

# Allegheny County Homeless Advisory Board

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## **CoC Bi-Monthly Meeting**

May 28, 2019 10:00AM to 12:00PM  
East End Cooperative Ministry  
6140 Station St, Pittsburgh, PA 15206

**Purpose:** The Homeless Advisory Board (HAB) is a public/private partnership formed to assist and recommend to Allegheny County, the City of Pittsburgh, the City of McKeesport and the Municipality of Penn Hills on public policy, programs, activities, data and all other efforts that will eliminate homelessness and improve the wellbeing of persons and families who are homeless.

### **HAB Members<sup>1</sup>**

Frank Aggazio	Jane Downing (P)	Christy Pietryga (P)
Meg Balsamico	Laura Drogowski (P)	Lenny Prewitt (P)
Caster Binion	Pete Giacalone (P)	Gale Schwartz (P)
Jerry Cafardi	Abigail Horn (P)	Richard Rapp (P)
Cassa Collinge (P)	Joe Lagana (P)	Lea Etta Rhodes (P)
Tom Cummings	John Lovelace (P)	Kellie Wild (P)
Sean DeYoung (P)	Michael Murray	Bethany Wingerson

### **Guest Attendees**

Carla Adams, WC&S	Angela Padovano, DHS
Andrea Bustos, DHS	Janice Palucis, DHS
Rob Eamigh, DHS	Brian Rhindress, ACED
Chris Garnett, JHF	Megan Rose, United Way
Andy Halfhill, DHS	Kelly Russell, City of Pgh
Knowledge Hudson, HACP	Cynthia Shields, DHS
Victoria Jackson, ACED	Richard Smith, JHF
Diane Johnson, DHS	JT Stoner, JHF
Chuck Kennan, DHS	Stephanie Villella, Chartiers
Gabe Krivosh, DHS	Caroline Woodward, Bethlehem Haven

### **Minutes**

#### **1. Welcome & Review of Meeting Minutes—John Lovelace** *March 2019 meeting minutes were approved.*

#### **2. Committee Updates**

##### **CoC Analysis and Planning Committee—Pete Giacalone**

Pete Giacalone thanked Analysis and Planning Committee members for their participation, noting the important input received from providers, which has been incredibly helpful in defining benchmarks that will support the CoC's aim of a strong, quality system, that is responsive to the local experiences. He noted the impact of having providers engaged to discuss performance management and the important role these discussions have regarding accountability, specifically around creating a system where providers can do the work effectively to support people. He also highlighted the recent and upcoming focus areas of CoCAPC discussions around:

- Review January Point-in-Time Count (PIT) results
- Plan for the July PIT
- Examine the Satisfaction Survey results and explore adjustments

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<sup>1</sup> (P) indicates HAB members who were present for the meeting.

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- Discuss information from the July National Alliance for Ending Homelessness Conference
- Public Data Dashboard and conducting quarterly and annual updates for all providers

## **Communication and Education Committee—Sean DeYoung**

Sean DeYoung provided an update on the work of the Communication and Education Committee, citing many collaborative efforts underway and upcoming events:

- Tabling at June 28<sup>th</sup> Open Streets in the Strip; serving hot dogs and lemonade and connecting with people about homelessness
- OneDayAway—an online platform to share information around accessing services and resources. The Committee is working to facilitate a meaningful collaboration between OneDayAway and Storyburgh, building off Storyburgh’s interest in increasing their outreach and communication concerning homelessness. A key issue around facilitating this work is resources for funding an ongoing effort.
- Point Park University student ethnographers and Operation Safety Net—established a blog to start sharing narratives and are planning another panel discussion, building off the success of first panel event held in 2018.
- Thriving Respite Program—community living room and drop-in center, resulting from a collaboration between Ministerium and Point Park University. Will be holding movie “nights” at shelters, with guided discussion by Point Park representatives.
- Additional outreach collaborations include:
  - Theater of the Oppressed workshops
  - Open Streets Pittsburgh tabling
  - Downtown Lunch and Learns
  - Poverty simulation, Fall 2019

## **Homeless Outreach Coordination Committee (HOCC)—Laura Drogowski**

Laura Drogowski provided updates from the HOCC, including areas of focus for upcoming HOCC meeting agendas, including: Social Workers from the Public Defenders Office will be speaking with the Committee about ways to more meaningfully advocate for people on the street; Planning future session around supporting people who are using drugs and/or alcohol in an unhealthy manner; trainings for professionals in other fields regarding how and when to engaged with people experiencing homelessness and what resources are available—initial interest from park ambassadors and rangers, but similar considerations and discussions with Downtown businesses. Ms. Drogowski also noted upcoming events, including a workshop around people at risk of exploitation, and a Northside Alliance fishing trip.

## **Provider Committee—Kellie Wild**

Kellie Wild updated members and meeting participants on the discussions of the Provider Committee, including focusing a current key issues of termination policies and service funding. Regarding termination policies, providers have been collecting their policies and coordinating with the County to create congruency. Another main area of the Committee has been around sharing resources and educational materials, including presentations from Neighborhood Legal Services, Fair Housing, and VAWA, as well as connections to trainings, such as the Allegheny County Health Department’s available trainings (e.g., first aid) that are no cost to providers.

### **3. Infrastructure Organization Update—Cynthia Sheila**

Cynthia Shields provided the IO update, organizing the key announcements in correspondence with the CoC’s Strategic Plan principles. These updates can be found in Appendix A.

### **4. Unified Funding Agency (UFA) Funding Adjustment Process—Cynthia Shields**

DHS, as the CoC’s Infrastructure Organization, which includes responsibilities as the CoC’s Collaborative

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Applicant, has received Unified Funding Agency (UFA) status from HUD for the CoC. As such, a process for adjusting funds outside of the annual NOFA application process was drafted, discussed with the Provider Committee, and posted for public comment. DHS also held conference calls with other UFA's and reviewed their process documents and coordinated with the local HUD Field Office and HUD Headquarters. Ms. Shields expressed to the HAB that the intent of utilizing UFA status is to optimize funds by increasing flexibility in shifting funds based on needs (including, but not limited to underspend funds shifted to areas where they can be used, and funds being realigned to where service needs are). During the HAB discussion, it was clarified that changes can be for a single grant year or permanent, which allows the CoC to make funding adjustments for single instances (e.g., a new program is starting up and this will not utilize all funds in first year, but will need full funding amount in subsequent years) and for recurring trends.

## ***The Funding Adjustment Process was approved.***

### **5. Services and Funding Opportunities Considerations—John Lovelace**

As Rev. Wild noted in the Provider Committee update, one area of discussion for the Committee has been service funding amounts, in particular the stagnate or decreasing funds available for delivering emergency shelter and transitional housing services. The Committee would like the HAB, as the working board of the CoC, to consider avenues and opportunities for new and/or expanded funding sources to meet the needs across the CoC. HAB members shared the following considerations:

- The CoC needs to think of services in the context of all CoC needs and resources, which should include prioritizing where resources should go while limited and exploring new resources to supplement.
- The CoC needs to show effectiveness of programs in order to make a case for further investing in programs, including a look at what already exists and is working, while also considering what interventions we are primed to be successful with but have not yet implemented

The HAB agreed to pull together a working group of planners and stakeholders to explore ideas to bring back to the HAB in September.

### **6. AIDS Free Pittsburgh—Richard Smith, JT Stoner**

The AIDS Free Pittsburgh presentation slides can be found in Appendix B.

### **7. Housing Opportunity for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA)—Christopher Garnett**

The HOPWA presentation slides can be found in Appendix C.

### **8. Allies for Health+Wellbeing—Sean DeYoung**

Sean DeYoung provided an overview of Allies for Health + Wellbeing, an organization born out of the Gay Men's Study and originally set up in 1985 as the Pittsburgh AIDS Task Force, with the goal of helping people die with dignity. Now known as Allies for Health + Wellbeing, the organization is the largest Ryan White care provider in Southwestern Pennsylvania, while also serving as a HUD provider. Across the funding programs, Allies has a large array of services, including: Medical Case Management, emergency financial assistance, food pantry, pharmacy, pro bono legal assistance, housing for people living with HIV/AIDS, prevention programs, and a health clinic, which specializes in HIV care, but also provides primary care, family planning clinic, and STI testing (HIV, Hep C, Syphilis, and Chlamydia).

### **9. Public Comment**

- Gale Schwartz announced National Home Matters Day was the upcoming Tuesday, June 4<sup>th</sup>, citing a rally as well as advocating around a State Housing Tax Credit and increased PHARE funding.

#### **Next CoC Meeting**

July 30, 2019 from 10:00am to 12:00pm  
1 Smithfield Street, Lower Level

## **Appendix A Infrastructure Organization Update**

Aligned with Strategic Plan Guiding Principles

### **COLLECTIVE APPROACH**

#### **Communities of Practice**

Working toward shared standards of care, implementing best practices, sharing resources

- Family Shelter – Addressing common challenges facing families (childcare) and establishing shared standards of practice
- Street Outreach – Coordination for outreach and alignment with housing programs
- Permanent Supportive Housing – Moving On expansion
- Rapid Re-housing – Aligning with best practices, shortening stays

#### **PIT Count**

- The PIT is July 17.
- We're looking for team leaders. Thanks to Gale and Christy who are teamed up to cover Mt Washington. Training for team leaders June 25.
- New and exciting for this year: We are looking into piloting a mobile app for the count.

### **SERVICE ACCESSIBILITY & QUALITY**

- The Link is focused on increasing and expanding outreach resources. Looking at possible expansion of Coordinated Entry and/or outreach models that would increase access to services for the most vulnerable.
- New monitor starting June 10<sup>th</sup>, Jenna Szuchy.

### **PRIORITIZING RAPID EXIT, HOUSING FIRST, & HOUSING STABILIZATION**

#### **Housing Navigator Unit Trainings**

The Housing Navigators are working to increase the supply of and access to affordable housing. They have created a series of six housing focused trainings for providers. The trainings are designed to build the skills and toolbox of staff dealing with locating housing, maintaining housing, and crisis prevention in housing.

Topics include:

- Housing Basics
- Fair Housing
- Public Housing Vouchers
- Eviction
- Tenant/Landlord Responsibilities
- How to Prevent a Housing Crisis

The HNU is also working across to DHS to provide trainings tailored to the needs of staff in other departments including CYF.

### **ALIGN SERVICES TO PEOPLES' NEEDS**

- Concentrated effort to increase consumer voice – We've reformed our Youth Action Board in collaboration with SITY.

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## **PRIORITIZE SERVICES FOR PEOPLE WITH THE GREATEST NEEDS**

- Working with our partners to establish case conferencing for individuals experiencing chronic homelessness.

## **BUILD A SYSTEM THAT WORKS EFFICIENTLY, EFFECTIVELY, & COLLABORATIVELY**

### **HMIS**

- UAT testing going on with new system.

### **UFA Status**

- UFA call – convening our colleagues to develop, learn, and share best practices.
- Funding Adjustment Process: In addition to the annual rate, review and ranking process for the Continuum of Care Program Competition application, there are two pathways in which the Allegheny County CoC will make funding adjustments to subrecipients within grant terms—the first is through a scheduled mid-grant spending adjustment review process, and the second is in response to unscheduled adjustment needs. Across both pathways the adjustments can either be a single grant term adjustment, in which the change will only impact the current funding cycle, or a permanent adjustment, in which the changes will be continued through the next funding application. The process was shared across the CoC and with the Provider Committee prior to the March HAB meeting, and a public comment period was open, during which no comments were received. In addition, the process has been cleared through HUD Headquarters and our HUD Local Field Office. Will be voting on acceptance after update.

## **INVEST IN CONTINUOUSLY STRENGTHENING THE SYSTEM**

### **YHDP**

- With the support of our YAB, applied for YHDP funds from HUD.

### **Heartland Alliance**

- Received 2.5 year grant from Heartland Alliance to support system integration work with Partner4Work, goal to increase employment and decrease time homeless for individuals experiencing first-time homelessness.

### **NOFA**

- The NOFA is coming. Once the NOFA is out, a timeline will be established with dates that require HAB votes and publication of all required documents on the web, notification of the rankings and an appeal process.
- We anticipate bonus funding but have to wait on NOFA for priority population to be served.
- Rankings/scores are with the evaluators and will be finalized soon.

**Appendix B**  
**AIDS Free Pittsburgh**

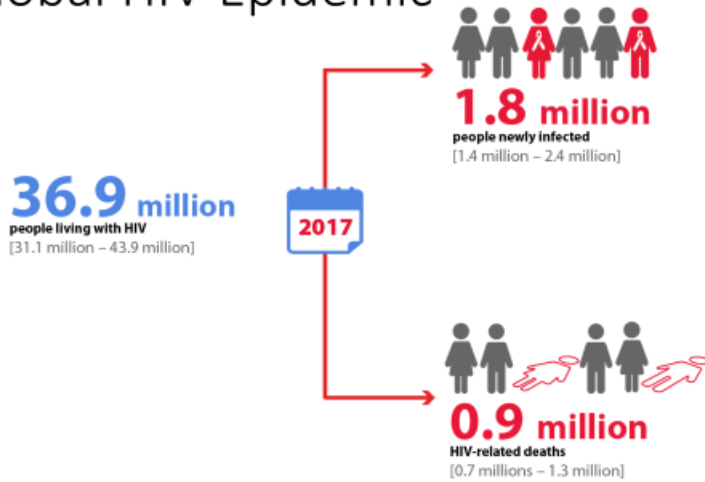


**Richard Smith, MSW**  
**Christopher Garnett, MSS**  
**JT Stoner, MPH**  
Homeless Advisory Board  
Tuesday, May 28, 2019

Background

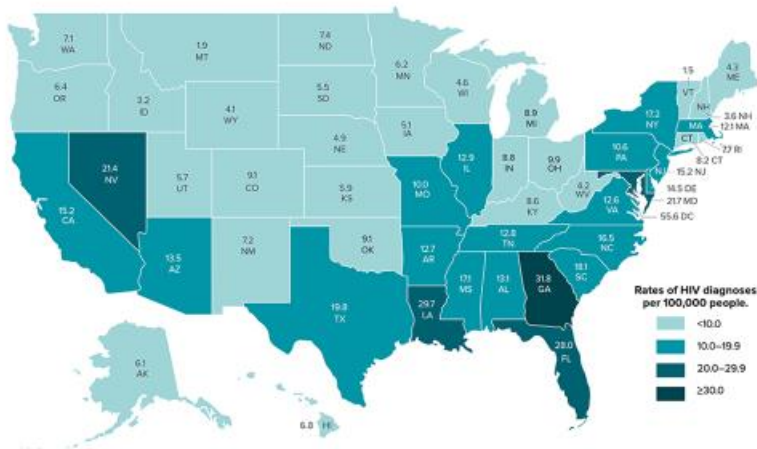


## Global HIV Epidemic



Source: UNAIDS/WHO Estimates (2017)

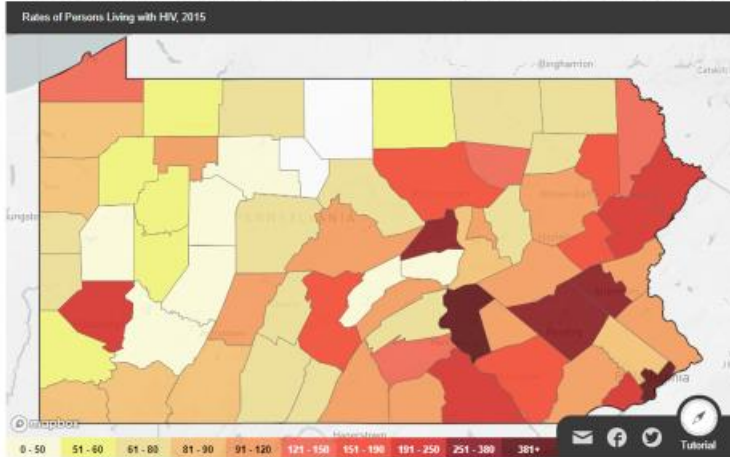
## National HIV Epidemiology



Source: CDC. Diagnoses of HIV infection in the United States and dependent areas, 2016. HIV Surveillance Report 2017;28. <https://www.cdc.gov/hiv/statistics/overview/geographicdistribution.html>

## HIV Epidemiology – Pennsylvania

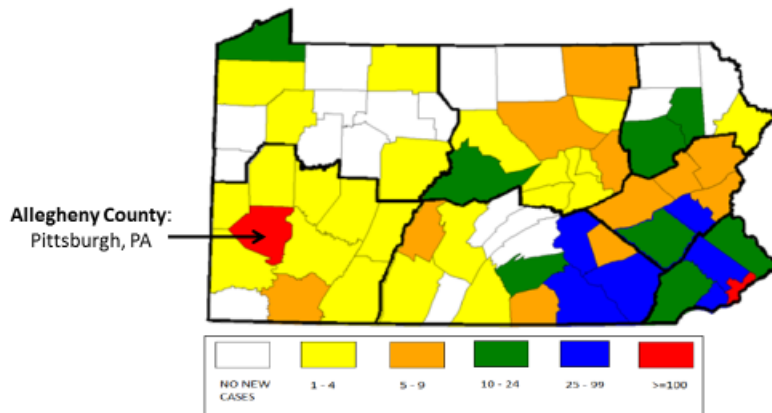
There are approximately 34,233 people living with HIV in Pennsylvania.



Source: AIDSVA, <https://aidsva.org/state/pennsylvania>

## Local HIV Epidemic

Figure 3: New Diagnoses of HIV Disease by County in Pa., 2016



Allegheny County:  
Pittsburgh, PA

- Allegheny County (in red) is the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest in PA for:
- The number of new HIV diagnoses; and
  - Cumulative number of people living with HIV/AIDS



Source: 2017 Annual HIV Surveillance Summary, Bureau of Epidemiology, PA Dept. of Health



## National HIV/AIDS Strategy for the United States – Vision for 2020

*“The United States will become a place where new HIV infections are rare and when they do occur, every person regardless of age, gender, race/ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity or socio-economic circumstance, will have unfettered access to high quality, life-extending care, free from stigma and discrimination.”*



## ACT NOW: END AIDS Coalition

Other jurisdictional initiatives in the US committed to ending AIDS as an epidemic



# Allegheny County Homeless Advisory Board



AN ALLEGHENY COUNTY INITIATIVE

## Mission

By the year 2020, we will:

- Reduce the rate of new HIV infections by 75%
- Achieve an AIDS Free County (no new AIDS cases)

## 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.

**Launched: December 1, 2015  
(World AIDS Day)**

<http://aidsfreepittsburgh.org>



## AIDS Free Pittsburgh Partners



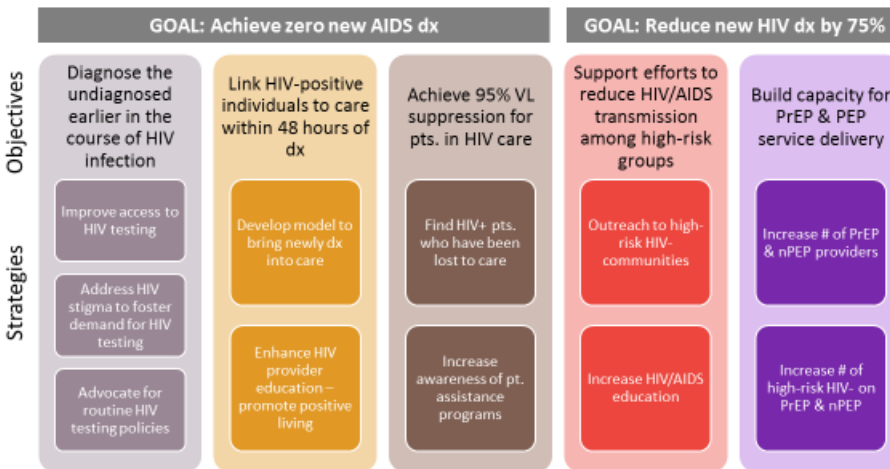
<http://aidsfreepittsburgh.org>

## Collective Impact Model



Kania, J. & Kramer, M. (2011). Collective Impact. *Stanford Social Innovation Review*. Winter: 36-41.

## Strategic Plan



## Activities



## Provider Education



*Dr. Ken Ho presents PrEP session at the Harm Reduction Happy Hour (July 2017). CE & networking event sponsored by Coordinated Care Network (CCN)*



- Allegheny County Medical Society Bulletin
- Continuing Education (grand rounds, lectures, etc.)

## Community Outreach



- Health Fairs
- LGBTQ Pride Festivals
- "Hotter Than July"
- HIV/AIDS Awareness Walk
- World AIDS Day



## Social Marketing



AIDS Free Pittsburgh Community Ad Campaigns



## PrEP Pittsburgh



- Targeted awareness campaign to priority populations
- PrEP provider directory
- Confidential text line
- Print materials
- PrEP access fund (AFP2)
  - Allies for Health + Wellbeing
  - Planned Parenthood
  - UPMC PrEP Clinic

[www.PrEPPGH.com](http://www.PrEPPGH.com)

## Barrier: HIV Stigma

11. Do you feel that you are at risk for contracting HIV? (please choose one)

No (low risk) *HELL NO*

Maybe (moderate risk)

Yes (high risk)

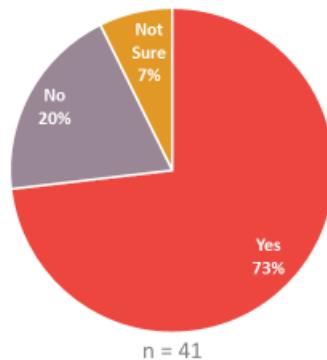
Not sure

NA – I'm a person living with HIV



## HIV Stigma Survey

Have you ever felt stigmatized by others because of your HIV status?



2017 HIV Stigma Survey – Preliminary Data (AIDS Free Pittsburgh, October 2017)

Purpose: to understand & quantify...

- Experiences of internal & received stigma
- Places & people – where stigma occurs
- Individual voices

## HIV Stigma Survey

What message would be MOST important to tell other people about what living with HIV is like for you?

***“I am not a threat. HIV cannot be transmitted by hugging, shaking hands, or sharing dishes, food, or drinks. With an undetectable viral load, I cannot transmit HIV to others.”***

Indicates that people living with HIV in Allegheny County want to address the fears in the general community, especially around how HIV can be acquired



2017 HIV Stigma Survey – Preliminary Data (AIDS Free Pittsburgh, October 2017)

## Standardize Early Linkage to Care

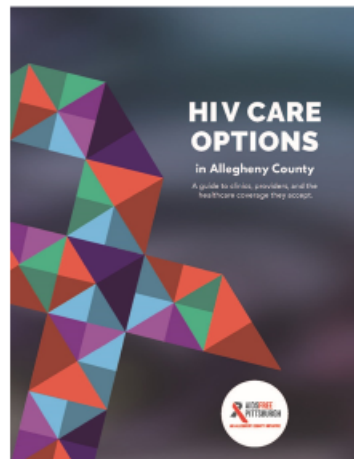


- SFDPH PrEP & RAPID Training
- PrEP & RAPID Community of Practice
- MAAETC provided CE support & TA
- Updated protocols, warm handoffs



## RAPID Linkage to Care in Pittsburgh

- Local HIV primary care clinics have developed RAPID protocols to expedite linkage to care for patients with a new HIV diagnosis
- Dedicated phone numbers for RAPID HIV referrals (bypass central scheduling, walk-in availability, etc.)
  - Allies: 412-248-0547
  - AGH PHC: 412-398-6768
  - UPMC Latterman: 412-664-2856
  - UPMC PACT: 412-647-1307

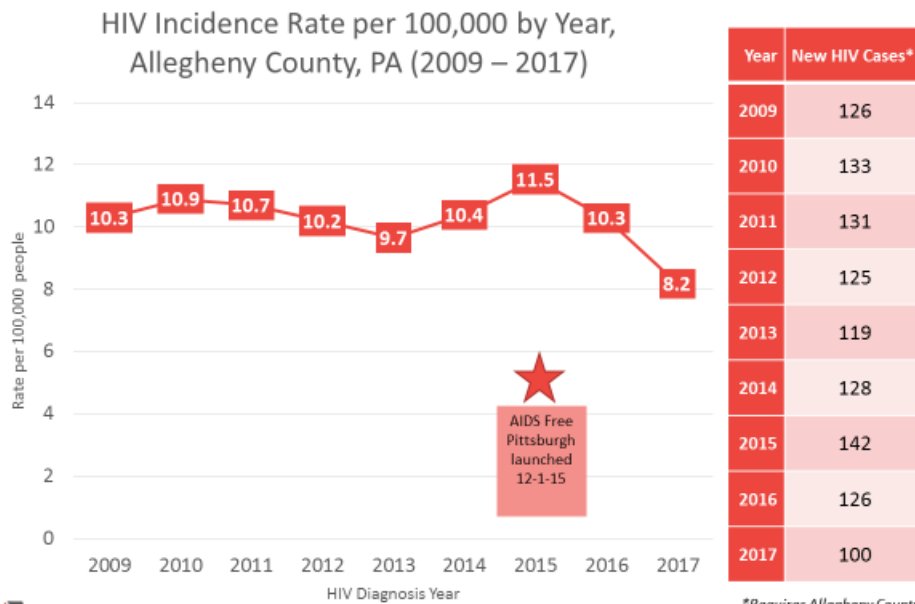


Find Same-Day HIV Care at the **HIV Care Options Online Directory**:

<http://www.aidsfreepittsburgh.org/go/hiv-care-guide/>



## Progress to Date

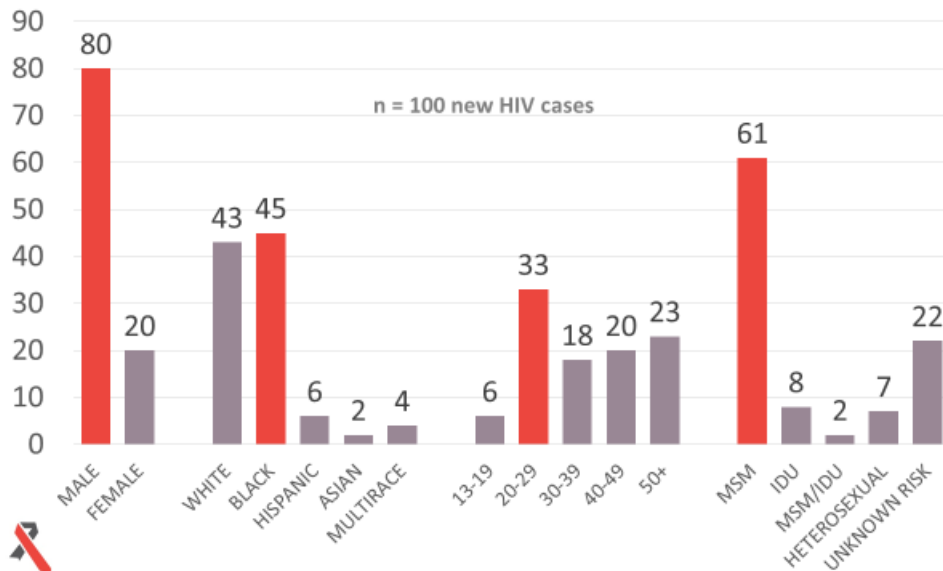


\*Requires Allegheny County residence at the time of diagnosis.

Source: HIV Surveillance and Epidemiology Section - Bureau of Epidemiology | Pennsylvania Department of Health

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## Demographic Characteristics of New HIV Diagnoses in Allegheny County (2017)



Source: HIV Surveillance and Epidemiology Section - Bureau of Epidemiology | Pennsylvania Department of Health

## AIDS Free Pittsburgh – Progress to Date

	NHAS Benchmark	NHAS 2020 Target	AFP 2015 Benchmark	AFP 2017 Progress	AFP 2020 Target
New HIV Diagnoses	40,493 (2014)	32,855 dx (25% ↓)	142**	91** (36% ↓)	36 dx (75% ↓)
Linkage to Care	74.5% (2014)	85%	44.4%*	70.3%* (25.9% ↑)	Within 48 hours
Retention in Care	56.5% (2013)	90%	80.5%*	83.0%* (2.6% ↑)	n/a
Viral Load Suppression	54.7% (2013)	80%	86.7%*	90.0%* (3.1% ↑)	95%

### National HIV AIDS Strategy (NHAS) Indicators include:

1. Reduce the number of new HIV diagnoses by at least 25%
2. Increase the percentage of persons with diagnosed HIV infection who are virally suppressed to at least 80%
3. Increase the percentage of newly diagnosed persons linked to HIV medical care within 1 month of diagnosis to at least 85%
4. Increase the percentage of persons with diagnosed HIV infection who are retained in HIV medical care to at least 90%



\*Data from the two largest HIV care clinics in Pittsburgh

\*\*HIV surveillance data from the Pennsylvania Department of Health

**Appendix C**  
**Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS Presentation**

**HOPWA (Housing Opportunities  
for Persons with AIDS)**

SeniorCare Management, a division of Presbyterian SeniorCare Network, developed its SeniorCare Management Assistance Funds (SCMAF) in June 1997 and is funded with HUD Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) funding to provide housing to persons living with HIV/AIDS in the Southwest Pennsylvania region.

This program was created to meet housing needs of low-income persons with HIV/AIDS. The goal of HOPWA is to stabilize clients and their families in housing thus enabling them to maintain healthcare.

SeniorCare Management Assistance Funds is also a provider of Ryan White Housing Assistance funding. Currently SeniorCare Management Assistance Funds (SCMAF) offers the following funded services:

**STRMU**

**Short Term Rental, Mortgage & Utility**

- Assists in preventing eviction;
- Prevents mortgage foreclosure;
- Assists with utility shut-off;
- 430 Clients served in FY 2018

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## TBRA

Tenant Based Rental Assistance is designed to prevent homelessness by providing ongoing financial support by means of monthly rental payments.

1. State Funded TBRA
  - Cambria, Greene, Indiana, and Somerset counties;
  - Currently no waiting list;
  - Immediate long term placement available;
  - 17 Households served in FY 2018.
  
2. City Funded TBRA
  - Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Butler, Fayette, Washington, and Westmoreland counties;
  - Current waiting list;
  - 80 Households served in FY 2018.

**\*971 Clients were offered information and referral assistance**

## Ryan White Housing Support

Assistance for first & last month's rent, prevention of eviction, and shut-off of utilities.

- Separate from HOPWA;
- State funded;
- Long and short term assistance.

**KEY RENTAL ASSISTANCE  
PROGRAM OBLIGATIONS**

- ✓ Completion of housing application
- ✓ Determination of client eligibility
- ✓ Client applications and determination of need
- ✓ Applicable program eligibility, possible waiting list
- ✓ Housing Search Process/Housing Suitability
- ✓ Occupancy standards
- ✓ Health Care Provider/Case-Manager collaboration to maintain stability
- ✓ Housing Inspection (Ryan White & TBRA Programs)
- ✓ Housing Plans and Budgets established
- ✓ Arrangement of SCMAF financial assistance