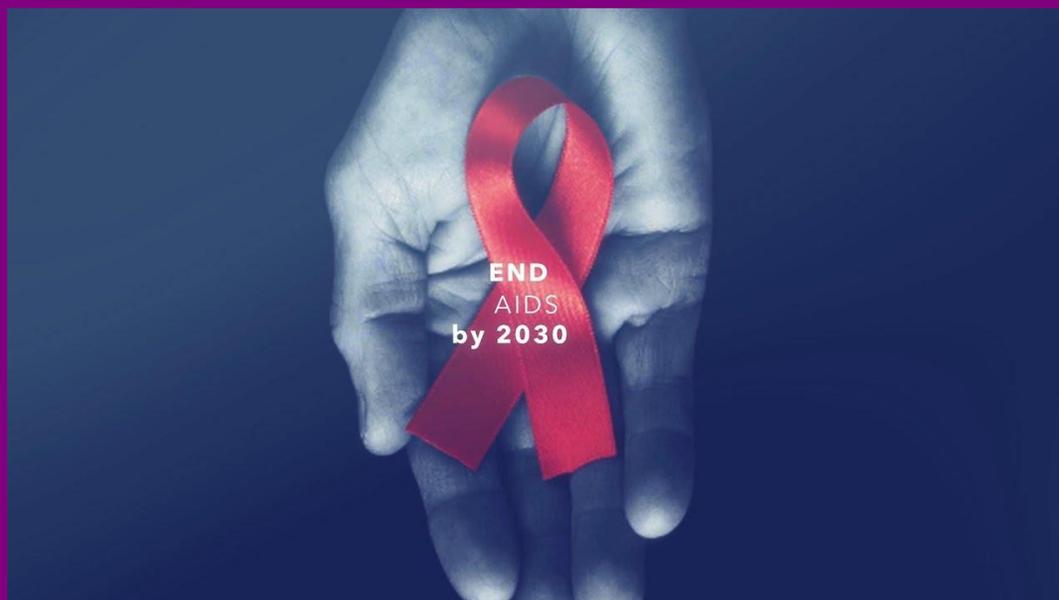


# Palm Beach County Integrated Prevention and Patient Care Plan 2017-2021

# 2020 Progress Report



Palm Beach County Integrated Prevention and Patient Care Plan Update  
Palm Beach County Ryan White Part A Administration  
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### WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE INTEGRATED HIV PREVENTION AND CARE PLAN?

The Palm Beach County Integrated HIV Prevention and Care Plan is a living document, covering the period of 2017-2021. It is focused on integrating and prioritizing prevention and care services for people in Palm Beach County who are living with HIV (PLWH) and those at risk.

### WHY IS THE INTEGRATED HIV PLAN IMPORTANT TODAY?

Major developments in science, public policy, and other advances over the past several years, as well as the progression of the HIV epidemic, are reasons for reassessing and refocusing strategic planning. Some of the developments include:

- Expanded health care coverage options for people living with and at risk for HIV infection
- New HIV testing technologies and development of national recommendations for HIV screening of all persons aged 15 to 65 years.
- Scientific studies demonstrating the benefits of early treatment and improved health outcomes for people living with HIV
- Pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) showing that persons at substantial risk can reduce their risk for acquiring HIV infection by over 90% when taking an HIV medication once a day.
- Digital tools and technologies that efficiently extend the reach and impact of prevention services, promote HIV testing and assist people in linking, accessing, and remaining engaged in care.

### HOW WAS THE INTEGRATED HIV PREVENTION AND CARE PLAN DEVELOPED?

The HIV integrated plan covers a five-year period 2017-2021 and was a collaboration between the Palm Beach County Coordinated Services Network (CSN), the local Community Prevention Partnership (CPP), people living with HIV (PLWH), community partners, and the representation on the Statewide Prevention Group and Patient Care Planning Group.

### HIV DOES NOT IMPACT ALL PEOPLE IN PALM BEACH COUNTY EQUALLY

While anyone can be infected, the HIV epidemic in Palm Beach County is concentrated in key population, as noted in the epidemiological section of the HIV Integrated Plan and other statistical reports. The Integrated HIV Prevention and Care Plan is directed at ensuring that funding and resources are allocated according to the epidemiological profiles in Palm Beach County and that cost-effective, scalable interventions are prioritized for communities where HIV is most concentrated in the following groups:

- Black men and women
- Latino men
- Gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men of all races and ethnicities (*noting the particularly high burden of HIV among Black gay and bisexual men*)

The Integrated HIV Prevention and Care Plan is a forward-looking document that envisions the end of the HIV epidemic by committing resources and taking bold action. The Plan calls on stakeholders and affected community members to commit and jointly engage in putting the Plan in action. The following is what we have done so far.

# Introduction

This is the 2020 Progress Report on the *Palm Beach County HIV Integrated Prevention and Care Plan, 2017-2021*. The Integrated Plan outlines how the Ryan White Part A Program and its partners are addressing the HIV epidemic in Palm Beach County between 2017 and 2021. **This biennial progress report provides a brief update on the actions we have taken toward meeting the goals in the Integrated Plan and addressing the HIV epidemic in our jurisdiction.**



## Methods



The Palm Beach County Ryan White Program discussed program activities and reviewed program and grantee documents to gather information for this progress report. The Program provided descriptions of projects and initiatives started since the plan launched in 2017.



The Palm Beach County HIV Care Council and the Integrated Plan Workgroup weighed in on activities that should be included in this progress report. Some consumers reviewed the report and provided feedback prior to the draft publication.



Quantitative data (numbers) were consolidated into a dashboard, or table, showing progress on the plan's objectives since 2017.

**We used the 4 Goals and Objectives listed in the Integrated Plan to organize this progress report.** The Key Elements are broad and therefore some examples listed under one Key Element may be relevant to other Key Elements. The 4 Goals are (1) Reduce New Infections, (2) Increase Access to Care and Improve Health Outcomes for PLWH, (3) Reduce HIV-Related Health Disparities and Health Inequities, and (4) Monitoring and Evaluation.

**This progress report focuses on projects started and changes made since the plan launched in 2017.** However, due to the brevity of this report, not all the work happening to address the HIV epidemic in our jurisdiction is captured here. We hope this report will provide a snapshot of countywide efforts to improve the health outcomes of people at risk for or living with HIV.

# 1.

# Target HIV resources to the right people, in the right places, and with the right actions

## About this key element:

Reducing HIV in Palm Beach County means addressing racial inequities in HIV cases by targeting HIV prevention and care resources to people and areas that are disproportionately impacted by HIV. It requires inclusive and deliberate community engagement with active involvement by community members in decision-making. It means focusing on leadership development in communities most impacted by HIV.

## Actions taken since the launch of the Integrated Plan:

### 1. Increased funding for the Early Intervention Services (EIS) program in Palm Beach County (Goal #2)



This service provides multiple session HIV risk reduction, referral, and linkage counseling for previously diagnosed HIV-positive consumers, targeting members of the Africa-American, Hispanic, and Haitian populations. EIS is a newly allocated service category for the Minority AIDS Initiative (MAI) that will be supported by increased funding in FY 2020.

### 2. Expanded Testing Initiative (Goals #1&2)



This initiative incorporates recruitment strategies in a variety of settings. The Ryan White Part A program has collaborated with subrecipients with focused services on African-Americans unaware of their HIV Status. There are currently three ETI providers in Palm Beach County. The Florida Department of Health (FDOH) provides infrastructure support and supplies, such as rapid HIV test kits. ETI also includes social marketing outreach through radio, posters, public relations, and outdoor advertising to black populations. Participating sites link persons testing positive for HIV to medical care, support, prevention services, and partner counseling and referral services.

### 3. Engaged people affected by HIV through community meetings (Goal #2)



Community meetings are a low-barrier strategy for sharing science-based information about HIV. The Community Building Advocates group meets regularly and hold retreats for those individuals living with HIV. The Palm Beach Planning Council, through their various committee and council meetings, provide “educational moments” throughout the year for the public and their members. In addition, local CBOs sponsor drop-in centers for PLWH and also provide support groups for those individuals as well.

### 4. High-Impact Prevention Programs (Goals #1 and 3)



There are three (3) state-funded programs in Palm Beach County that provide HIV prevention, counseling and testing, linkage to care and intervention services to PLWH and high-risk negative men who have sex with men (MSM) and transgender populations of all races and ethnicities. The programs provide HIV testing, peer programs, condom distribution, traditional and internet-based outreach, behavioral risk screening for all HIV-positive clients, empowerment groups, and linkage.

## Future Plans

- Focus resources on the underlying social determinants of health impacting people’s risk for HIV
- To aggressively and innovatively locate and rapidly engage persons newly diagnosed with HIV, and PLWH not in care, as well as improving adherence among PLWH who are engaged in care, but not virally suppressed in PBC.

# 2. Increase the use of data to improve HIV health outcomes

## About this key element:

The use of data is central to monitoring population health and improving health outcomes. Data is used for surveillance, program planning, quality improvement and evaluation, clinical management, and research. Data informs funding and impacts access to services. Enhancing the use of data and data sharing at the state and local levels can help improve HIV health outcomes.



### 1. Hired Quality Management Coordinators (Goal #4)

In 2019, the Palm Beach County HIV Program hired Quality Management Coordinators. These new roles will develop a Data to Care protocol, collaborate with community partners and health care providers, and increase the use of data to identify people who are out of HIV care.



### 2. Integrated HIV prevention and surveillance funding (Goal #4)

In 2018, the CDC combined its HIV prevention and surveillance grants to state and local health departments for the first time. The integrated funding is designed to increase coordination in addressing the HIV epidemic at the state and local levels.



### 3. Increased collaboration to improve HIV outcomes (Goal #4)

In 2018, the Palm Beach County Ryan White Part A Program began partnering with the Palm Beach County Part B Program to share data and to monitor and improve HIV care outcomes. This new partnership aims to increase access to HIV treatment and improve health outcomes for people living with HIV who are enrolled in both the Part A and B Programs.



### 4. Data use agreements to share information for positive HIV treatment outcomes. (Goal #4)

In 2019, a data use agreement process was initiated between the Ryan White Part A Program and the Florida Department of Health to share information on PLWH who are newly diagnosed, not engaged in care or not virally suppressed. This information includes identifying information, pharmacy, and lab results.



### 5. HRSA/HUD/RAND (Goal #4)

In 2017, through funding provided by the HRSA, in collaboration with HUD, led by RAND, Palm Beach County and the City of West Palm Beach developed and implemented an integrated data system to share client information and coordinate HIV care and housing services across multiple funding programs to enhance and streamline local HIV service coordination along the HIV Care Continuum.

## Future Plans

- Review options to better integrate users of the PROVIDE Enterprise (PE) database system, i.e., AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP), other Part A programs in Florida, etc., to improve client care and access to services while consistently trying to retain consumers in care.
- Build capacity regarding PROVIDE Enterprise (PE) to include screening tools for determining underlying social determinants of health that include, mental health, substance abuse, etc.)

- HRSA-Health Resources and Services Administration
- HUD-Housing and Urban Development
- RAND-A non-profit research organization that partners with government agencies to address social issues

# 3.

## Increase access to PrEP: one pill, once a day that can help prevent HIV

### About this key element:

PrEP is a prescription medication (one pill taken once a day) that can reduce a person's risk of getting HIV by over 90%. Increasing access to PrEP in Palm Beach County includes growing the number of service providers offering PrEP, providing support to help people pay for PrEP through several financial assistance programs, increasing PrEP adherence, and providing medical follow-up.

### Actions taken since the launch of the Integrated Plan:



#### 1. Funded Provider Resources for PrEP (Goal #1)

The Palm Beach County Health Department provides a variety of resources that includes provider toolkits, resource guides, posters and brochures for agencies and entities providing PrEP and PrEP education.



#### 2. Offering Preventative Medication Free (Goal #1)

The Florida Department of Health has made PrEP available at no cost to all individuals in all 67 of its county health departments since the end of 2018. The program also provides additional services, including HIV testing, PrEP and HIV education, liver function testing, and one follow-up doctor visit at three months.



#### 3. Ready, Set, PrEP Expands Access to Medication (Goal #1)

In 2019, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) launched Ready, Set, Prep. It is a key component of Ending the Epidemic (EHE). In Palm Beach County, CVS Health and Walgreens have donated their dispensing services to HHS to ensure residents have access and are able to qualify for necessary clinic visits and lab test depending on an individual's income.

## Future Plans

- Support campaigns and outreach efforts that increase PrEP awareness in communities affected by HIV
- Work with the Palm Beach County Jail to offer PrEP to inmates.
- Support partner efforts to remove barriers so that youth and young adults are able to access PrEP
- Educate doctors and nurses and other health professionals about PrEP.

# 4. Streamline testing, prevention, and treatment services for STDs, TB, Viral Hepatitis, and HIV

## About this key element:

STDs, TB, viral hepatitis, and HIV share common risk factors. STD treatment is an important HIV prevention tool because an untreated STD can increase a person's risk of getting HIV. People who inject drugs are at risk for both viral hepatitis and HIV if they share syringes and other injection equipment. Because of these overlapping risk factors, agencies are encouraged to provide integrated, one-stop-shop services to clients based on their needs and risk factors for these diseases.

## Actions taken since the launch of the Integrated Plan:



### 1. Streamlined HIV and STD services through community-based partnerships (Goal #1)

Since 2017, Diverse and Resilient has partnered with Holton Street Clinic to offer STI testing and treatment on site. They also partner with ARCW to offer an in-house PrEP clinic. This way participants can access multiple services with one visit to Diverse and Resilient.



### 2. Expanded integrated HIV/STD/Viral Hepatitis testing (Goal #1)

In 2018, HIV and STD clinics provided hepatitis screening risk assessment questionnaires to identify clients and their partners who would benefit from vaccines and to provide vaccines at no cost. Palm Beach County did not see an increase in Hepatitis A cases between March 2018 March 2019, and as a result are taking a more proactive role, to prevent outbreak as seen in other parts of the State.



### 3. AtlasPlus, Florida Department of Health, and The Center for Disease Control (Goal #4)

The Florida Department of Health provides the federal government with statistical data collected throughout the state. In 2018, AtlasPlus was created to provide an interactive platform for accessing data while allowing users to observe trends and patterns by creating detailed reports, maps and other graphics.

<https://www.cdc.gov/nchstp/atlas/index.htm>

## Future Plans

- Promote HIV and viral hepatitis testing in emergency departments
- Increase HIV testing of partners and social networks of people living with HIV by disease intervention specialists and Partner Services

# 5. Promote drug user health and harm reduction services

## About this key element:

Harm reduction services improve the health of people who use drugs. They are in high demand because of the growing opioid crisis in our state and nationwide. The goal of these services is to reduce the stigma associated with drug use, increase access to health services, and decrease the negative health impacts of using drugs. With regard to HIV, drug use plays a significant factor in infection and disease progression.

## Actions taken since the launch of the Integrated Plan:



### 1. Expanded access to and training for administering Narcan, an overdose reversal drug (Goal #2)

In 2018, Palm Beach County started offering training for community partners and the general public teaching participants about the dangers of drug overdose, as well as about Narcan.



### 2. Palm Beach County Passes Needle Exchange Bill (Goal #1 & 2)

In 2019, Palm Beach County became the first county in Florida to pass an ordinance for needle exchange and harm reduction programs after state legislation sanctions programs. This program paves the way to establish programs to reduce disease transmission among drug users. Needle exchanges have been shown to reduce transmission of HIV and viral hepatitis.



### 3. Other actions (Goal #4)

In 2018, the Palm Beach County Office of Substance Use Disorders, created a coordinator position (commonly referred to as a “Drug Czar”) within county government to provide leadership and guidance as well as work with existing initiatives and other community-based groups to integrate efforts.

## Future Plans

- Train more health care providers to screen regularly for viral hepatitis among people who can become pregnant, and particularly among people who are pregnant.
- Collaborate with local health departments to establish more syringe services programs and to provide viral hepatitis testing.

# 6. Encourage policies and practices that reduce discrimination and stigma

## About this key element:

Stigma and discrimination impact people living with HIV, LGBT communities, and communities of color. Stigma and discrimination are barriers to effective HIV prevention, care, and support services. State and local governments, service providers, policy makers, and community leaders should actively support policies and practices that eliminate all forms of discrimination and stigma.

## Actions taken since the launch of the Integrated Plan:



### 1. Launch of the HIV Prevention Statewide Minority Media Campaign (Goal #3)

The Florida HIV Prevention Program launched its statewide minority media campaign in 2017. The campaign theme is Protect Yourself. Components of the campaign include broadcast radio, digital/mobile advertising, out-of-home advertising (billboards, etc.), a new website, social media and public outreach events. Not just prevention efforts, but also efforts to combat stigma and discrimination.



### 2. Special Initiatives and Consumer Led Advocacy (Goal #3)

Although started in 2008, the SOS Program (Sistas Organizing to Survive) continually advocates and is involved in erasing stigma in the Black community. Each year, the group sponsors a conference that aims to provide information that will help eradicate the fear, stigma and discrimination associated with HIV in communities of color. In addition, the Community Building Advocates (CBA) led consumer group, provides educational seminars and workshops that allows consumers to have a voice in how stigma can be eliminated throughout the community and how consumers should lead this charge.



### 3. Created stigma infographic and increased use of person centered language (Goal #3)

In 2017, the Palm Beach County Health Department HIV Prevention Program created and disseminated an infographic on strategies to reduce HIV stigma, including using person-centered language. The infographic offers service providers simple steps they can take to be more inclusive in their interactions with clients. Person-centered language will be incorporated into future handouts, posters, infographics, presentations, and reports.



### 4. Launched the HIV in Real Life media campaign (Goal #3)

The Florida Department of Health launched the HIV in Real Life media campaign in 2018 in Florida. The campaign aims to address HIV-related stigma by sharing positive images and stories of people impacted by HIV. It consists of a website and print and online ads visible throughout Palm Beach County.

## Future Plans

- Provide trainings focused on reducing implicit bias and improving cultural responsiveness for leadership in the Palm Beach County HIV Program and partner agencies. These include reducing stigma and trauma informed care.

# Progress Toward Objectives of the Palm Beach County HIV Integrated Prevention and Care Plan,

## 2017-2021



ANNUAL TARGET MET



ANNUAL TARGET NOT MET  
Progress in the expected direction



ANNUAL TARGET NOT MET  
No progress made



NO ANNUAL TARGETS

Goal	Objective	Data by Year			2021 Target
		Baseline <sup>a</sup>	2017	2018	
1	Increase the percentage of PLWH who know their status from 87.2% to 90% by increasing awareness and access to testing.	83.9%	85%	85%	90%
	Reduce the number of new HIV diagnoses by at least 10% in Palm Beach County by 2021	293	300	298	268
2	Increase the percentage of newly diagnosed people linked to HIV medical care within one month of their HIV diagnosis to at least 85% by 2021 in Palm Beach County	64.5%	71.5%	<sup>b</sup> 78.9%	85%
	Increase the percentage of people living with HIV who are retained in HIV medical care to at least 65% by 2021 in Palm Beach County	61.2%	62.2%	62.8%	65%
	Increase the percentage of people living with HIV who are virally suppressed to at least 80% by 2021 in Palm Beach County.	54.2%	56%	58.8%	60%
	Reduce the number of HIV related deaths among people living with HIV in Palm Beach County	51	61	50	47
	Reduce new HIV diagnoses 2021 in men who have sex with men, statewide	3730	3714	3868	3543
	Reduce new HIV diagnoses 2021 in Black men who have sex with men, statewide	1346	1358	1339	1279
	Reduce new HIV diagnoses by 2021 in Black women, statewide	681	636	580	511
	Are there disparities in care outcomes for Black people compared to White people? <sup>f</sup>	YES	YES	YES	

a. Baseline data comes from 2016.

b. We may see an increase in new transmissions, but this could be due to increased testing