



AN ALLEGHENY COUNTY INITIATIVE

2022-2023 ANNUAL REPORT

ABOUT US

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.

AIDS Free Pittsburgh (AFP) is a public health movement to end the AIDS epidemic in Allegheny County by 2030. AIDS Free Pittsburgh is a collaborative initiative comprised of government agencies, healthcare institutions, and community-based organizations that strive to support and improve the care of people living with HIV/AIDS, as well as communities most at-risk for HIV. AIDS Free Pittsburgh does not provide services directly, but rather works to raise awareness and build collaboration among community stakeholders.





AIDS FREE PITTSBURGH PARTNERS

AIDS FREE PITTSBURGH IS FINANCIALLY SUPPORTED BY THE ALLEGHENY SINGER RESEARCH INSTITUTE (AHN), UPMC PRESBYTERIAN SHADYSIDE, AND IS MANAGED BY THE JEWISH HEALTHCARE FOUNDATION.

Strategic Plan (2015-2025)



GOAL: Achieve zero new AIDS diagnoses

GOAL: Reduce new HIV diagnosis by 75%

Objectives

Diagnose the undiagnosed earlier in the course of HIV infection

Link individuals with a positive HIV test to care within 48 hours of diagnosis

Achieve 95% viral load suppression for patients in HIV care

Support efforts to reduce HIV transmission among key populations

Build capacity for pre and post-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP and PEP) delivery

Strategies

Improve access to HIV testing

Develop model to bring newly diagnosed into care

Find people living with HIV who have been lost to care and link them to care

Outreach to communities most impacted by HIV

Increase number of PrEP and PEP providers

Address HIV stigma to foster demand for HIV testing

Enhance HIV provider education to promote positive living

Increase awareness of patient assistance programs

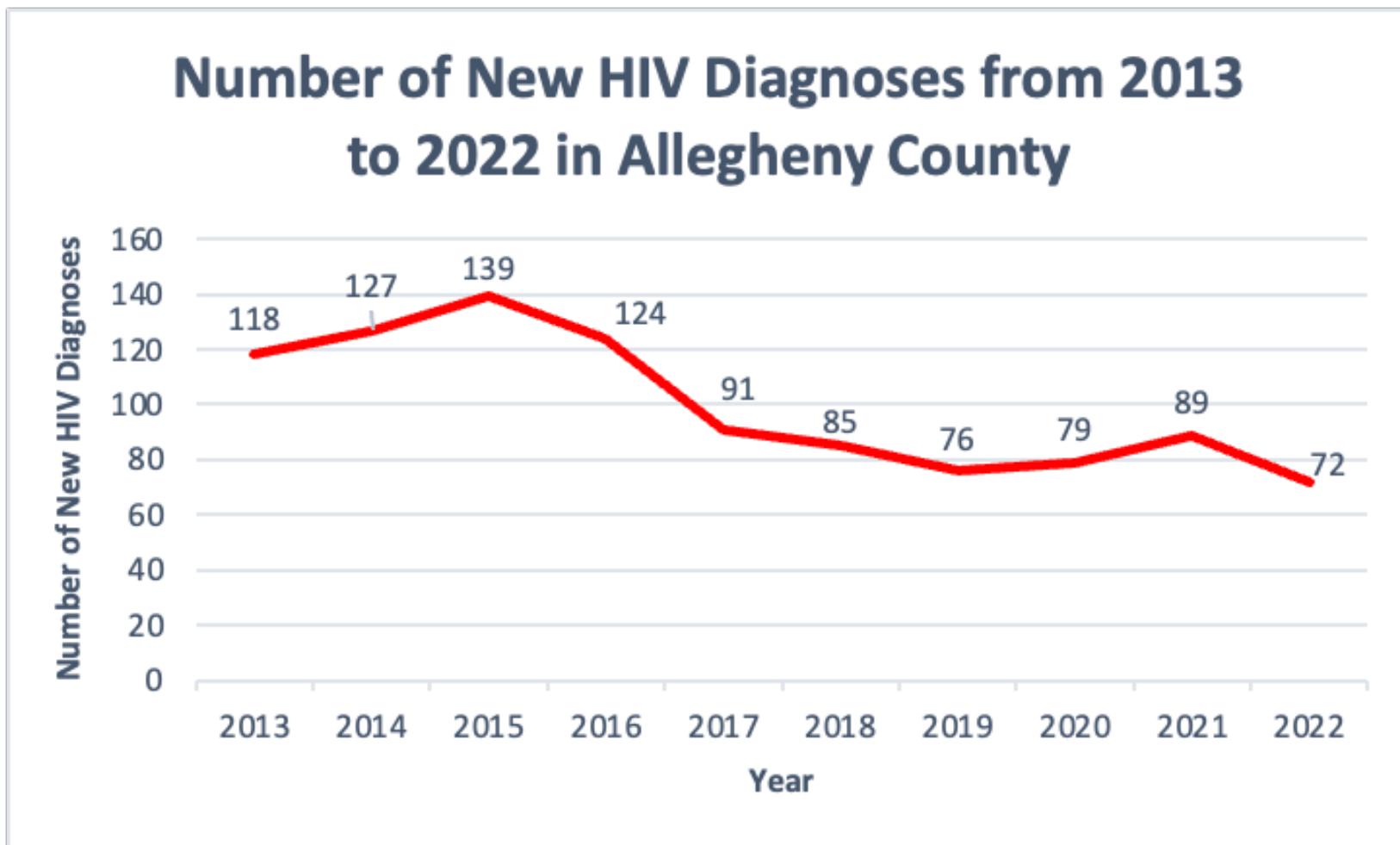
Increase HIV education

Increase number of people on PrEP and PEP among key populations

AIDS Free Pittsburgh strives for increasing linkage to care, reducing transmission, and increasing PrEP/PEP awareness and delivery. To meet these goals and follow through on strategies, AFP is expanding HIV prevention and support service awareness and is engaging with the community to understand their changing needs.

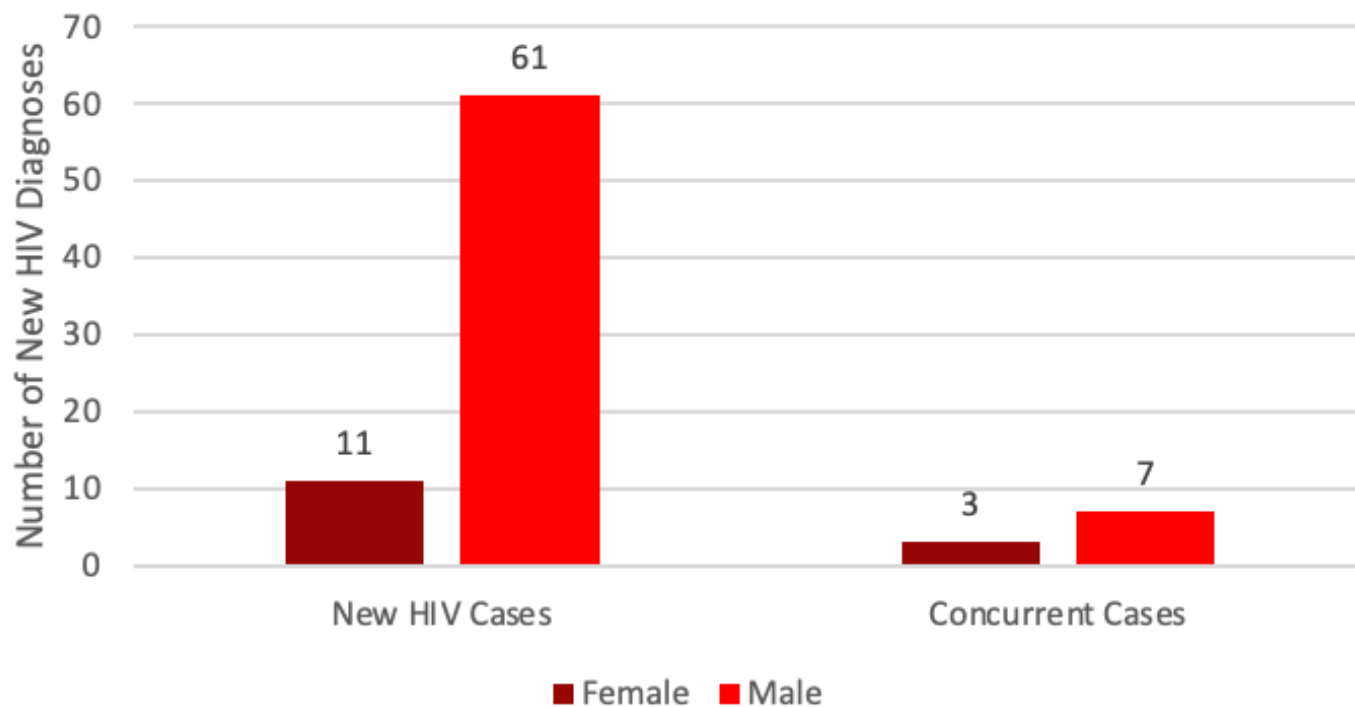
Progress to Date from 2013 to 2022

Since 2013, there has been a decrease in new HIV cases by 39%. In 2022, there were 72 new HIV diagnoses in Allegheny County. This is a decrease in cases from 2021, where there were 89 new HIV cases in the county. AFP continues to use data to action strategies with intentional partnerships to make a positive impact on diagnosis rates, diagnosis access, and HIV support.



New HIV Cases in Allegheny County by Sex Assigned at Birth in 2022

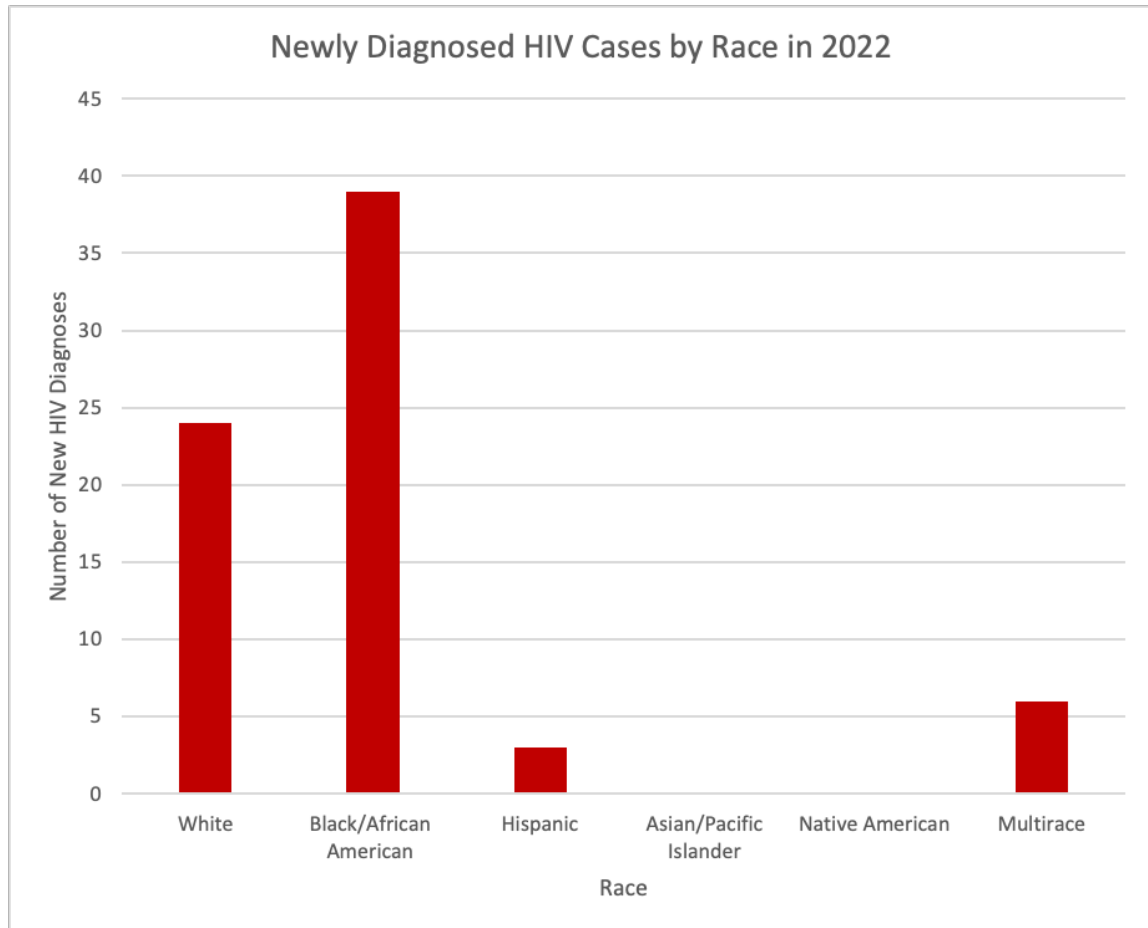
Newly Diagnosed HIV Cases by Sex



Sex	Newly Diagnosed Cases (%)
Total	72
Female	11 (15%)
Male	61 (84%)

Males continually represent more new HIV diagnoses compared to females.

New HIV Cases in Allegheny County by Race in 2022

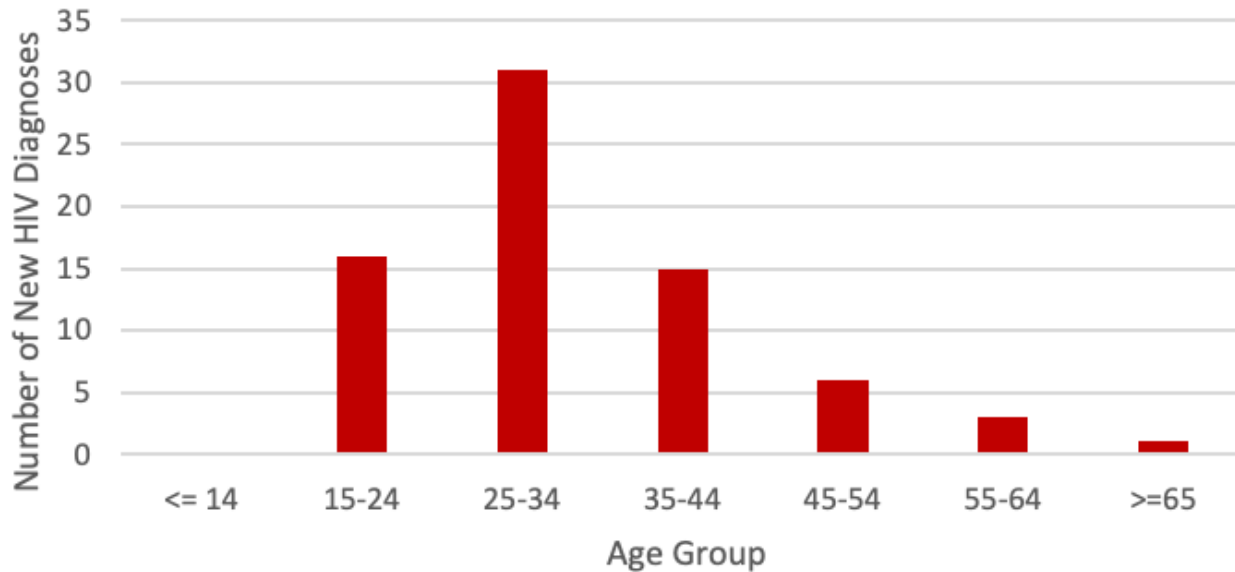


Race	New HIV Cases (%)
Total	72
White	24 (33%)
Black/African American	39 (54%)
Hispanic	3 (4%)
Asian/Pacific Islander	0 (0%)
Native American	0 (0%)
Multi-race	6 (8%)

Racial disparities on new HIV diagnoses continue to persist in Black/African American communities. Black individuals had an incidence rate of HIV diagnoses 10 times higher than White individuals in 2022.

New HIV Cases in Allegheny County by Age Group in 2022

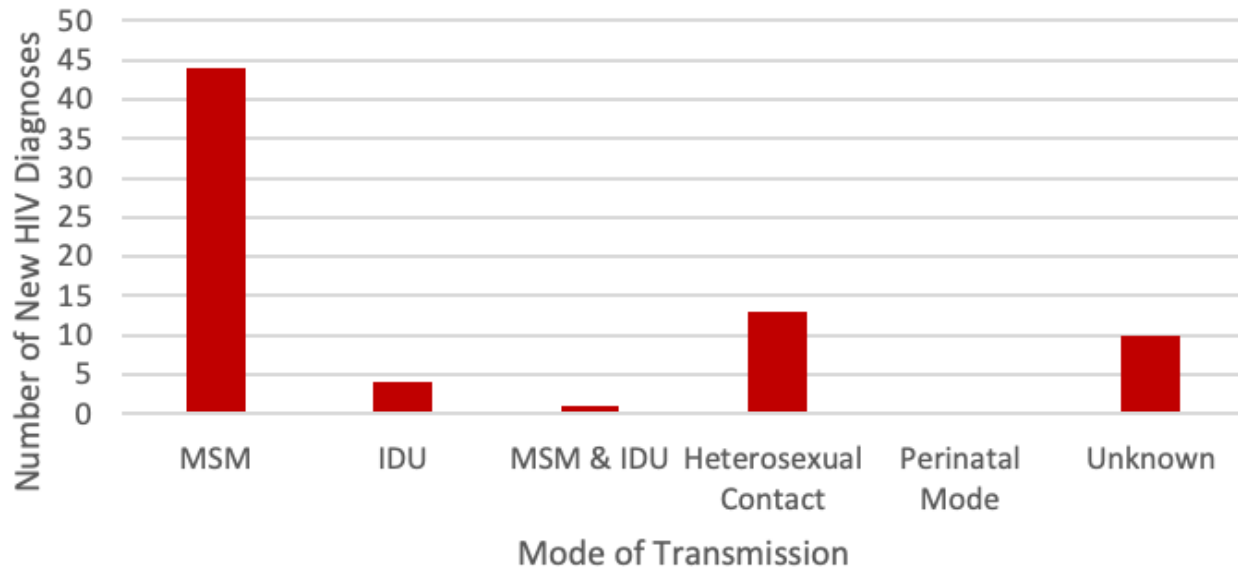
Newly Diagnosed HIV Cases by Age Group in 2022



Age Group	New HIV Cases (%)
Total	72
<= 14	0 (0%)
15-24	16 (22%)
25-34	31 (43%)
35-44	15 (21%)
45-54	6 (8%)
55-64	3 (4%)
>=65	1 (1%)

New HIV Cases in Allegheny County by Mode of Transmission in 2022

Newly Diagnosed HIV Cases by Mode of Transmission



Mode of Transmission	New HIV Cases (%)
Total	72
MSM	44 (61%)
IDU	4 (6%)
MSM & IDU	1 (1%)
Heterosexual Contact	13 (18%)
Perinatal Mode	0 (0%)
Unknown	10 (14%)

Compared to previous years, unknown transmission risk (14%) is representative of a higher percentage of new HIV diagnoses.

Concurrent Diagnoses in Allegheny County in 2022

Concurrent cases receive a diagnosis of AIDS within 90 days after an initial HIV diagnosis. Of new HIV diagnoses in 2022, 10 (14%) were concurrent diagnoses, which is the lowest in prior years.

Sex	Concurrent Cases
Total	10
Female	3
Male	7

Race	Concurrent Cases
Total	10
White	1
Black/African American	6
Multi-race	3

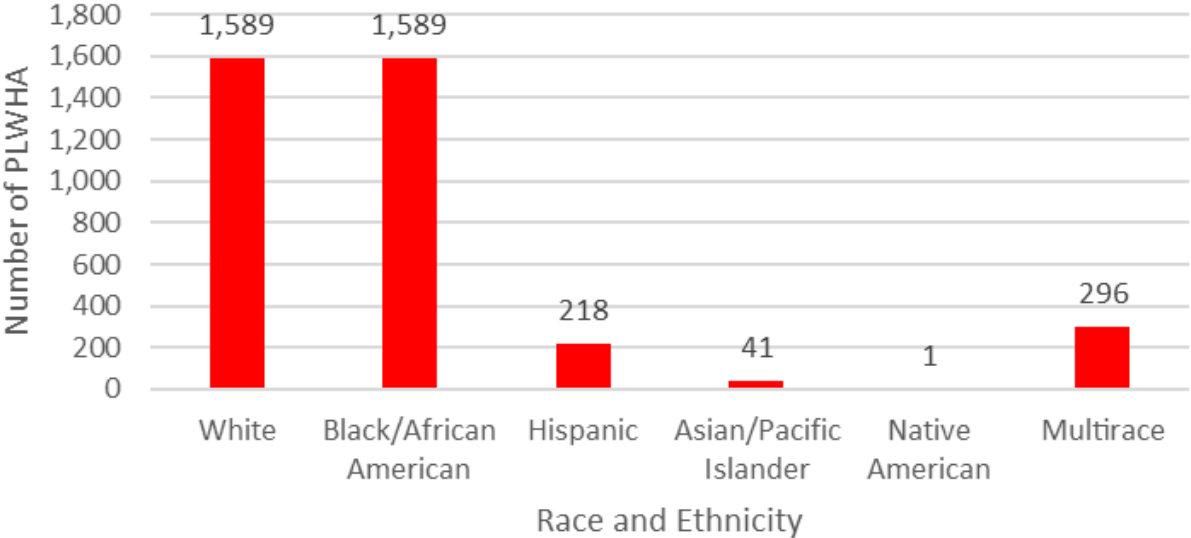
Age Group	Concurrent Cases
Total	10
15-24	2
25-34	4
35-44	3
45-54	1

Risk Factor	Concurrent Cases
Total	10
MSM	4
IDU	1
Heterosexual Contact	3
Unknown	2

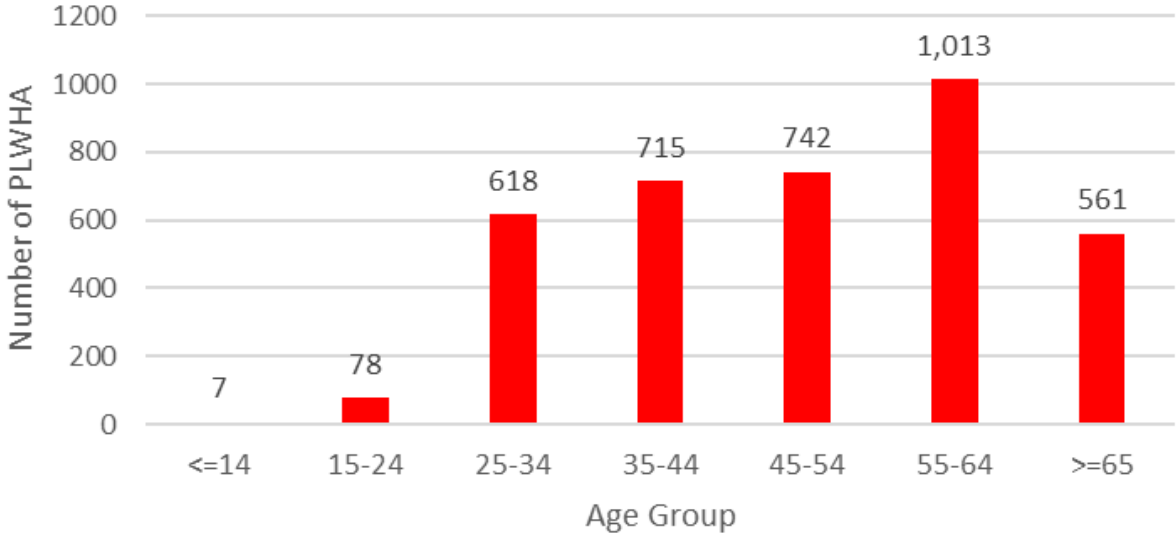
Total Numbers of PLWHA in Allegheny County by Demographic Characteristic in 2022

In 2022, there were 3,734 people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) in Allegheny County. Of those PLWHA in Allegheny County, 3,045 were males and 689 were females (sex assigned at birth).

PLWHA in Allegheny County by Race and Ethnicity in 2022



PLWHA in Allegheny County by Age Group in 2022



Three Strategies To End the Epidemic



Normalize HIV Testing – Increase the rate of routine screening for HIV/AIDS in medical settings in accordance with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the United States Preventive Services Task Force guidelines.



Increase Access to PrEP - Increase awareness of Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) in the community and build capacity for healthcare providers to identify eligible patients and prescribe PrEP.



Improve Linkage to Care - Use established relationships within the medical community to ensure that people diagnosed with HIV are quickly linked to high-quality care, facilitating faster treatment for those who need it.

2023 Activities and Accomplishments



AFP Provider Resources

The ***HIV Care Options in Allegheny County: a guide to clinics, providers, and the healthcare coverage they accept*** continues to be updated and available on the provider resources page of the website.



In November of 2023, AFP and partners launched a **Dear Colleague letter campaign** in advance of World AIDS Day encouraging general providers, OB/GYNs, and plasma centers to join in on the commitment to end the HIV epidemic.

WORLD AIDS DAY Dear Colleague,

December 1 is World AIDS Day, a day to renew our commitment to improving the lives of people with HIV and ensuring equitable access to prevention services. **With the upcoming 2023 World AIDS Day, we ask you to partner with us to end the HIV epidemic in Allegheny County.**

Today, people with HIV can live long, healthy lives thanks to improved treatment. Plus, powerful prevention tools – including pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) – can practically eliminate transmission. Yet, despite these successes, **progress has slowed** and for too many people in Allegheny County still are not benefiting equally from HIV prevention and care. In 2022, there were **72 new diagnoses** in Allegheny County and approximately 1 in 7 of these were late diagnoses (i.e., diagnosed with AIDS within 90 days of HIV diagnosis).

AIDS Free Pittsburgh is a public health movement committed to ending the HIV epidemic in Allegheny County by 2030. **AIDS Free Pittsburgh asks that this World AIDS Day you and your clinic commit to:**

1. **Normalizing routine HIV testing:** It is recommended everyone receive a test in their lifetime, and for many more frequently. If testing is not available at your clinic, you can refer to other locations.
2. **Increasing access to PrEP:** Identifying eligible individuals and prescribing PrEP (pill or injection) is key to prevention. If your clinic does not prescribe PrEP, you can refer patients to other locations.
3. **Improving linkage to care:** Efficiently linking individuals who test positive to treatment (ideally within 24-48 hours) ensures better health outcomes and faster times to viral suppression.

AIDS Free Pittsburgh provides support to local clinics to help with your HIV prevention efforts. AIDS Free Pittsburgh offers the following:

1. **Lunch and Learns:** We provide information on testing, prevention, and care to your clinic staff.
2. **Care Options Guide:** Local clinics have "RAPID" phone numbers if somebody tests positive, which bypass central scheduling to ensure patients start treatment immediately (see Resources).
3. **PrEP Toolkit for Providers:** AIDS Free Pittsburgh has developed a guide to assist with prescribing PrEP (see Resources).
4. **Patient Resources for Your Clinic:** We have included a sample of these. Contact us to request more for your clinic free of charge.
5. **Linkage to Ryan White Program:** For individuals with HIV and an income ≤\$500% of the Federal Poverty Level, medical/support services are available. Contact us for assistance referring patients.

Contact AIDS Free Pittsburgh at info@aidsfreepittsburgh.org or 412-773-1120.

Your partnership is key to ending the HIV epidemic. Thank you for recommitting to this effort on this World AIDS Day and for all that you do to ensure the wellbeing of residents in southwestern Pennsylvania.

Sincerely,


Kelli Wilkinson
AIDS Free Pittsburgh
Project Manager


Richard Smith
Project Director, HIV/AIDS Team,
Healthcare Foundation
AIDS Free Pittsburgh
Allegheny Group Co-Chair




Sean DeYoung
Chief Executive Officer,
Allegheny Health & Wellness
AIDS Free Pittsburgh
Allegheny Group Co-Chair


Dr. Barbara Nightingale
Deputy Director for Clinical
Services, Allegheny County
Health Department

Resources

AIDS Free Pittsburgh

- Website: aidsfreepittsburgh.org
 - This webpage includes a searchable map to look for testing, PrEP, and care providers by zip code
 - If you would like a clinic added to this map, please email info@aidsfreepittsburgh.org or call 412-773-1120
- Provider Resources
- PrEP Toolkit for Providers
- HIV Care Options Guide

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

- General HIV Information: www.cdc.gov/hiv
- HIV Information for Healthcare Professionals
- How to Talk to Patients about HIV Testing
- Resources for People with HIV
- Prevention and PrEP
- Testing
- Status Neutral Approach
- HIV and Mpox

Allegheny County Health Department

- HIV Summaries
- HIV Information
- PrEP Information
- Public Health Clinic (STI/HIV)

Pennsylvania Department of Health

- HIV Services
- HIV Surveillance Data

Ryan White Program

- Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program
- Clinical Care Guidelines and Resources

MidAtlantic AIDS Education and Training Center

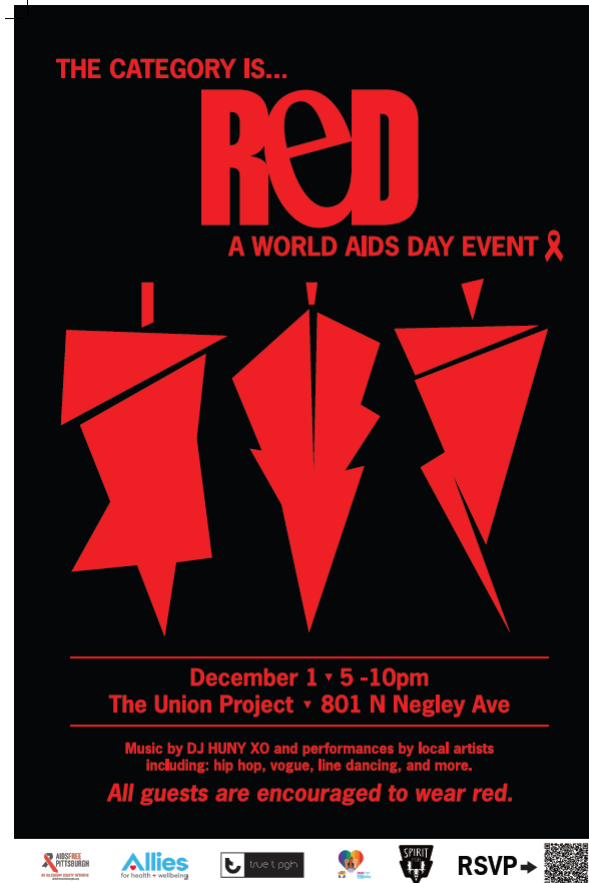
- Training Center
- Clinical Tools and Resources
- Archived Trainings



Scan the QR below for the digital Resource page



AIDS Free Pittsburgh Events



Too Hot for July, AFPs annual biomedical HIV Awareness event, was held for the 5th time on June 1, 2023, at 6600 Hamilton Avenue. Over 1,500 people were present at this free to the public block party celebrating advancements in prevention and treatment that can end the epidemic. The event included free HIV and STI testing, information from collaborative members, and performances from local artists and nationally known headliner, Dreamdoll.

On December 1, 2023, AFP hosted **The Category is...Red: A World AIDS Day** event at the Union Project in the Highland Park neighborhood of Pittsburgh. Over 130 people attended to commemorate those lost to HIV/AIDS and to celebrate the advancements in prevention and care that can end the HIV/AIDS epidemic. All guests were encouraged to wear red attire with an award for the Best Dressed. The event featured remarks from local providers and organizations in the collaborative and people impacted by HIV who are members of AFPs Community Advisory Board.

AFP Hotline

The AFP hotline is a number that anyone can call to learn more about services and care options.

From Jan 2023 to Dec 2023, AFP received 86 phone calls with requests for assistance:

- 50 calls were related to assistance with Ryan White services (housing, financial assistance, and food inquiries were most common)
- 26 calls were related to AFP programming and volunteer opportunities
- 3 calls were related to general AFP information
- 7 calls were client concerns and organization appreciation
- Most calls were from folks living in Allegheny County but received calls from people living in New York, Illinois, Texas, North Carolina, and Minnesota



**Call 412- 773-1120 for
Assistance**

Community Event Participation and Sponsorship in 2023

In 2023, AFP participated in more than 35 events and sponsored 22 events contributing over \$10,000 back to the communities impacted by HIV.

These events included: Pittsburgh Pride Revolution, neighborhood pride events, Recovery Walk, Overdose Awareness Day, Run Amok, Jazz for Hope, Mon Valley HIV Awareness Walk, multiple ballroom and kiki events, and other community celebrations.



Programming in Community

Partnered with community organizations and created three programs to encourage community engagement and sexual wellness

- Vogue Workshops at True T Pgh
- S.E.S.H (Sexual Education Social Hour) at Café Momentum
- Mindfulness and Fitness at Shepherd Wellness Community

AFP convened and launched a Community Advisory Board on December 1, 2023, to help guide programming and messaging efforts.



Social Media and Messaging

AFP continues to expand social media and messaging initiatives. Some highlights include:

- Since February 2023 AFP's social media presence has grown more than 45%
- AFP now has a TikTok in addition to Facebook and Instagram. AFP has partnered with Yellow Bridge digital to improve marketing strategies
- AFP recruited 10 community members to participate in a photoshoot as part of new AFP media campaign efforts



2022-2023 Financial Summary

AIDS Free Pittsburgh is financially supported by the Allegheny Singer Research Institute (AHN), UPMC Presbyterian Shadyside, and is managed by the Jewish Healthcare Foundation.

A total of \$428,250 in expenses were incurred to support AIDS Free Pittsburgh collective impact project activities during calendar year 2022.

A total of \$311,850 in expenses were incurred to support AIDS Free Pittsburgh collective impact project activities during calendar year 2023.

The committed funds have enabled AFP partners to plan and implement quality improvement strategies, toolkits for providers, 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!

Looking Forward – Plans for 2024

AFP would like to thank AHN and UPMC for their continued financial support.

Here is what you can expect from AFP in 2024:

- Conducting provider and community surveys to better understand awareness of PrEP and PrEP medications, assess understanding and perceptions of PrEP medication and identify any barriers to taking PrEP medication
- An updated PrEP toolkit for healthcare providers
- Hosting *Too Hot for July* and *The Category is.. Red: A World AIDS Day Event* in 2024
- Continued and new messaging for the AFP and Ryan White media campaign
- Continued and new partnerships and sponsorships for community events and community-based programming
- An active AFP Community Advisory Board



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](#).

Don't forget to like and follow us on social media!

- o Facebook: [@AIDSFreePittsburgh](#)
- o Instagram: [@aids.free.pgh](#)