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AN ALLEGHENY COUNTY INITIATIVE

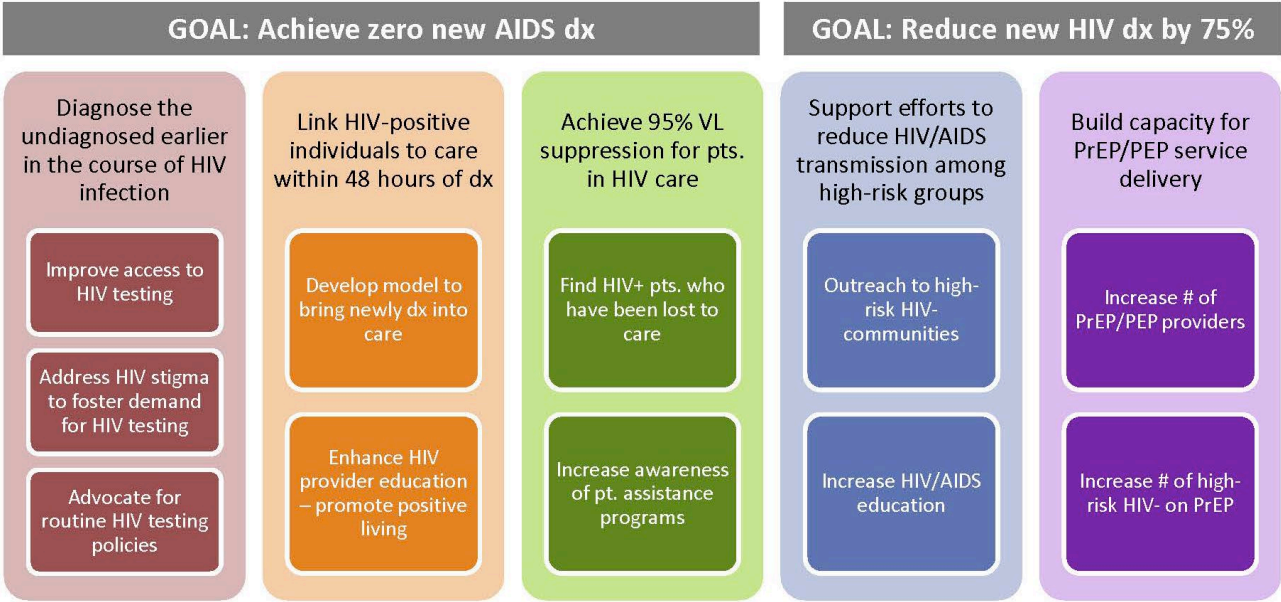
# 2020 Annual Report

***MISSION.** Our mission is to achieve an AIDS-free county and reduce the rate of new HIV infections by 75% by 2030.*

***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.*

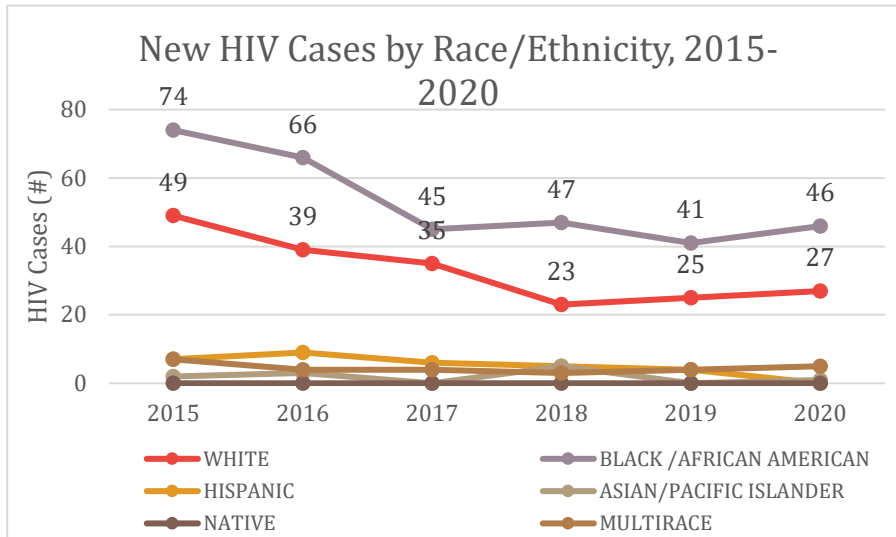
# ABOUT US

## Partners



# HIV/AIDS IN ALLEGHENY COUNTY

## Progress to Date



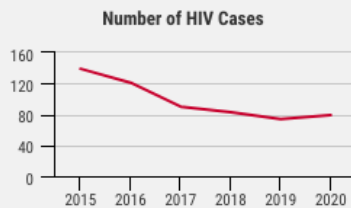
Since AIDS Free Pittsburgh started in 2015, there has been a 43% decrease in new HIV cases in Allegheny County. In 2020, only 79 new cases of HIV were reported. As this figure shows, there are racial disparities in the number of people newly diagnosed with HIV, with more diagnoses among Black / African Americans each year than any other race. AFP partners are using this data to support meaningful engagement with communities of color and other key populations impacted by HIV in Allegheny County.

*HIV Surveillance and Epidemiology Section - Bureau of Epidemiology | Pennsylvania Dept. of Health. Note: In 2020, PADOH retroactively revised HIV data sets by 1) removing all foreign-borne HIV cases and 2) adjusting HIV case counts based on improvements in geocoding.*

### CASES

#### 79 new HIV cases in 2020:

- 21 concurrently diagnosed with AIDS
- 43% 20-29 years old and 58% Black individuals
- 62% men who have sex with men

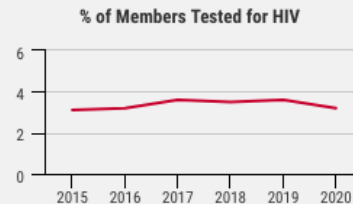


**43% decrease** in annual HIV cases from 2015 to 2020

### SCREENING

#### According to local 2020 Health Plan data:

- 3% of members received an HIV screening test
- Black individuals were tested at a rate of approximately 1.7 times that of whites

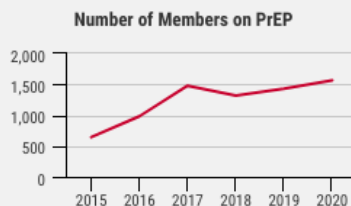


**0.1% increase** in HIV testing from 2015 to 2020

### PREVENTION

#### According to local 2020 Health Plan data:

- 1,567 members filled a PrEP prescription
- For every 1 member living with HIV, 0.71 members filled a PrEP prescription

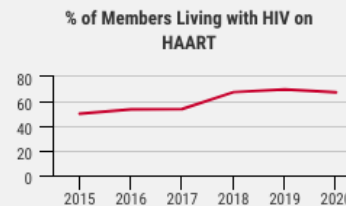


**144% increase** in PrEP use from 2015 to 2020

### RETENTION IN CARE

#### According to local 2020 Health Plan data:

- 54% of members living with HIV received a viral load test
- 67% of members living with HIV filled a HAART prescription



**17% increase** in PLWH on HAART from 2015 to 2020

# 2020 ACTIVITIES & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

## Normalize Routine HIV Screening



- Received a [\\$125,000 grant from the Highmark Foundation](#) to support normalizing HIV testing via community ad campaigns and mini grant projects to be implemented in 2021 and 2022.
- AIDS Free Pittsburgh partners conducted more than 10,613 HIV tests and identified 36 new HIV cases through testing programs supported by the Pennsylvania Department of Health.
- Allegheny Health Network and UPMC conducted a combined total of 5,021 HIV screenings and identified 32 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 February 2020 with 40 different clinical and administrative champions and representatives from the Pennsylvania Department of Health. Reached an estimated 2,800 physicians with information about Ryan White services for low-to-moderate income individuals living with HIV through targeted advertising in the [Allegheny County Medical Society Bulletin](#) (see page 24).
- Connected 14,825 new users to the [AIDS Free Pittsburgh](#) website through advertising campaigns for more resources about HIV testing, PrEP, and living with HIV, resulting in 17,598 page views.

## Increase Access to PrEP (and other HIV Prevention Resources)



- Collaborated with AFP partners to host 10 HIV-related educational events for community members and providers (e.g., National HIV Testing and Awareness Day events, provider office visits).
- Educated ~500 people about PrEP and linked 5 people to PrEP via Project Silk's Telemedicine Pilot Project.
- Provided HIV testing, PrEP, and PEP navigation services to 27 individuals via AFP's HIV Prevention Hotline.
- Hosted a [1-hour virtual training with HealthHIV](#) and created a list of [national, state, and local resources](#) to support PrEP education and navigation throughout the county.
- Partnered with the Pitt Health Law Clinic to review the Pennsylvania Minors Consent Act as it relates to PrEP and identify future pathways for parent, provider, and policymaker [education](#).
- Updated the [PrEP Toolkit for Providers](#) with information about PrEP for minors, Descovy, PrEP 2-1-1, and new providers in the region.
- Connected 4,627 new users to the [PrEP Pittsburgh](#) website through advertising campaigns to learn more about PrEP and PEP, resulting in 5,422 page views.

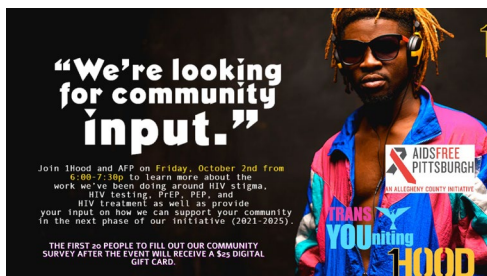
# 2020 ACTIVITIES & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

## Standardize Early Linkage to Care



- 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. Data indicate:
  - 35 = median number of days to achieve viral suppression
  - 82.0% of RAPID patients retained in care at one year
  - 71.4% 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.

## Strategic Planning for Phase II of AIDS Free Pittsburgh



- Engaged [New Sun Rising](#) to support AFP in planning for the second phase of this initiative (2021-2025). NSR help AFP to facilitate conversations with AFP partners about future goals and strategies to reduce new cases of HIV and support people living with HIV in Allegheny County as well as identify opportunities for putting our [antiracism statement](#) (published in June/July 2020) into action.
- Partnered with Shepherd Wellness Community, Project Silk, 1Hood Media, and TransYOUuniting to host three virtual community engagement sessions to better understand how AFP can serve key communities in its second phase.



- Reached over 100 AFP partners and community members through a virtual survey aiming to collect feedback on AFP’s current strategies and future opportunities.
- Scheduled a one-hour [webinar](#) and one-hour follow-up technical assistance call (resulting in this [FAQ](#)) with subject matter experts from the NYC DOH Capacity Building Assistance Team to learn more about how NYC was able to achieve their 90-90-90 goals ahead of schedule and how officials from NY State and NYC synergized their efforts to end the HIV epidemic locally and statewide.

# 2020 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

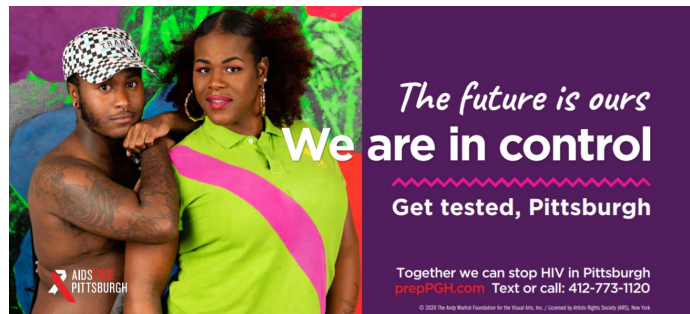
## 2020 Expenditures

A total of \$326,474 in expenses were incurred to support AIDS Free Pittsburgh collective impact project activities during calendar year 2020. A carryover balance of \$9,454 was used to support project costs during calendar year 2021.

Below are a few snapshots of AIDS Free Pittsburgh funding in action throughout the year. The committed funds have enabled AFP 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, despite challenges brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic. To all of those involved: We appreciate you and your commitment to this initiative!



**February 2020:** AFP hosted a two-part Community of Practice focused on HIV surveillance and routine testing in the morning and focused on providing equitable HIV prevention and care to diverse communities in the afternoon.



**May 2020:** AFP launched a [new ad campaign](#) utilizing approved artwork from the Andy Warhol Museum as backdrops. Ads were distributed on social media and dating apps as well as buses and billboards around Allegheny County.



**August 2020:** AFP partnered with True T PGH to host three virtual events for [Too Hot for July](#) – an HIV Mini Conference, a Queer State of the Union, and a Quarantine Ball – to raise HIV awareness, advocate for Black and queer communities, and create space for community celebration. These events had more than 6,000 viewers.



**December 2020:** Project Silk reported out on their PrEP Telemedicine Pilot Project, which was funded by AFP. These funds enabled them to educate ~500 individuals about PrEP through thoughtful discussion and artistic expression at Silky Thursdays, Sex Positivity Parties, and Art Shows as well as link 5 individuals to PrEP while providing financial support as needed.

# LOOKING FORWARD

## Ending the HIV/AIDS Epidemic in Pennsylvania



- In December 2019, the US Department of Health and Human Services launched the [Ready, Set, PrEP program](#), which provides free PrEP to those who are eligible for PrEP and don't have health insurance coverage for prescription drugs.
- The PA Expanded HIV Testing Initiative at Penn State University and the HIV Prevention and Care Project at the University of Pittsburgh launched a [free, at-home HIV testing program](#), to increase access to HIV testing in PA.
- In October 2020, an [amendment to the PA HIV reporting regulations](#) was published in the PA Bulletin mandating reporting of all CD4 T-lymphocyte, viral load, and genotype testing results associated with HIV to PADOH. This amendment will help to ensure that people living with HIV are engaged in care and virally suppressed, improve HIV surveillance efforts across the state, and bring the Commonwealth in line with national standards.

## 2021 Plans



We would like to thank AHN and UPMC for agreeing to fund a second phase of AIDS Free Pittsburgh! We would also like to thank the Highmark Foundation for providing us with a generous grant to support normalizing HIV testing via community ad campaigns and mini grant projects over the next two years.

Here's what to expect from AFP in 2021:

- Hiring a DEI consultant to help finalize the Phase II Strategic Plan
- Pursuing grants to support meaningful community engagement
- Planning additional outreach to providers and elected officials
- Advocating for Pittsburgh to join Fast-Track Cities
- Creating a longitudinal survey to better assess the impact of AFP
- Submitting an article to an academic journal that chronicles the origins of AFP, goals and strategies, and lessons learned for others who may want to construct a similar project.

## Be the Change You Wish to See in Your Community!



Interested in joining AIDS Free Pittsburgh? Have suggestions for what we could be doing to better serve your community? Call 412-586-6706 or email [info@aidsfreepittsburgh.org](mailto:info@aidsfreepittsburgh.org)!

- For periodic updates, join our [email list](#)
- For upcoming meetings and events, view our [calendar](#)
- Don't forget to like and follow us on social media as well!
  - Facebook: [@AIDSFreePittsburgh](#)
  - Twitter: [@AIDSfreePgh](#)
  - Instagram: [aids.free.pgh](#)