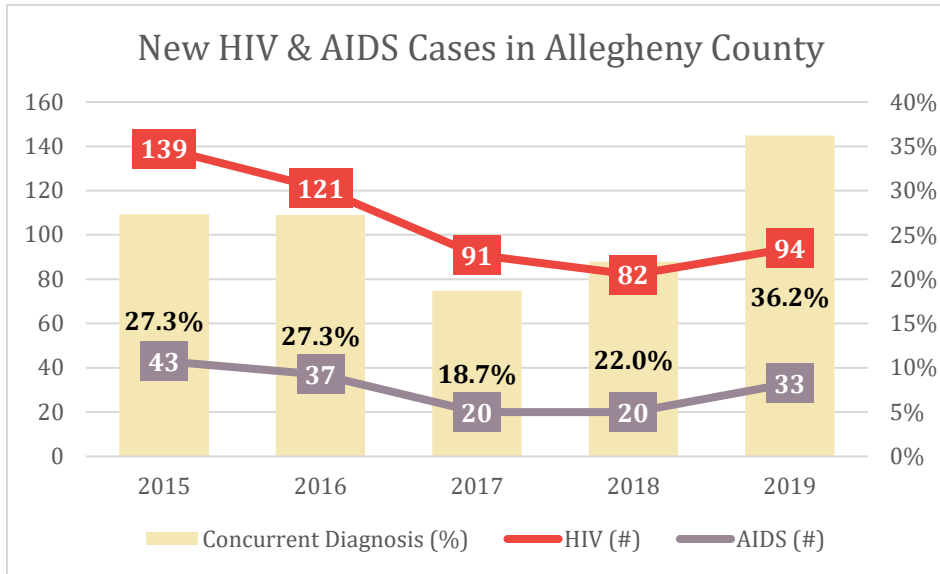


Strategic Plan



HIV/AIDS IN ALLEGHENY COUNTY

Progress to Date



New HIV and AIDS cases have declined in Allegheny County since AIDS Free Pittsburgh began in 2015. However, 2019 was the first year since the initiative launched that marked a slight uptick in new cases. The increase from 2018 to 2019 may be due to increased HIV screening and detection of cases that have long gone undiagnosed. AFP partners are working together to better understand what this data means. The higher rate of people being simultaneously diagnosed with HIV and AIDS indicates that more “late diagnoses” are being detected.

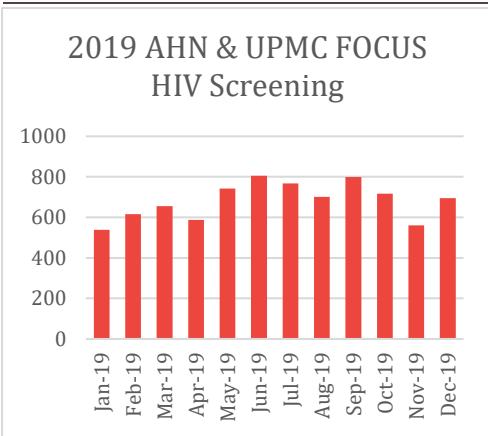
HIV Surveillance and Epidemiology Section - Bureau of Epidemiology | Pennsylvania Dept. of Health

Goal	What This Measures	Data Source	2015 (Baseline)	2019 (Year 4)	Trend
Reduce new HIV cases by 75%	Rate of HIV transmission in Allegheny County	PADOH Epi Data	139	94	↓
Eliminate new AIDS diagnoses	HIV detected earlier; people living with HIV are healthier	PADOH Epi Data	43	33	↓
Increase awareness of PrEP (Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis)	Community members' knowledge of PrEP	AFP PrEP Survey	27.1%*	66.2%	↑
Increase PrEP utilization to prevent HIV transmission	Number of health plan members starting PrEP	Health Plans/ Labs	631	1,434	↑
Increase the rate of routine HIV screening	Health plan members (%) with at least one HIV test during the calendar year	Health Plans/ Labs	3.2%	3.6%	↑
Increase the % of health plan members with at least one viral load test in the calendar year	Another way to measure retention in care among people living with HIV	Health Plans/ Labs	58.8%	61.1%	↑

*2016 data

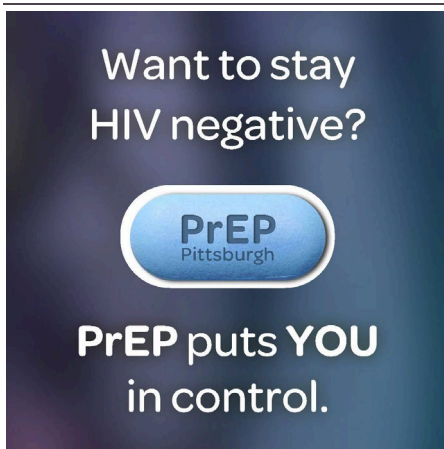
2019 ACTIVITIES & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Normalize Routine HIV Screening



- AIDS Free Pittsburgh partners conducted 15,087 HIV screenings and identified 53 new HIV cases through testing programs supported by the Pennsylvania Department of Health. This represents a 9.6% increase in HIV testing volume from 2018 to 2019.
- Allegheny Health Network and UPMC conducted a combined total of 8,185 HIV screenings and identified 16 people as HIV-positive (new cases and persons lost to care) through the expanded HIV screening efforts of the Gilead Science FOCUS Program.
- Convened a Community of Practice in May 2019 with 27 different clinical and administrative champions.
- Reached 2,800+ physicians with information about how stigma impacts routine HIV screening through targeted advertising in the Allegheny County Medical Society Bulletin.

Increase Access to PrEP for HIV Prevention



- Helped organize a PrEP Summit in collaboration with the Mid-Atlantic AIDS Education and Training Center which allowed 54 health professionals to learn more about engaging with and providing culturally competent PrEP care to key populations.
- Delivered 13 presentations about biomedical HIV prevention at medical clinics, community-based organizations, HIV awareness events, an HIV Planning Group Stakeholder Townhall, and more.
- Offered HIV prevention education and safer sex kits at 26 outreach events, reaching 2,000+ people.
- Provided PrEP education and navigation services at the ACHD STD/HIV clinic and via the AFP HIV PrEP Hotline to 200+ people.
- Connected 3,911 new users to the [PrEP Pittsburgh](#) website through advertising campaigns, resulting in 7,270 page views.

Standardize Early Linkage to Care



AHN staff Charlotte Mitchell and Katie Rubeo present their clinic's RAPID linkage to care model at the 2019 Fast-Track Cities Conference

- Supported implementation of RAPID linkage to care protocols in three HIV care clinics in Pittsburgh – the AHN Positive Health Clinic, Allies for Health + Wellbeing, and the UPMC PACT Clinic. All three clinics collaboratively developed standard performance measures and have committed to tracking and sharing these data on a regular basis to shorten the time it takes for patients to achieve durable viral load suppression. Preliminary data indicates:
 - 46.4 average number of days to achieve viral suppression
 - 89.7% of RAPID patients retained in care at one year
 - 95.8% of RAPID patients virally suppressed at one year
- Maintained an “HIV Care Options” resource sheet with versions for healthcare providers and community members to streamline referrals.

2019 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

2019 Expenditures

A total of \$364,019 in expenses were incurred to support AIDS Free Pittsburgh collective impact project activities during calendar year 2019. A carryover balance of \$34,139 is being used to support project costs during calendar year 2020.

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



March 2019: AIDS Free Pittsburgh received a “Partnership of Distinction” award from the University of Pittsburgh’s Senior Vice Chancellor for Engagement Dr. Kathy Humphrey. The award recognizes outstanding partnerships that are exemplars of community engagement.



June 2019: AIDS Free Pittsburgh coordinated “Too Hot for July” – a free HIV awareness community celebration featuring a health fair, free food, live music, and a vogue dance competition. Approximately 600 people attended the event and 40 people were tested for HIV and STIs.

Join us for this important webinar on
Monday, September 9th from 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm

“Primary care provider tools to end the HIV epidemic in Allegheny County”

Have you offered your patients an HIV test?

The CDC recommends that everyone between the ages of 13 - 64 be tested for HIV at least once. People at high risk should be tested more often. Early HIV diagnosis through routine testing leads to better health outcomes for people living with HIV and lower transmission rates.



Stuart Fisk, MSN, CRNP
Director, Center for Inclusion Health
Allegheny Health Network
Member, AIDS Free Pittsburgh

Routine HIV Testing



Dr. Ken Ho, MD, MPH
Assistant Professor of Medicine
Division of Infectious Diseases
Medical Director, Pitt Men's Study
Member, AIDS Free Pittsburgh

Prescribing PrEP
(pre-exposure prophylaxis)

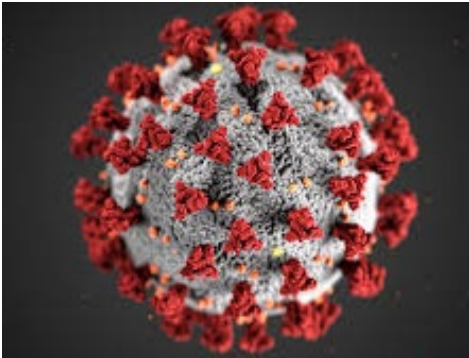
September 2019: AIDS Free Pittsburgh clinical advocates Stuart Fisk, CRNP and Ken Ho, MD organized a webinar to educate primary care providers about HIV screening & prevention.



December 2019: AIDS Free Pittsburgh members met with Pennsylvania Senator Pam Iovino to discuss opportunities to end the HIV epidemic in Allegheny County and beyond. This was part of a series of briefings scheduled with elected officials in Allegheny County.

LOOKING FORWARD

Impact of COVID-19



At the time of writing this report, Allegheny County and other jurisdictions across the country are grappling with how to maintain focus on ending the HIV/AIDS epidemic in the midst of addressing another epidemic – coronavirus disease (COVID-19). Healthcare providers, public health professionals, researchers, and countless other key stakeholders have been greatly impacted by the spread of COVID-19. While there have been some innovations such as increased adoption of telehealth services during the pandemic, it remains to be seen how COVID-19 will impact the rate of new HIV and AIDS cases in Allegheny County and other communities.

Ending the HIV/AIDS Epidemic in Pennsylvania



In April 2019, AIDS Free Pittsburgh representatives met with Pennsylvania Secretary of Health Dr. Rachel Levine and other staff from the Pennsylvania Department of Health to advocate for a statewide initiative to end the HIV/AIDS epidemic in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. This meeting was followed by a July 2019 Pittsburgh site visit with representatives from the department to further envision developing a statewide model. Since this time, it has been encouraging to see Philadelphia launch their plan to end HIV as one of the key jurisdictions eligible to participate in the federal Ending the HIV Epidemic (EHE) initiative. We look forward to opportunities for the entire Commonwealth to work together on a collective plan to end HIV/AIDS across Pennsylvania.

Policy Opportunities for Ending the Epidemic

Are YOU in control?

PrEP One pill a day to prevent HIV.

Together we can stop HIV in Pittsburgh.

preppgh.com Text: 412-773-1120

As the AIDS Free Pittsburgh initiative continues its work in 2020 and plans for a second five-year project phase (2021-2025), there will likely be an increased focus on local and statewide advocacy to help end the HIV/AIDS epidemic. Key policy opportunities to advance collective “ending the epidemic” goals include:

- **Sex Education:** Implement quality, comprehensive sexual health education in schools. Planned Parenthood of Western PA and other members of the [Black Girls Equity Alliance](#) are currently advocating for these changes in Allegheny County.
- **Drug User Health:** Legalize syringe service programs (SSPs) and decriminalize syringe/works possession. There is active [policy work](#) and advocacy happening right now with harm reduction advocates and elected officials to implement these legislative changes at the state level in Pennsylvania.
- **Support Biomedical HIV Prevention:** Establish assistance program to support PrEP-related medical out-of-pocket costs and medication access for persons who don't qualify for existing patient support programs; [require insurance coverage for PrEP and PEP.](#)