

AIDS Free Pittsburgh
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AN ALLEGHENY COUNTY INITIATIVE

2021 Annual Report

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

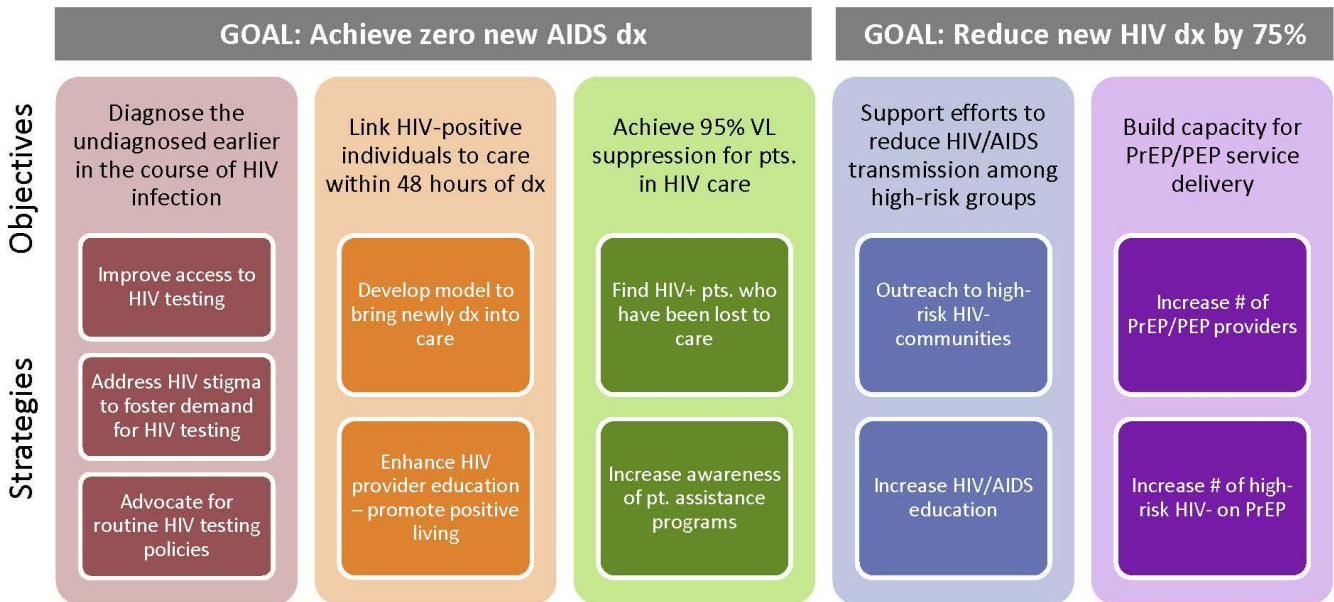
***VISION.** We envision a community where new HIV infections are rare, people living with HIV receive the care they need, and young people can grow up in a world without AIDS.*

ABOUT US

AIDS Free Pittsburgh Partners

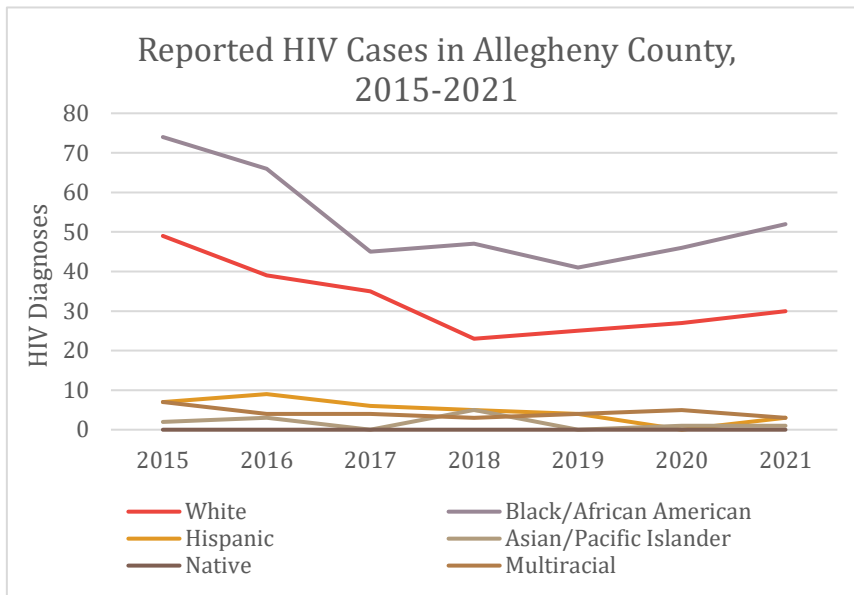


Strategic Plan (2015-2021)



HIV/AIDS IN ALLEGHENY COUNTY

Progress to Date



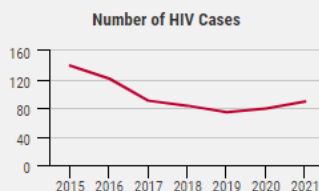
Since AIDS Free Pittsburgh started in 2015, there has been a 36% decrease in new HIV cases in Allegheny County. In 2021, 89 new cases of HIV were reported. As the figures on this page show, there are substantial racial disparities in the number of people on PrEP and the number of people newly diagnosed with HIV. Notably, there are 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.

Source: Allegheny County Health Department and Pennsylvania Department of Health, 2022. **Note:** Starting in 2019, HIV cases previously diagnosed in a foreign country were no longer reported as new cases in Allegheny County. HIV case counts are also continually adjusted based on improvements in geocoding.

CASES

89 new HIV cases in 2021:

- 24 concurrently diagnosed with AIDS
- 38% 25-34 years old and 58% Black individuals
- 62% men who have sex with men

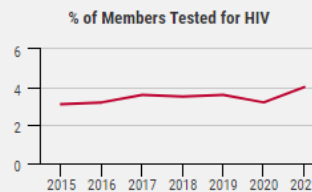


36% decrease in annual HIV cases from 2015 to 2021

SCREENING

According to local 2021 Health Plan data:

- 4% of members received an HIV screening test
- Black individuals were tested at a rate of approximately 1.7 times that of whites



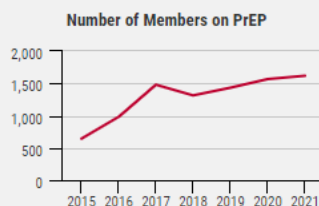
0.9% increase in HIV testing from 2015 to 2021

PREVENTION

According to local 2021 Health Plan data:

- 1,619 members filled a PrEP prescription
- 58% of those who filled a PrEP prescription were white, 27% were Black

152% increase in PrEP use from 2015 to 2021

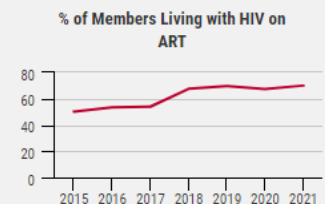


RETENTION IN CARE

According to local 2021 Health Plan data:

- 61% of members living with HIV received a viral load test
- 70% of members living with HIV filled an ART prescription

20% increase in PLWH on ART from 2015 to 2021



2021 ACTIVITIES & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Normalize Routine HIV Screening



- AFP partners conducted ~13,676 HIV tests and identified 35 new HIV cases through testing programs supported by the Pennsylvania Department of Health. An additional 162 free, at-home HIV test kits were also distributed to Allegheny County residents. Click [here](#) to order your free, at-home HIV test!
- AFP awarded HIV testing mini grants to Allies for Health + Wellbeing, Planned Parenthood, Project Silk, and the UPMC St. Margaret Family Medicine Residency Program. In six months, these agencies conducted ~979 HIV tests. Additionally, they reached 8 people who had never been tested for HIV before, treated multiple cases of syphilis and hepatitis C, and linked 11 people to PrEP. Click [here](#) for a sneak peek at results from 2021 & 2022 mini grant projects.
- AFP facilitated a Community of Practice event in September, which allowed ~25 clinical, administrative, and community champions from organizations in and around Allegheny County to network, discuss lessons learned during the COVID-19 pandemic, and learn about advances in HIV testing, prevention, and treatment.
- 21,645 new users were connected to the [AIDS Free Pittsburgh](#) website for more resources about HIV testing, PrEP, and living with HIV through advertising campaigns, resulting in 25,879 page views.

Increase Access to PrEP (and other HIV Prevention Resources)



- Collaborated with AFP partners to host 7 HIV-related educational events for community members and providers (e.g., Pennsylvania PrEP Institute, National HIV Testing and Awareness Day events, and HIV updates at provider offices).
- Provided HIV testing, PrEP, and PEP navigation services to 31 individuals via AFP's HIV Prevention Hotline.
- Signed a PrEP advocacy letter written by HealthHIV and the National Coalition for LGBT Health in opposition to public/private payors restricting access to PrEP options in light of the [USPSTF Grade A Recommendation](#).
- Reached out to Senator Muth to express support for [SB667](#) and [SB668](#), which would require insurances to cover PrEP and PEP.
- Reached out to Senator Ward to express support for [SB196](#), which would prohibit cost-sharing/co-pay accumulators in PA.
- Partnered with the Reproductive Bridges Coalition and Center for Women's Health Research and Innovation to support an EOB Suppression Bill ([HB1654](#)), introduced by Rep. Krajewski.

2021 ACTIVITIES & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Standardize Early Linkage to Care



- Continued to support 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 viral load suppression.
- RAPID linkage to care data collected in 2021 indicate the following:
 - 6 = median number of days from diagnosis to starting ART
 - 34 = median number of days to achieve viral suppression
 - 82% of RAPID patients were retained in care at one year
 - 71% of RAPID patients were virally suppressed at one year
- Maintained an [HIV Care Options Guide](#) for healthcare providers and community members to streamline referrals.

Strategic Planning with Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in Mind



- In 2020, AFP hired [New Sun Rising](#) to help plan for a second phase of this initiative. NSR helped 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. Click here to see the final deliverable: [AFP strategic planning report](#).
- One of NSR's recommendations was to hire a diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) consultant who could help guide AFP as it strives to become a more diverse, equitable, and inclusive collective.
- In August 2021, AFP hired [EnterChange Group](#) to provide DEI-related consultation. EnterChange Group kicked off this new collaboration by facilitating two DEI trainings for AFP partners:
 - [DEI Foundations Training](#)
 - [Building Safer Spaces Training](#)
- AFP also submitted a \$50,000 [proposal](#) to Pitt's Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute in an effort to increase diversity within the collective and facilitate opportunities for meaningful, long-term engagement with key communities.



2021 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

2021 Expenditures

A total of \$226,613.51 in expenses were incurred to support AIDS Free Pittsburgh collective impact project activities during calendar year 2021. A carryover balance of \$73,386.49 was used to support project costs during calendar year 2022.

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, continuing education events, community outreach initiatives, and HIV/AIDS awareness media campaigns focused on ending the HIV/AIDS epidemic in Allegheny County. To all of those involved: We appreciate you and your commitment to this initiative!



Embracing Partnerships and Social Media & Marketing

Virtual Workshop for Allegheny County



January 2021: Representatives from ACHD, NYC DOH, Allies for Health + Wellbeing, and AFP shared their experiences partnering with key communities and utilizing social media and marketing for sexual health messaging and promotion during this virtual workshop.



June 2021: AFP awarded HIV testing mini grants to Allies for Health + Wellbeing, Planned Parenthood of Western PA, Project Silk, and the UPMC St. Margaret Family Medicine Residency Program in order to increase access to HIV testing in healthcare- and community-based settings.



August 2021: AFP hired Sarah Hansen (left) & Amanda Neatrour (right) from the EnterChange Group to help guide AFP as it strives to become a more diverse, equitable, and inclusive collective.



November 2021: The City of Pittsburgh formally signed on to an international initiative called "Fast-Track Cities," which is committed to ending the HIV epidemic by 2030.

LOOKING FORWARD

Plans for 2022



We would like to thank AHN and UPMC for agreeing to fund the 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 in 2021 and 2022.

Here's what to expect from AFP in 2022:

- Updating AFP's Strategic Plan to include DEI priorities
- Finalizing AFP's Phase II data metrics
- Exploring collaborations with health professional associations and local FQHCs for provider education
- Awarding additional HIV testing mini grants
- Hosting a Fast-Track Cities Implementation Workshop
- Hosting Too Hot for July (live and in-person!)
- Launching a regional AFP & Ryan White media campaign

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 412-773-1120 or email 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](#)