



AN ALLEGHENY COUNTY INITIATIVE

2023-2024 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 (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.

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.

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

Advocate for routine HIV testing policies

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.

AFP Convenings

All of AFP's committees comprised of representatives from partner organizations continue to meet every other month. These convenings include:

- announcements from partners
- reports on data trends
- latest information on prevention and care options
- strategic planning exercises
- discussions on emerging issues
- sharing outreach opportunities
- guest speakers on prevalent topics

Advisory Group

Executive Team

Community
Advisory Board

Prevention and
Care
Subcommittee

Data and
Evaluation
Subcommittee

Outreach
Subcommittee

Logistics and
Ad Hoc
Subcommittees

AIDSFREEPittsburgh.org



AIDSFreePittsburgh.Org

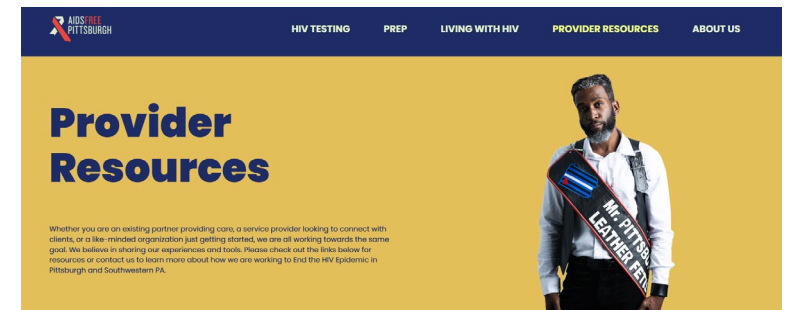
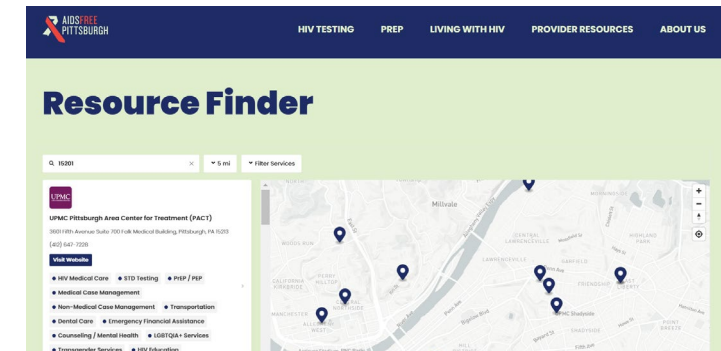
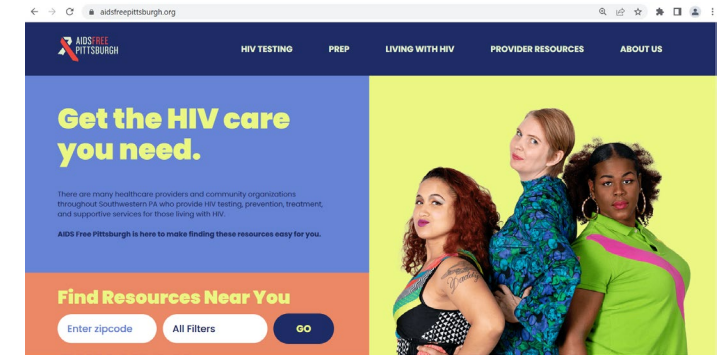
AFP's website was developed with community input and is maintained by staff and vendors who identify as members of communities impacted by HIV.

Community members can find information on testing, PrEP, and services for people living with HIV via an interactive map of resources.

Partners and providers can find helpful tools and resources to help end the HIV epidemic in Pittsburgh and Southwestern PA.

AFP partners with the Jewish Healthcare Foundation and Yellowbridge Digital on a robust media campaign to connect people living with HIV to care in the 11-county region of Southwestern Pennsylvania via this webpage.

In 2024, with input from partner organizations and community outside of Allegheny County, AFP launched AIDSFreeWesternPA.org.



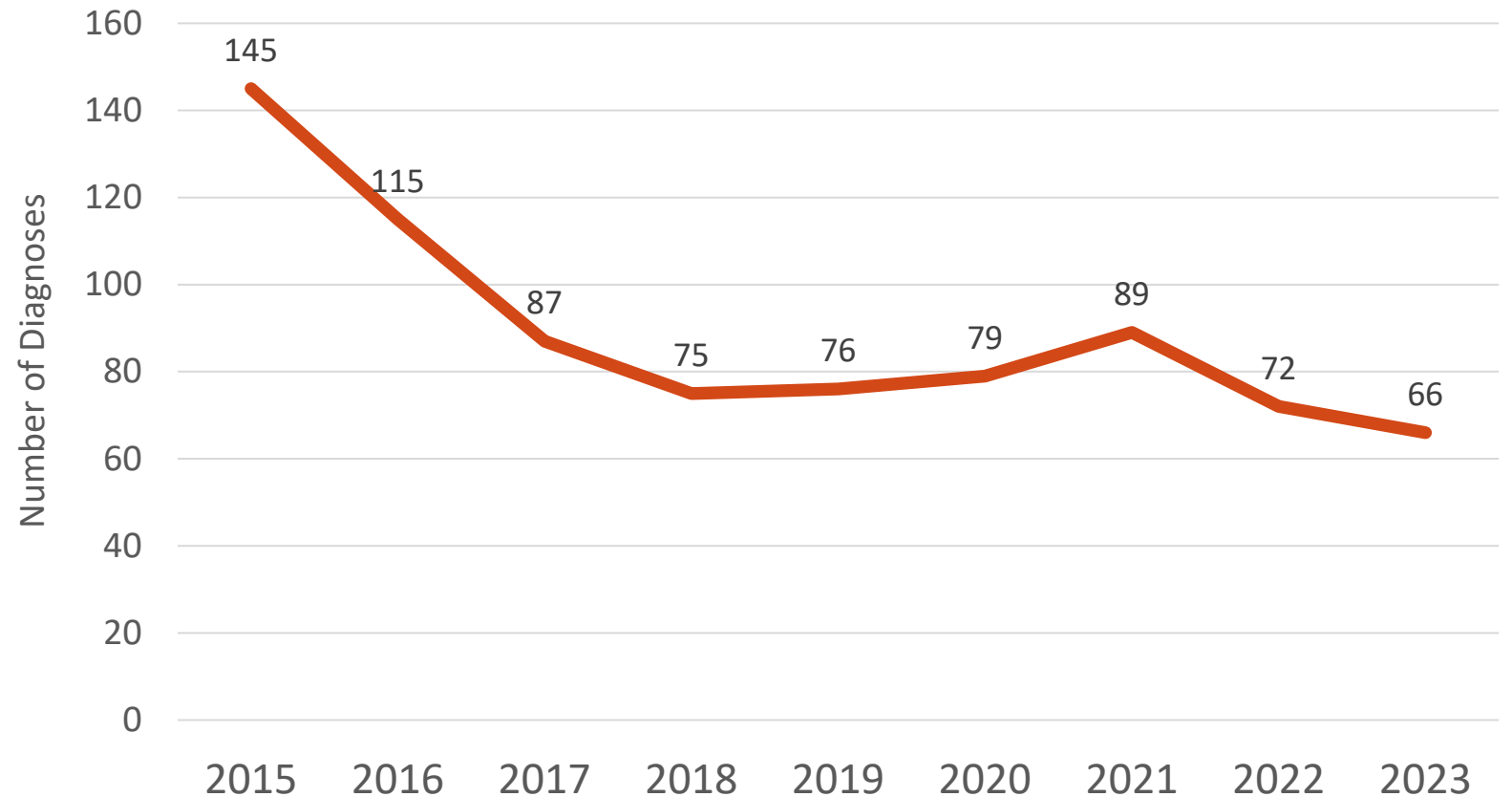
HIV Data Overview



Progress to Date from 2015 to 2023

Since the start of AFP in 2015, there has been a decrease in new HIV diagnoses by 54%. In 2023, there were 66 new HIV diagnoses in Allegheny County. This is a decrease in diagnoses from 2022, where there were 72 new HIV diagnoses in the county. AFP continues to use data to action strategies with intentional partnerships to make a positive impact on diagnosis rates, resources access, and HIV support.

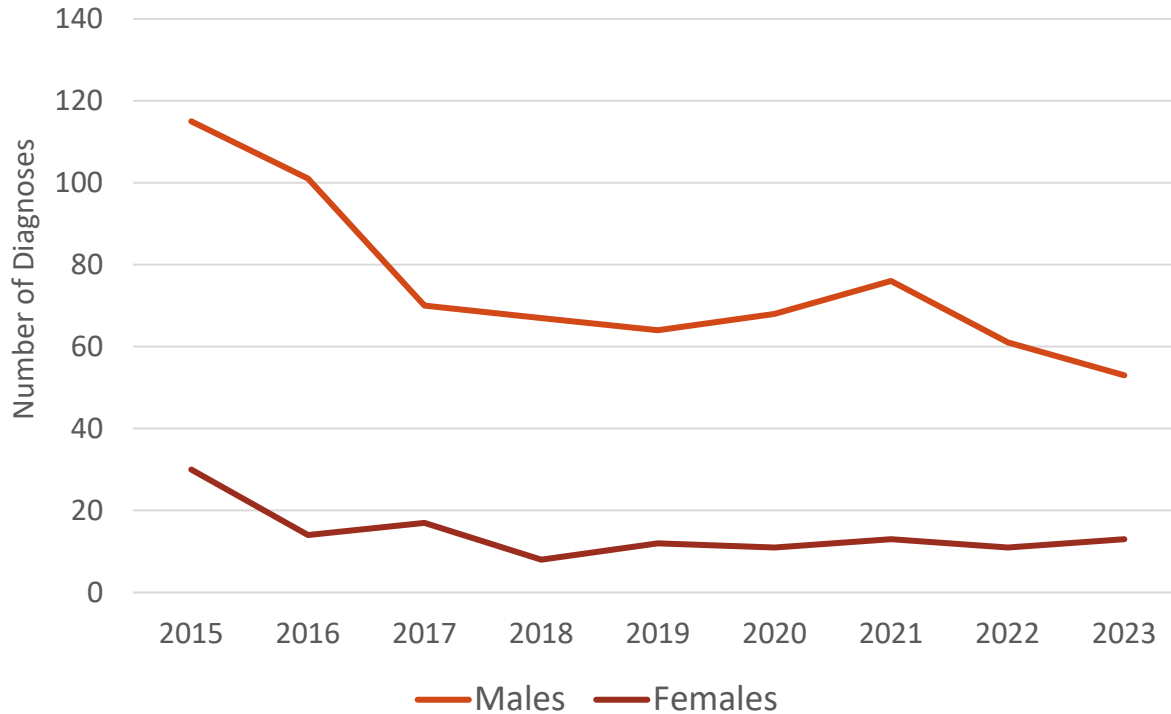
New HIV Diagnoses in Allegheny County, 2015 – 2023



For additional data outside this report: [Allegheny County HIV and STI Dashboard](#)

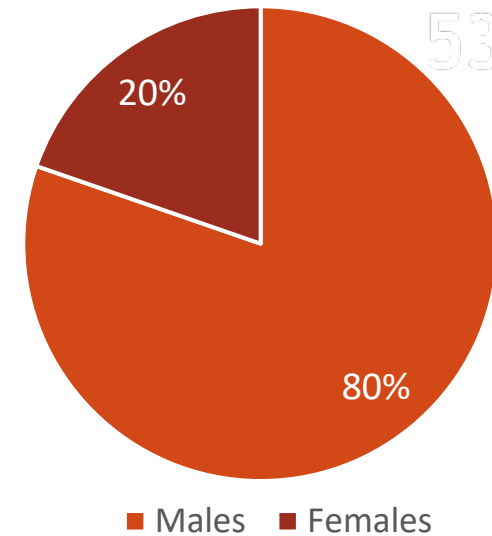
New HIV Diagnoses in Allegheny County by Sex Assigned at Birth in 2023

New HIV Diagnoses in Allegheny County by Sex, 2015 – 2023



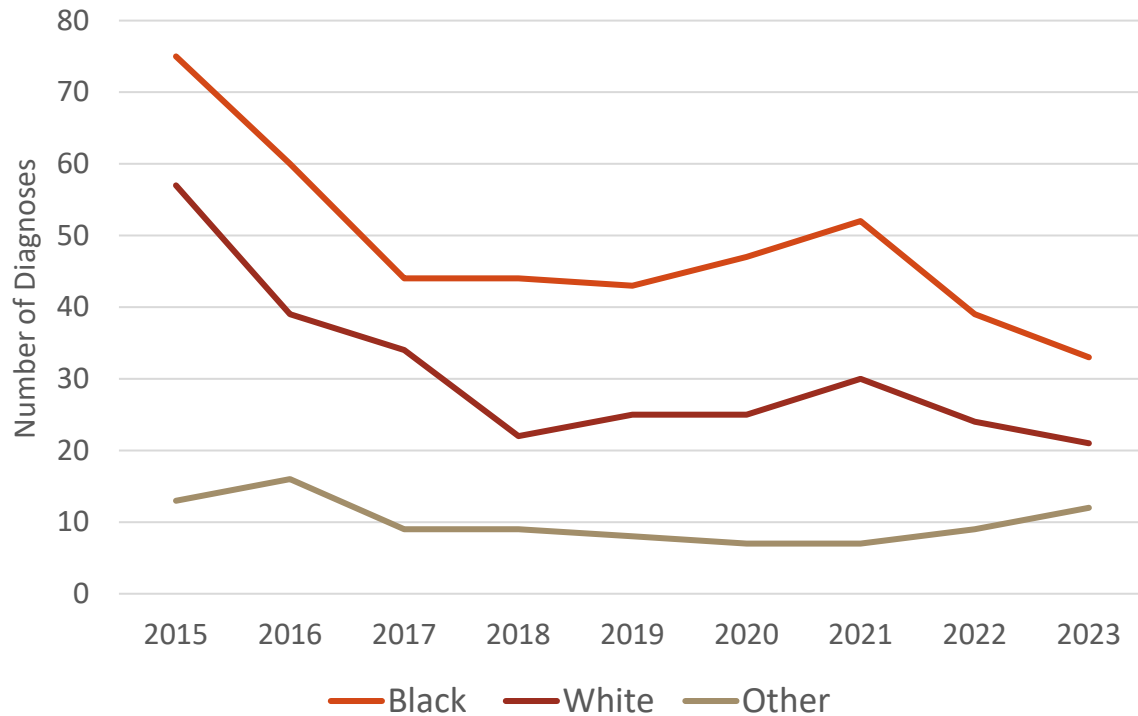
Males continually represent **more** new HIV diagnoses compared to females.

New HIV Diagnoses in Allegheny County by Sex, 2023

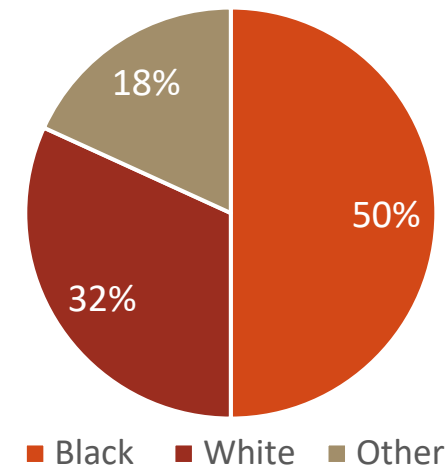


New HIV Diagnoses in Allegheny County by Race in 2023

New HIV Diagnoses in Allegheny County by Race, 2015 – 2023



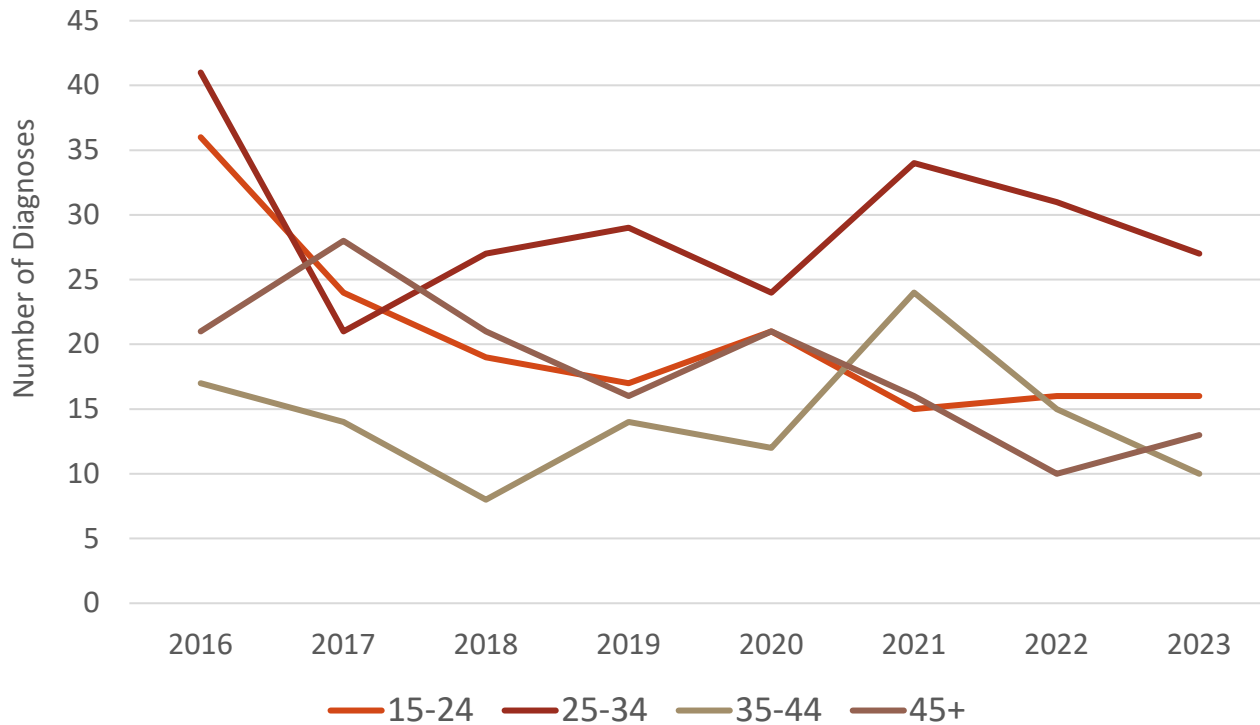
New HIV Diagnoses in Allegheny County by Race, 2023



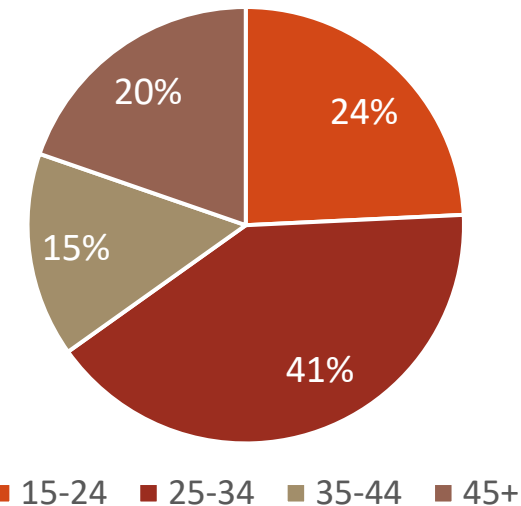
Racial disparities in new HIV diagnoses continue to persist in Black/African American communities. Black individuals had an incidence rate **9x** higher than white individuals in 2023.

New HIV Diagnoses in Allegheny County by Age Group in 2023

New HIV Diagnoses in Allegheny County by Age, 2015 – 2023



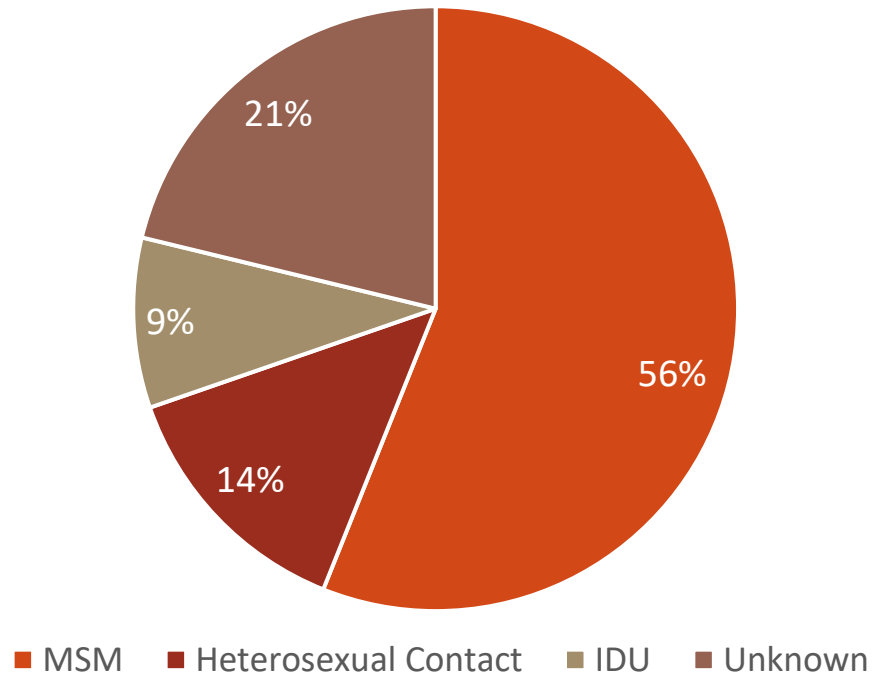
New HIV Diagnoses in Allegheny County by Age, 2023



Individuals 15-34 years old comprised **most** new HIV diagnoses in recent years.

New HIV Diagnoses in Allegheny County by Risk Factor in 2023

New HIV Diagnoses in Allegheny County by Risk Factor, 2023



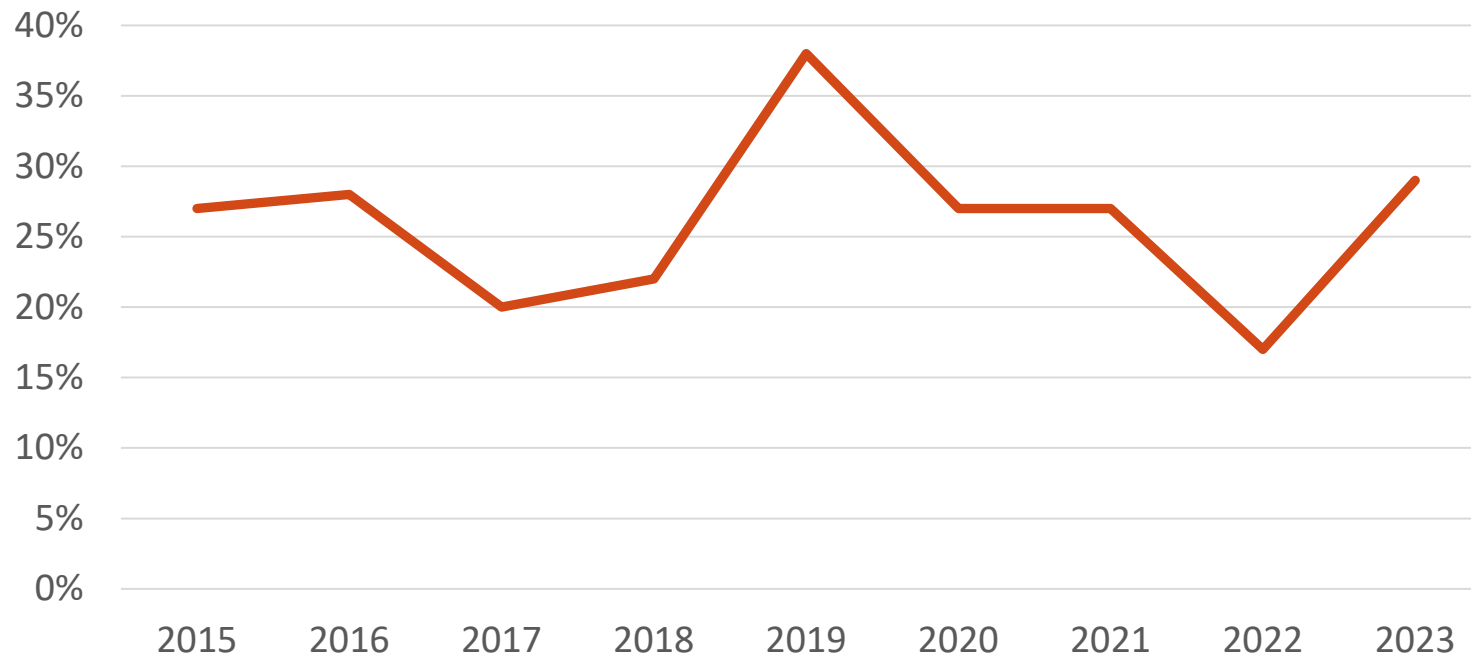
MSM as a risk factor continues to comprise **most** new HIV diagnoses annually, followed by heterosexual contact.

It is important to note that the risk factor was unknown for approximately one-fifth of all new diagnoses in 2023.

*MSM with injection drug use unknown. Injection drug use category includes MSM

Late Diagnoses in Allegheny County in 2023

Proportion of all Diagnoses that were Late Diagnoses in Allegheny County, 2015 – 2023



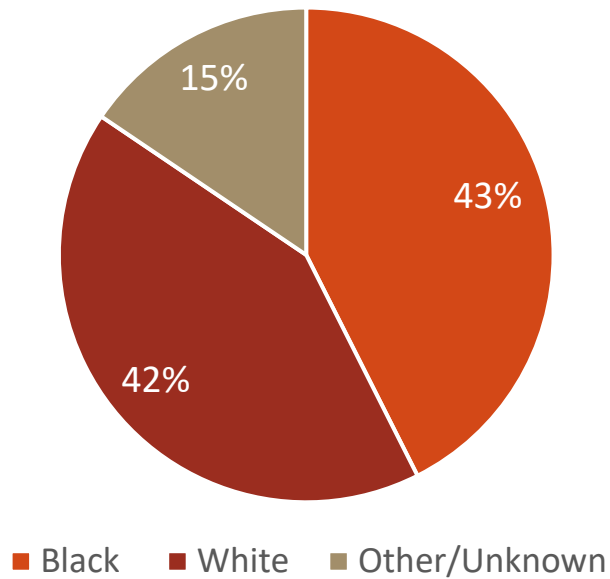
Of new HIV diagnoses in 2023, **29%** were classified as late diagnoses (defined as receiving a diagnosis of AIDS within 90 days after an initial HIV diagnosis).

This is an **increase** in the proportion of late diagnoses from 17% in 2022.

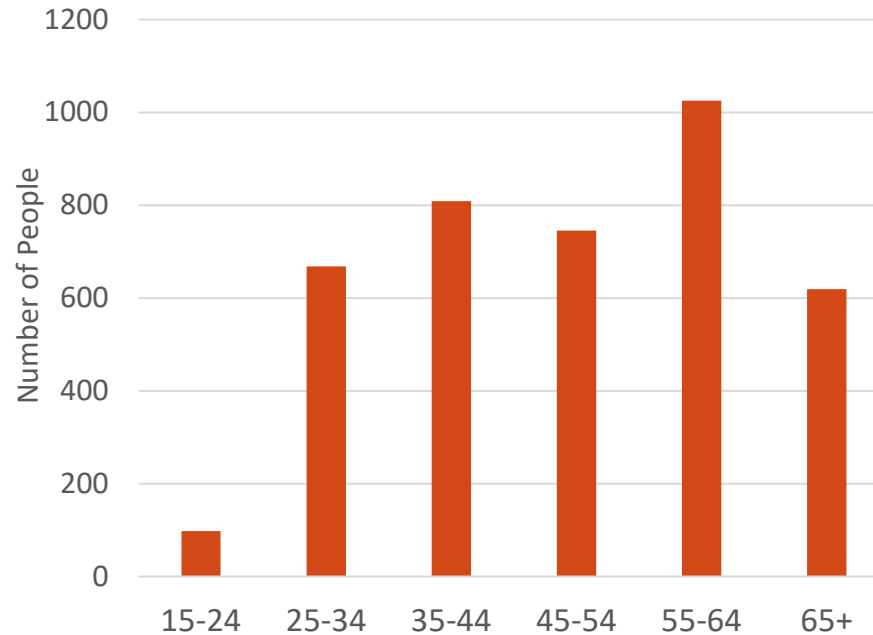
PLWH in Allegheny County by Demographic Characteristic in 2023

In 2023, there were **3,970** people living with HIV (PLWH) in Allegheny County.

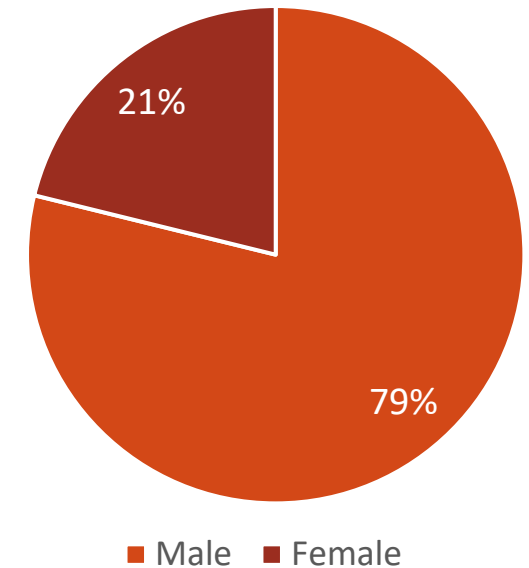
PLWH by Race, 2023



PLWH by Age, 2023



PLWH by Sex, 2023



2024 Activities and Accomplishments



AFP's Hotline

2024 AFP
PROJECT
SUMMARY

Call 412-773-1120 for Assistance



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

From Jan 2024 to Dec 2024, AFP received 394 phone calls with requests for assistance:

- 226 calls were related to assistance with Ryan White services (housing, food, transportation, dental, and medical case management)
- 10 calls were related to AFP programming and volunteer opportunities
- 22 calls were related to general AFP information
- 7 calls are out-of-state calls (Chicago IL, St. Louis MI, Newark NJ, Warren OH, Charlotte NC, Atlanta GA, Nashville TN)
- The majority of callers live in Allegheny County; however, calls were also received from Butler, Beaver, Washington, Westmoreland, Fayette, and Cambria counties.

PrEP Survey

2024 AFP
PROJECT
SUMMARY

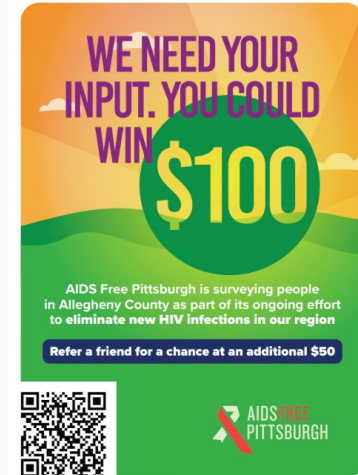
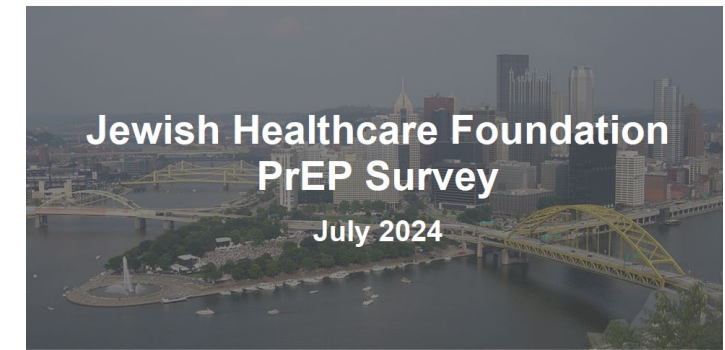
Purpose and Methods

- Goals:

- Understand awareness and knowledge of PrEP among Allegheny County residents
- Understand barriers to accessing and taking PrEP

- Methods

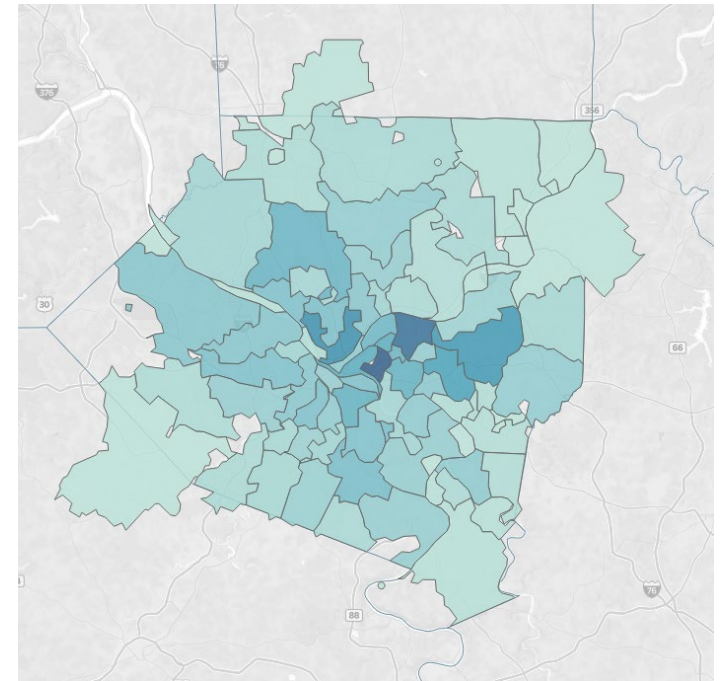
- Partnered with Campos (local marketing firm)
- Online survey hosted on Qualtrics (<5 mins)
- Oversampled groups most impacted by HIV
- Responses collected by:
 - Online research panel representative of the county
 - In-person with tablets at predetermined locations (e.g., bars, bus stops)
 - Social media and dating app advertisements
 - Flyers
 - Community groups



Results (N=1,334)

- Race
 - 998 (75%) were white
 - 261 (20%) were Black or African American
 - 59 (4%) were Asian
- 67 (5%) were Hispanic, Latino/a/x, or Spanish origin
- Gender
 - 664 (50%) identified as women
 - 584 (44%) identified as men
 - 69 (5%) identified as non-binary/agender/genderqueer/genderfluid
- 56 (4%) identified as transgender

Overall: 46% of respondents had heard of PrEP and knew what it is for



87% of non-cisgender people have heard of PrEP and know what it's for

n=100

79% of men who have sex with men have heard of PrEP and know what it's for

n=132

82% of people diagnosed with a STI in the last 6 months had heard of PrEP and know what it's for

n=38

74% of people who have multiple sex partners had heard of PrEP and know what it's for

n=155

**79% of sex workers
(virtually or in-person)
have heard of PrEP and
know what it's for**

n=70

**54% of people who have
used drugs by injection
have heard of PrEP and
know what it's for**

n=99

**73% of people who self
reported themselves as at
moderate to higher risk of
HIV have heard of PrEP and
know what it's for**

n=74

**50% of people who identify
as immigrants or refugees
have heard of PrEP and
know what it's for**

n=42

Provider Resources

2024 AFP
PROJECT
SUMMARY

Care Options Guide

The *HIV Care Options in Allegheny County: a guide to clinics, providers, and the healthcare coverage they accept* continues to be updated and available at

www.aidsfreepittsburgh.org/provider-resources

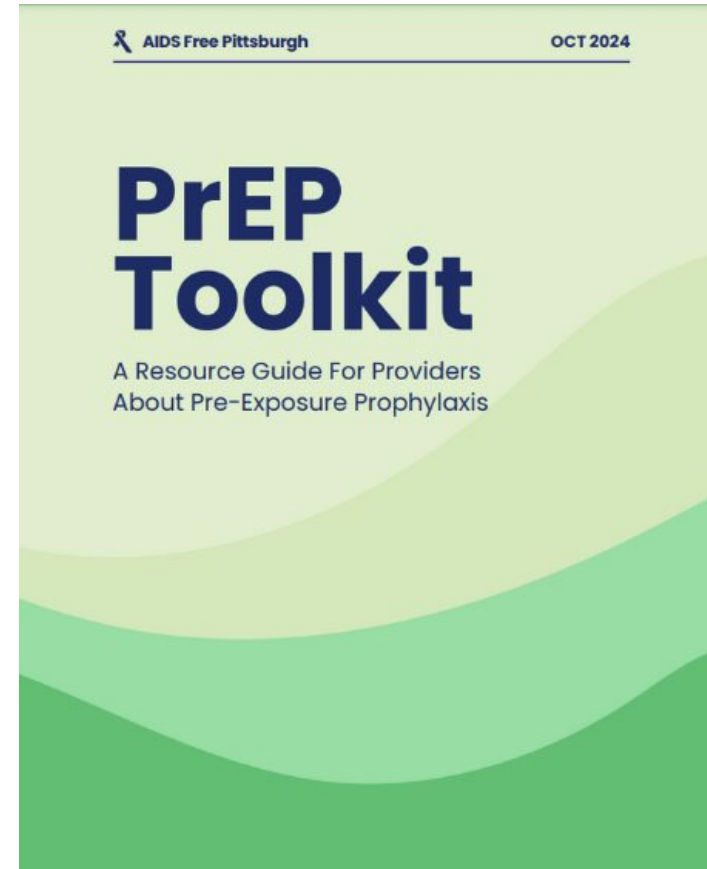


PrEP Toolkit

The ***PrEP Toolkit for Providers*** contains the most up-to-date clinical guidelines and advice for prescribing PrEP for HIV prevention

and is available at

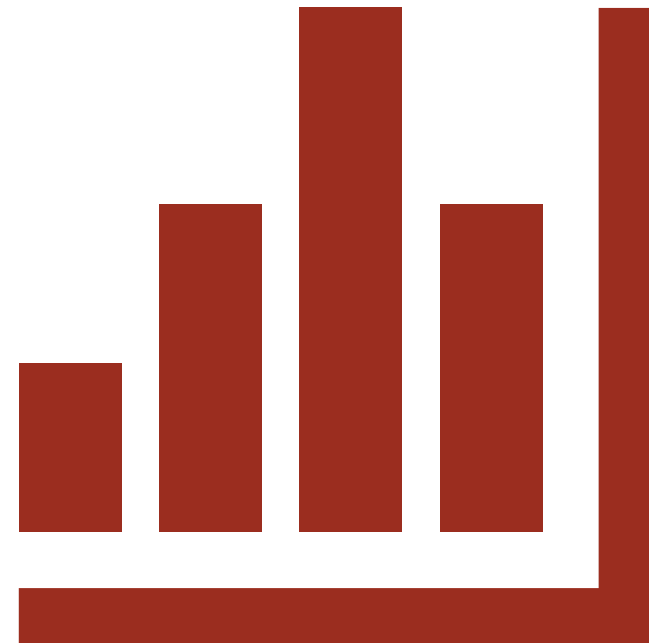
www.aidsfreepittsburgh.org/provider-resources



Annual Data Report

AFP compiles an **Annual Data Report** for the internal AFP network.

This report compiles surveillance data, data from local insurance plans, and data from local clinics. This report helps network partners develop population-specific programming.



Outreach



Programs, Events, and Sponsorships

2024 AFP
OUTREACH
OVERVIEW

2024 AFP Driven Events

Too Hot for July, AFP's annual biomedical HIV Awareness event in partnership with True T Pittsburgh, was held for the 6th time on May 30, 2024, at Allegheny Commons East Park. Approximately 2000 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 and resources from local organizations, and performances from local artists and nationally known headliner Alex Newell. Over 60 people were screened for HIV/STIs, 8 people were screened for hepatitis C, and 20 people received mpox vaccines.



2024 AFP Driven Events

National Black HIV Awareness Day, is an opportunity for community members to come together with medical professionals, community leaders, and ASOs to discuss concerns, suggestions, and ideas around services, programs and stigma around HIV. NBHAD is recognized on February 7. AFP partners hosted to events to provide a safe and brave space for discussion, food, and confidential HIV/STI testing. Over 100 people attended these events, 26 people were screened for HIV and STIs, and 5 people took at-home HIV tests.



**NATIONAL
BLACK
HIV/AIDS
AWARENESS DAY**

Tues. Feb 6th 2024
3 PM to 9:30 PM
1 Hood Media's Blaxk Box
460 Melwood Ave.,
Pittsburgh, PA, 15213

Wed. Feb 7th 2024
3 PM to 9:30 PM
The QMNTY Center
525 E Ohio St.,
Pittsburgh, PA, 15212

Heroic Important and Valuable Campaign
Community Panel and Discussion Free Food
Entertainment Black HIV Education Free HIV Testing
\$25 +Gift Bags White supplies last
Much More...

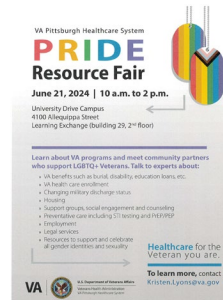
AIDS FREE PITTSBURGH GILEAD HOOD University of Pittsburgh FACE UPMC LIFE CHANGING MEDICINE
Allies for health + wellbeing

Illustration of a diverse group of people with their arms raised in a celebratory gesture.

2024 Community Event Participation

In 2024, AFP participated in over 50 community events that help to build relationships, to eliminate stigma, and to better understanding of the needs of the community.

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



2024 Sponsorships

AFP values collaboration and supporting partner events. In 2024, AFP sponsored over 20 community events to spread the word about the mission of AFP, and to connect people to resources and services.



Programming in Community

In 2024, AFP partnered with community organizations and created two programs to encourage wellness.

- **Vogue Workshops at True T Pittsburgh:**
These classes occur in a series and a pop-up. During the series individuals will learn more in-depth about the fundamentals of vogue. Individuals are also educated on county data related to HIV and information on testing, prevention, and treatment
- **Mindfulness and Fitness at Shepherd Wellness Community**
This program uses both traditional and unconventional forms of exercise to keep the community members active and healthy. Doing this allows participants to understand the array of activities they can do to incorporate working out in their daily routines.



Community Advisory Board

2024 AFP
OUTREACH
OVERVIEW

Community Action Advisory Board

AFP convened and launched a Community Action Advisory Board (CAAB) on December 1, 2023. The purpose of the CAAB is to guide, influence, and suggest ideas to better message around prevention and testing and to improve the quality of services for individuals living with HIV. CAAB is comprised of nine professionals who are representative of communities impacted by HIV. All CAAB member are actively involved in their community.



Media Campaigns

2024 AFP
PROJECTS

Social Media and Messaging

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

- Developing community-centered weekly content to generate more interactions and presence.
- On Meta Platforms, AFP has 15-45% of consistent interaction, with 20% of interactions outside of followers.



Ryan White Program Media Campaign Collaboration

AFP, JHF, and Yellowbridge Digital collaborate on media campaigns to connect people living with HIV to care in the 11-county region of Southwestern Pennsylvania.

This comprehensive offline-to-online media plan drives awareness of the services offered in the region by AFP partners via AIDSFreePittsburgh.org.



Ryan White Program Media Campaign Collaboration



Campaign tactics include direct mail brochures, newspaper and other print publications, TV and radio spots, dating app ads, billboards, and bus signage and bus stop placements.



In 2024, these campaigns resulted in over 250 million impressions, over 50,000 website visitors, and an above industry average click through rate (CTR) demonstrating the impact and effectiveness of these strategies.

Financial Summary



2024 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 \$314,556 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!

Plans for 2025



Looking Ahead

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

Here is what you can expect from AFP in 2025:

- AFP will celebrate 10 years on December 1, 2025
- Continued robust and routine data collecting and sharing with partners
- Continuing to translate more resources to Spanish and other languages
- Continuing to update resources for providers and community
- Sharing results from the 2024 PrEP survey in community, with partners, and broader public
- Sharing Dear Colleague Letters with more providers to encourage
- Partnering with organizations old and new on HIV Awareness Days and other events the connect communities to prevention and care resources



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](#)