

INTRA-JURISDICTIONAL

**EHE ↔ FTC
ALIGNMENT**

2023 WORKSHOPS

INTRA-JURISDICTIONAL

**EHE ↔ FTC
ALIGNMENT**

2023 WORKSHOPS



Tampa, FL
June 6, 2023

WELCOME

INTRA-JURISDICTIONAL

EHE ↔ FTC ALIGNMENT

2023 WORKSHOPS



Tampa, FL
June 6, 2023

Welcome Remarks

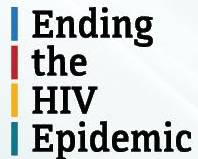
Dr. José M. Zuniga
President/CEO
IAPAC and FTCI

- Significant **PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE** in Hillsborough County/Tampa region
- Yet, much work remains to ensure **EQUITABLE ACCESS** to:
 - HIV prevention/treatment, **PERSON-CENTERED CARE**, social support
 - Within context of environment enabled to respect every person's **DIGNITY**
- Multistakeholder **HIV COMMITMENT, LEADERSHIP** is critical
 - Including in relation to **POLITICAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH**
 - But also **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT** that places people at center of HIV response
- EHE and FTC are well **ALIGNED AND SYNERGISTIC**
 - Notably as we strive to attain EHE and FTC (and **NHAS**) objectives
 - On trajectory towards **GETTING TO ZERO** new HIV infections, AIDS-related deaths, stigma
- 2 years from deadline of **REDUCING NEW HIV INFECTIONS BY 75%**

INTRA-JURISDICTIONAL

**EHE ↔ FTC
ALIGNMENT**

2023 WORKSHOPS



Tampa, FL
June 6, 2023

**Welcome on Behalf of
the City of Tampa**

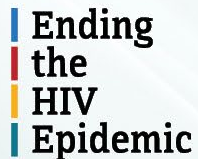
Ian Whitney

Associate Director, Office of Government
Affairs
City of Tampa

INTRA-JURISDICTIONAL

EHE ↔ FTC ALIGNMENT

2023 WORKSHOPS

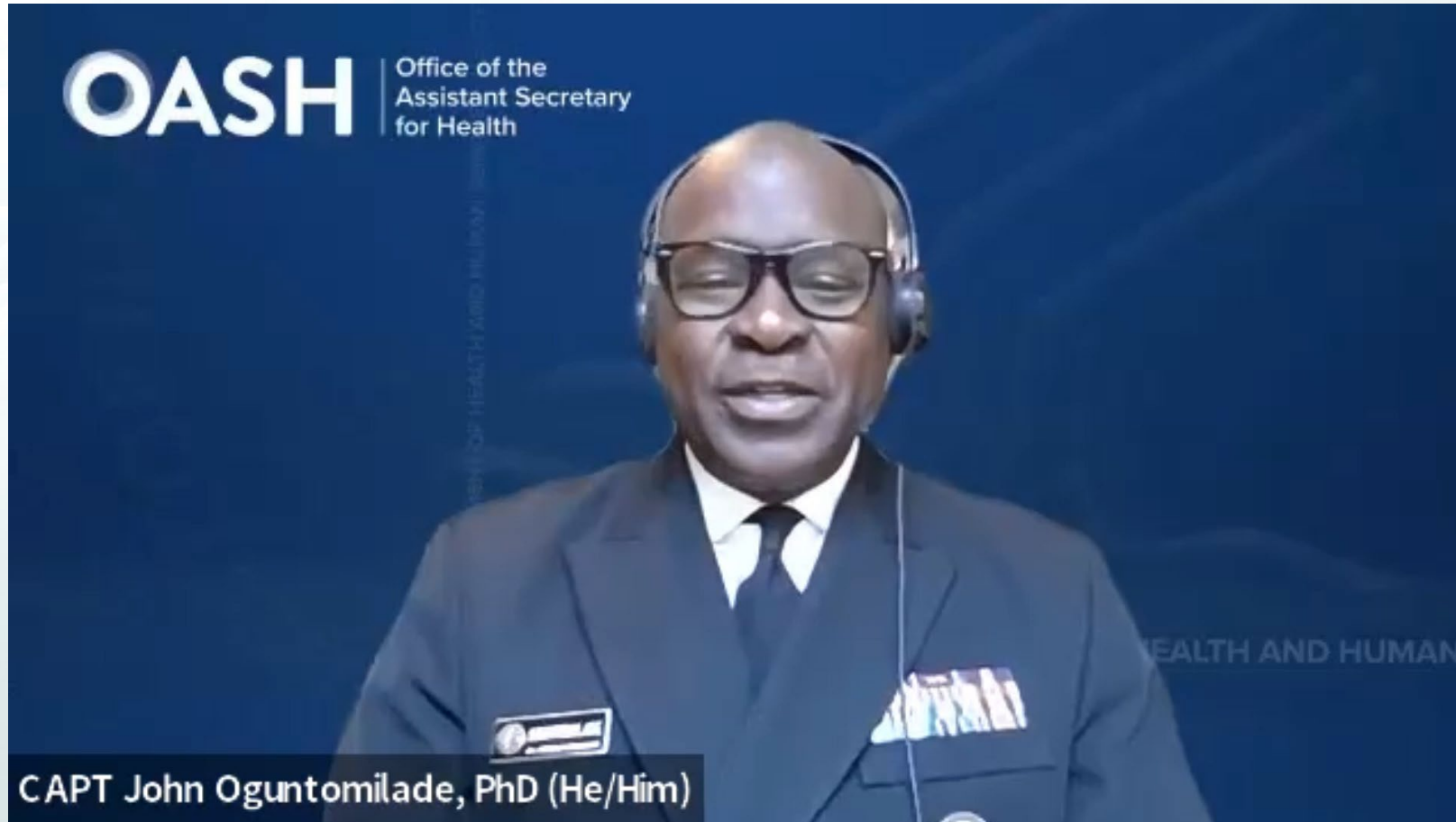


Tampa, FL
June 6, 2023

**Welcome from HHS
Region 4**

**CAPT John Oguntomilade, BDS, MPH,
PhD**
PACE Program Director
U.S. Public Health Service HHS Region 4

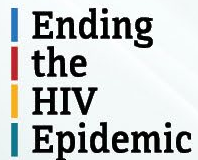
Welcome from Capt. Oguntomilade



INTRA-JURISDICTIONAL

**EHE ↔ FTC
ALIGNMENT**

2023 WORKSHOPS



Tampa, FL
June 6, 2023

**Welcome on Behalf of
Hillsborough County EHE**

Dr. Douglas Holt
Health Officer
Florida Department of Health – Hillsborough
County

INTRA-JURISDICTIONAL

EHE ↔ FTC
ALIGNMENT

2023 WORKSHOPS



Tampa, FL
June 6, 2023

**Welcome on Behalf
of Community**

Sean McIntosh
Research Coordinator
The AIDS Institute

INTRA-JURISDICTIONAL

EHE ↔ FTC ALIGNMENT

2023 WORKSHOPS



Tampa, FL
June 6, 2023

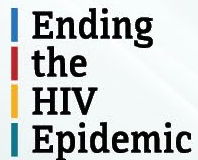
**Welcome on Behalf
of Community**

Gwendolyn Reese
President
African-American Heritage Association

INTRA-JURISDICTIONAL

EHE ↔ FTC
ALIGNMENT

2023 WORKSHOPS



Tampa, FL
June 6, 2023

**Welcome on Behalf of
ViiV Healthcare**

J. Maurice McCants-Pearsall
Director, Government Relations
ViiV Healthcare US

INTRA-JURISDICTIONAL

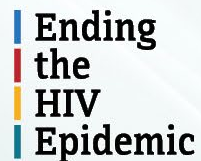
**EHE ↔ FTC
ALIGNMENT**

2023 WORKSHOPS

INTRA-JURISDICTIONAL

EHE ↔ FTC
ALIGNMENT

2023 WORKSHOPS



Tampa, FL
June 6, 2023

**Welcome and Setting
the Stage**

Dashiell Sears
Regional Director, North America
Fast-Track Cities Institute



Setting the Stage....

- Hillsborough County was identified as an Ending the HIV Epidemic priority jurisdiction in 2019. Soon after, Tampa joined Fast-Track Cities in November of 2021.

Fast-Track Cities	Ending the HIV Epidemic
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Global initiative, local implementation • Both a technical and political initiative inclusive of engagement from mayor’s office, health department, and community • Targets: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 95-95-95 and zero stigma and discrimination by 2025 • Ending the HIV epidemic by 2030 (zero new infections and zero HIV-related deaths) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Federal initiative, local implementation • HHS inter-agency leadership engaging community and local stakeholders • Targets: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce # new HIV infections in the United States by 75% by 2025 • Reduce # new HIV infections in the United States by at least 90% by 2030

Setting the Stage...



The purpose of this workshop is to:

- Leverage synergistic efforts of EHE and FTC initiatives
- Discuss gaps and opportunities to achieving common goals:
 - prevention and treatment policy implementation
 - community access to HIV services
 - criminalization as a barrier to ending HIV
 - equitable scale up of PrEP
 - implementation of status neutrality
- Define short-/long-term next steps for addressing EHE and FTC gaps

INTRA-JURISDICTIONAL

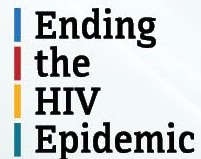
**EHE ↔ FTC
ALIGNMENT**

2023 WORKSHOPS

INTRA-JURISDICTIONAL

EHE ↔ FTC
ALIGNMENT

2023 WORKSHOPS



Tampa, FL
June 6, 2023

**Increasing Access to Testing
& Rapid ART**

Malik Waters
Project Lead, EHE – Metro Inclusive
Health

E.S. Myles
EIS Program Coordinator - Metro
Inclusive Health

EHE in Hillsborough



While increasing physical access via mobile testing to overcome social determinant deficits for community, we still face the social climate of medical mistrust & concern for discretion with HIV-related preventative care.

- Client visits
- Transportation assistance
- Community Resources

Taking a deeper look...



Unique challenges include social, economic, and cultural barriers that limit access to prevention and care.

- Stigma and misinformation about HIV contribute heavily to new cases of HIV.
- Low rates of condom use, perceived invulnerability, & substance use are prevention challenges for the population.
- Youth populations are more likely to forego needed health care due to lack of access to transportation, lack of time off from work and school, fear, lack of insurance, disapproval from family and peers, and not feeling sick.

Rapid ART Accessibility



Challenges to accessing and maintaining HIV care:

- Housing
- Food insecurity
- Transportation
- Insurance coverage
- Social support

Recognition of these factors which impact clients in varying circumstances creates the opportunity to provide client-centered care.

Solutions to accessing HIV testing and Rapid ART



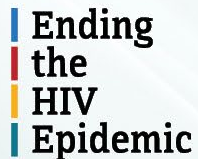
Building community trust is the key to increasing access to HIV testing and Rapid ART.

- Education
 - Educating community members on HIV care and prevention
 - Utilizing education opportunities as a pathway for linkage to care
 - Provide opportunities for community leadership → Community health advocates & advisory boards
- Investing in communities
 - Being present in natural community gathering hubs (shops, hair salons, parks, churches, etc.) to support their own activities and provide mobile health services
 - Partnering with and supporting community businesses/groups
 - Promoting local clinic space as a community hub to directly assess needs and deliver services

INTRA-JURISDICTIONAL

EHE ↔ FTC
ALIGNMENT

2023 WORKSHOPS



Tampa, FL
June 6, 2023

Increasing Access to
Biomedical
Prevention

Precshard Williams
HIV Prevention Manager
CAN Community Health

Objectives



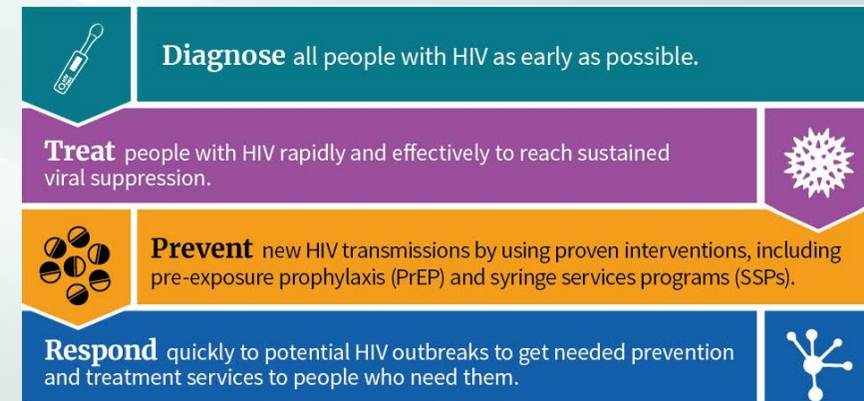
1. Florida EHE's plan to increase access to PrEP
2. What's happening in Hillsborough for PrEP
3. Disparities when accessing PrEP in Hillsborough

Increasing PrEP Access Plan



Prevent new HIV transmissions by using proven interventions, including pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) and syringe service programs (SSPs).

- Health and Human Services (HHS) will expand PrEP services.
- May 2019, Gilead donated PrEP to 200k people per year for 11 years.
- December 2019, HHS launched Ready, Set, PrEP.
 - Nationwide program providing no cost access.



Increasing PrEP Access Plan Cont.



Syringe Service Programs (SSPs)

- Close to 30 years of research.
- Safe, effective, and cost-saving intervention.
- Reduces the risk of viral Hep, HIV, and other infections.
- CDC and SAMHSA works with local communities to implement.
 - where legally allowed.

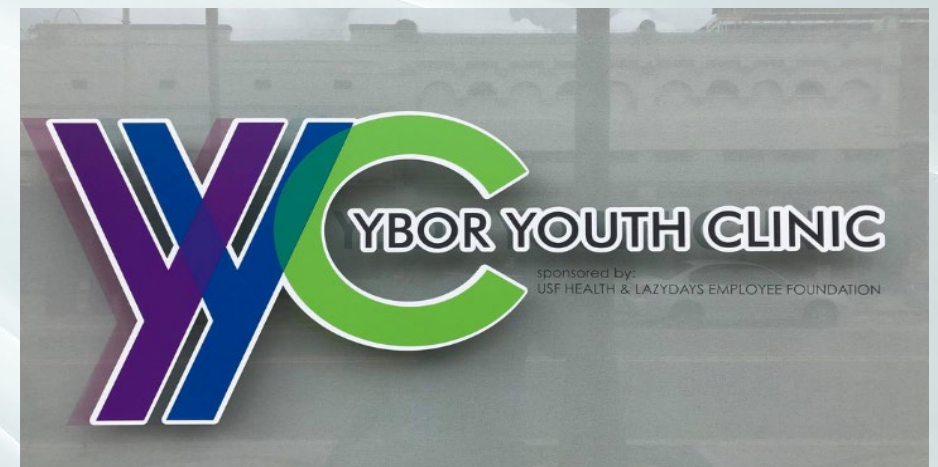
Key ehe strategies. HIV.gov. (n.d.). <https://www.hiv.gov/federal-response/ending-the-hiv-epidemic/key-strategies/>

Hillsborough PrEP Providers



USF Health Ybor Youth Clinic

- ❖ Truvada and Descovy
- ❖ Ready Set PrEP, Copay assistance for insured/uninsured, Gilead Patient Assistance (PAP) Program
- ❖ Study with USF Pediatrics



Hillsborough PrEP Providers



Metro Inclusive Health

- ❖ Truvada, Descovy, and Apretude
- ❖ Gilead PAP and Viiv Connect
- ❖ PrEP in 30 minutes



Hillsborough PrEP Providers



CAN Community Health

- ❖ Truvada, Descovy, and Apretude
- ❖ CAN Cares, Gilead PAP, and Viiv Connect
- ❖ Apretude Buy and Build pilot program
- ❖ PrEP Week



Hillsborough PrEP Providers



Midway Specialty Pharmacy

- ❖ Truvada, Descovy, and Apretude
- ❖ Gilead PAP, and Viiv Connect, and Midway Provides
- ❖ Concierge PrEP service– “We bring PrEP to you!”
- ❖ PrEP 4 Life Newcomer & Mr. and Miss pageants



MIDWAY
SPECIALTY CARE CENTER

Hillsborough SSPs



IDEA Exchange Tampa

- ❖ Syringe exchange
- ❖ Wound care
- ❖ HIV & Hep C testing w/ linkage
- ❖ Treatment referral
- ❖ Insurance enrollment
- ❖ Overdose prevention
- ❖ Safer injection education
- ❖ Community outreach



Disparities in Accessing PrEP



Health Insurance

- Lower PrEP uptake
- Lower rates of people knowing their status
- Lower levels of people linking to care

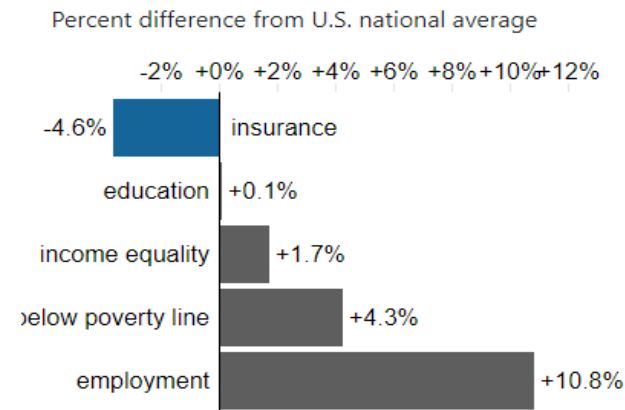
Insurance: *Percent of population under 65 that is insured* is lagging the national average by **-5%**

Education: *Percent of population 25 and older that graduated high school* is on par with the national average.

Income Inequality: *Estimated Gini coefficient* is **2%** above the national average.

Poverty: *(Labor force ≥ 16yrs) below the poverty level* is **4%** above the national average.

Employment: *Unemployment rate* is **11%** above the national average.





Thank you!

Precshard Williams

HIV Prevention Manager

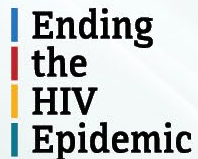
CAN Community Health

pwilliams@cancommunityhealth.org

INTRA-JURISDICTIONAL

EHE ↔ FTC ALIGNMENT

2023 WORKSHOPS



Tampa, FL
June 6, 2023

Eliminating Disparities in HIV Health Outcomes

Teriko Perkins
Tampa Bay Regional Coordinator
Midway Specialty Care Center

Existing Disparities in Hillsborough County Social Determinants of Health

- Housing
- Education
- Insurance or Linkage to Care
- Employment

Hillsborough County... Eliminating HIV Disparities



- **HOPWA**: HOPWA funds will pay for direct services, operations and administrative costs to income-eligible persons with HIV/AIDS.
- **GED Programs**: Hillsborough County offers financial education assistance for GED preparation, GED testing, and Adult Continued Education to qualified residents, which includes tuition, books, and other fees
- **Ryan White (Midway YourWay)**: An agency built program that allows individuals living with HIV to receive care and treatment with **ZERO** cost for office visits as well as labs for individuals who are uninsured.
- **Florida EHE Plan**: The goal of the initiative is to reduce new HIV infections by 75 percent in the next five years and by 90 percent by 2030.
- **Job Placement Programs**: At CareerSource Tampa Bay, the mission is to connect employers with qualified, skilled talent and Hillsborough County residents with employment and career development opportunities to achieve economic prosperity.

New Initiatives Creating Change

- Midway YourWay
- Educational groups & seminars
 - Ebonii Study/Concierge PrEP
- Representation Matters...Create the Space

INTRA-JURISDICTIONAL

EHE ↔ FTC
ALIGNMENT

2023 WORKSHOPS



Tampa, FL
June 6, 2023

Reducing Stigma in Clinical Settings

Anelize Wessler, MSN, APRN, ACRN
CAN Community Health

What does EHE say about Stigma in Clinical Settings



- **What is stigma? “A set of negative and unfair beliefs that a society or group of people have about something.”**
- “To reduce new HIV diagnoses in Florida, it is critical to ensure that everyone with HIV is aware of their status, is linked to and retained in HIV medical care and maintains viral suppression. Key social determinants for the state include homelessness, poverty, racism, violence, stigma, homophobia and transphobia. Initiatives such as anti-stigma campaigns and collaborations with faith-based organizations, as well as those that address social determinants, will aid in EHE. The FDOH HIV/AIDS Section will collaborate with the FDOH Office of Minority Health and Health Equity (OMHHE) to promote synergistic initiatives between the Closing the Gap grant program and the HIV/AIDS Section.” (The Florida Department of Health, 2020)
- “Haitian Population A statewide Haitian consultation was facilitated by the Black AIDS Institute December 10–11, 2018, in Tallahassee, Florida. Specific leaders who are providers and advocates within the Haitian community were invited to participate in the session. Consultation objectives were to develop a shared understanding of demographic data around HIV and other STIs in Florida’s Haitian communities; to understand and discuss the context in which the demographic data exist, including the effects of xenophobia, racism, language access and stigma; and to have a deeper understanding of cultural attitudes around HIV, including medical mistrust and other healing systems.” (The Florida Department of Health, 2020)
- “5) reinvigorating the Faith Responds to AIDS (FRTA) initiative as an effective way to reach the Latinx population; 6) reducing stigma by removing the focus on sin related to HIV and other lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer (LGBTQ+) issues within the church setting; and 7) providing cultural awareness training to clinic staff, including providers and others who may interact with clients.” (The Florida Department of Health, 2020)

What is current guidance on speaking to patients about HIV, PrEP



- “Health care providers play an important role in helping patients with HIV improve their health outcomes. By engaging your patients in brief conversations at every office visit, you can help them stay in HIV care, improve their medication adherence, and achieve viral suppression.” (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2021)
- United States Preventative Services Task Force (USPSTF)
 - Grade A Recommendation: USPSTF recommends the service. There is high certainty that the net benefit is substantial. Offer or provide service.
 - HIV screening ages 15-65 and pregnant persons
 - Prevention of HIV via Preexposure prophylaxis PrEP

What are some ways we can improve communication or reducing HIV stigma for clinicians?



- Start at where they are receiving their education for becoming a clinician, or a healthcare provider to educate about HIV and HIV Prevention as well and to incorporate this in every visit.
- Starting an honest conversation with your patient without judgement will help that patient create trust and eventually open-up more in the future. It may take time for the patient to open up, don't force them.
- Tell them before hand, hey this may be uncomfortable and if there is something you do not want to answer, it is ok. Don't penalize your patient. They are looking to you for guidance.
- “Health care providers play an important role in helping patients initiate ART, including describing the benefits of early initiation of ART, offering and prescribing ART, helping to manage long-term ART use, and providing information on other interventions that can reduce HIV transmission risk. Talking to your patients with HIV makes a difference. By engaging your patients in brief conversations at every office visit, you can emphasize the benefits of consistent, long-term adherence to their prescribed ART regimen and the potential consequences of nonadherence. One way you can enhance communication is to ask your patients open-ended questions. These questions can help you better understand each patient’s views, barriers, and ability to adhere to their treatment regimen” (CDC, 2021)

Who can we connect/partner with to implement more stringent guidance for clinicians to understand U=U and how it applies to their patients?



- School and medical boards.
- Implementing HIV testing and prevention as a mandatory CME for license renewal.
- More awareness in the Primary Care Community.

References



Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (CDC). (2021). Starting the Conversation: HIV Treatment & Care.

<https://www.cdc.gov/stophivtogether/library/topics/treatment/brochures/cdc-hiv-lsht-treatment-brochure-partner-services-provider.pdf>

Florida Department of Health. (2020). Florida's Unified Ending The HIV Epidemic Plan.

https://www.floridahealth.gov/diseases-and-conditions/aids/administration/_documents/fl-unified-ehe-plan.pdf

United States Preventive Services Taskforce. (USPSTF). (2018) Grade Definitions.

<https://www.uspreventiveservicestaskforce.org/uspstf/about-uspstf/methods-and-processes/grade-definitions>

Merriam-Webster. (2023) *Stigma definition & meaning*. Merriam-Webster.

<https://www.merriamwebster.com/dictionary/stigma>

INTRA-JURISDICTIONAL

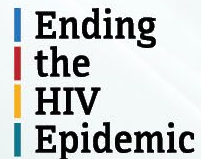
**EHE ↔ FTC
ALIGNMENT**

2023 WORKSHOPS

INTRA-JURISDICTIONAL

EHE ↔ FTC ALIGNMENT

2023 WORKSHOPS



Tampa, FL
June 6, 2023

Prevention Policy and
Implementation

Carlos A. Mercado, MBA
Director, Disease Control
Division, Florida Department
of Health in Hillsborough
County

Challenges to Achieving EHE and FTC Objectives



- Challenges in developing and implementing prevention policy in Hillsborough County for HIV?

Challenges to Achieving EHE and FTC Objectives



- What does prevention policy look like today, and what should we begin planning for in the future?

Contact Information



Carlos A. Mercado

Director, Disease Control Division

Florida Department of Health in Hillsborough County

<https://hillsborough.floridahealth.gov/>

Office: (813) 559-4345

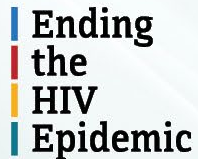
Cell: (813) 267-2130

Email: carlos.mercado@flhealth.gov

INTRA-JURISDICTIONAL

EHE ↔ FTC ALIGNMENT

2023 WORKSHOPS

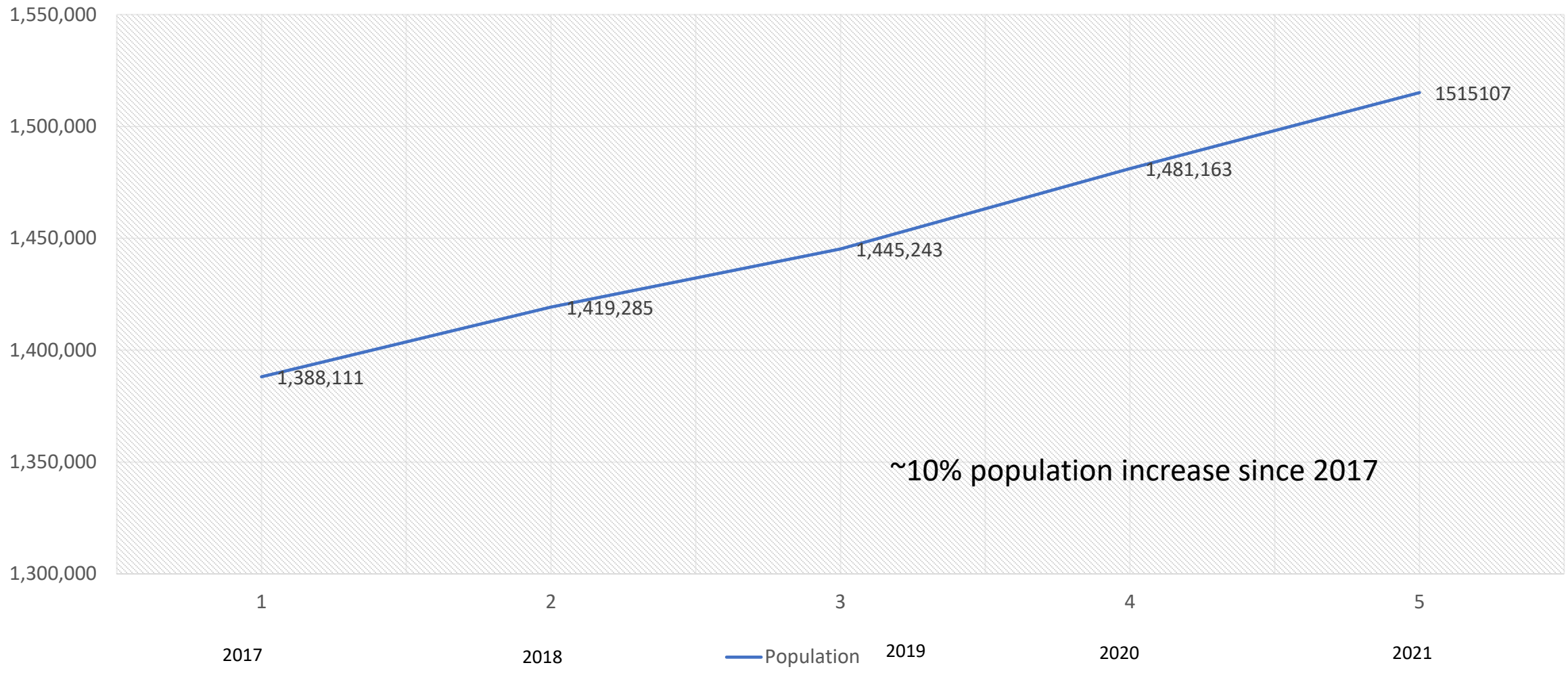


Tampa, FL
June 6, 2023

**Treatment Policy and
Implementation**

Charurut Somboonwit, MD, FACP
Associate Director, Division of
Infectious Diseases – Morsani
College of Medicine

Population

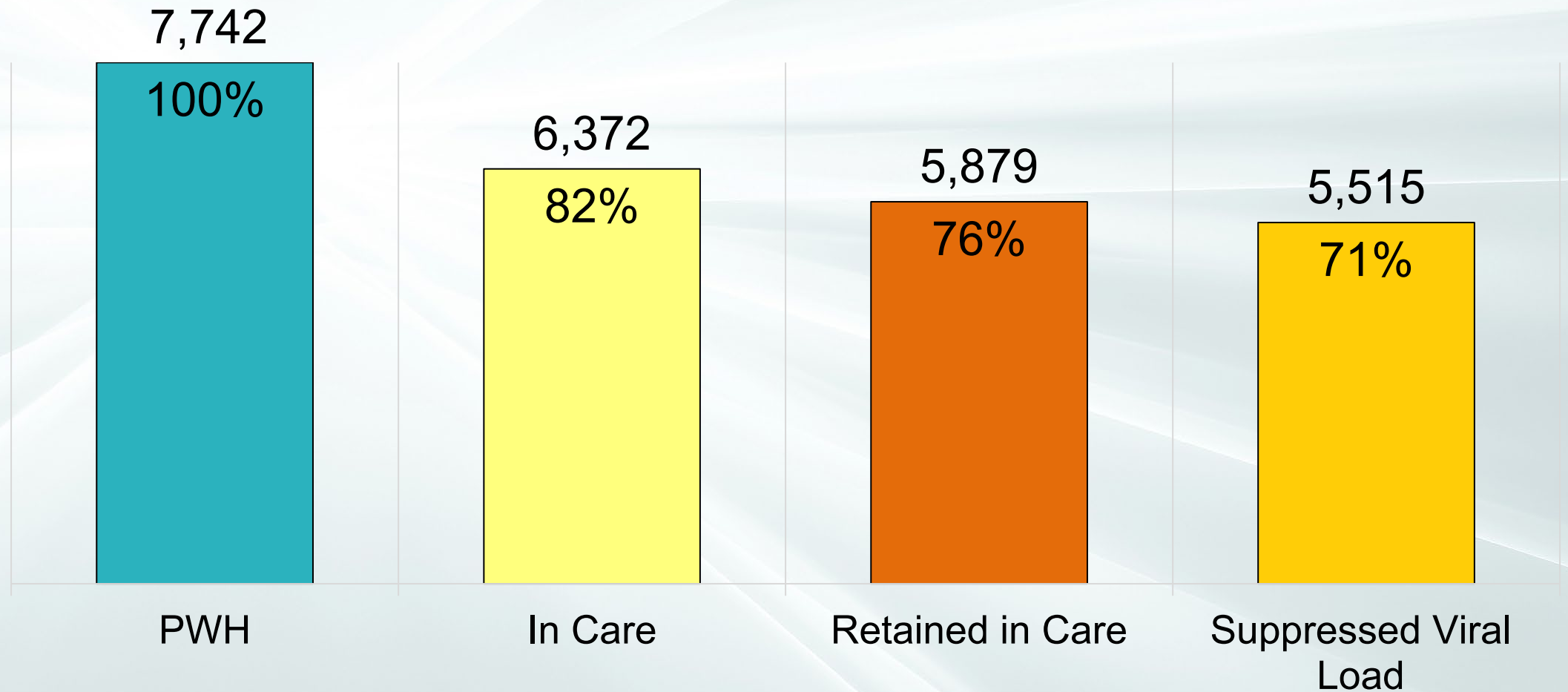


HIV Diagnosis

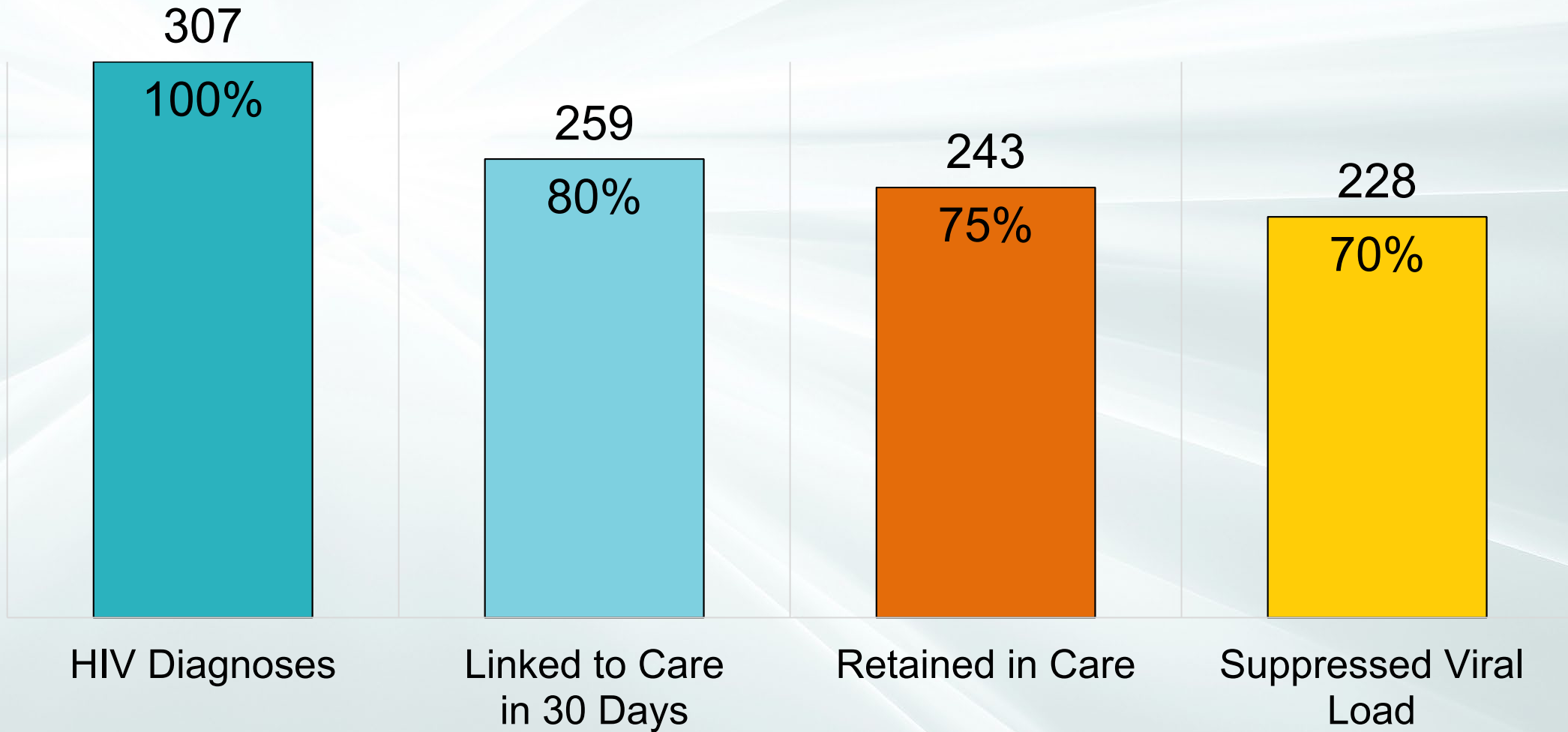
Change in HIV diagnosis \uparrow 5.2%(2017-2021)



PWH along the HIV Care Continuum in 2021, Living in Hillsborough County, Florida



Persons Who Received an HIV Diagnosis along the HIV Care Continuum in 2021, Hillsborough County, Florida



Partnerships



EHE
Component
C/A1

Clinic Assessment

Scaling Up

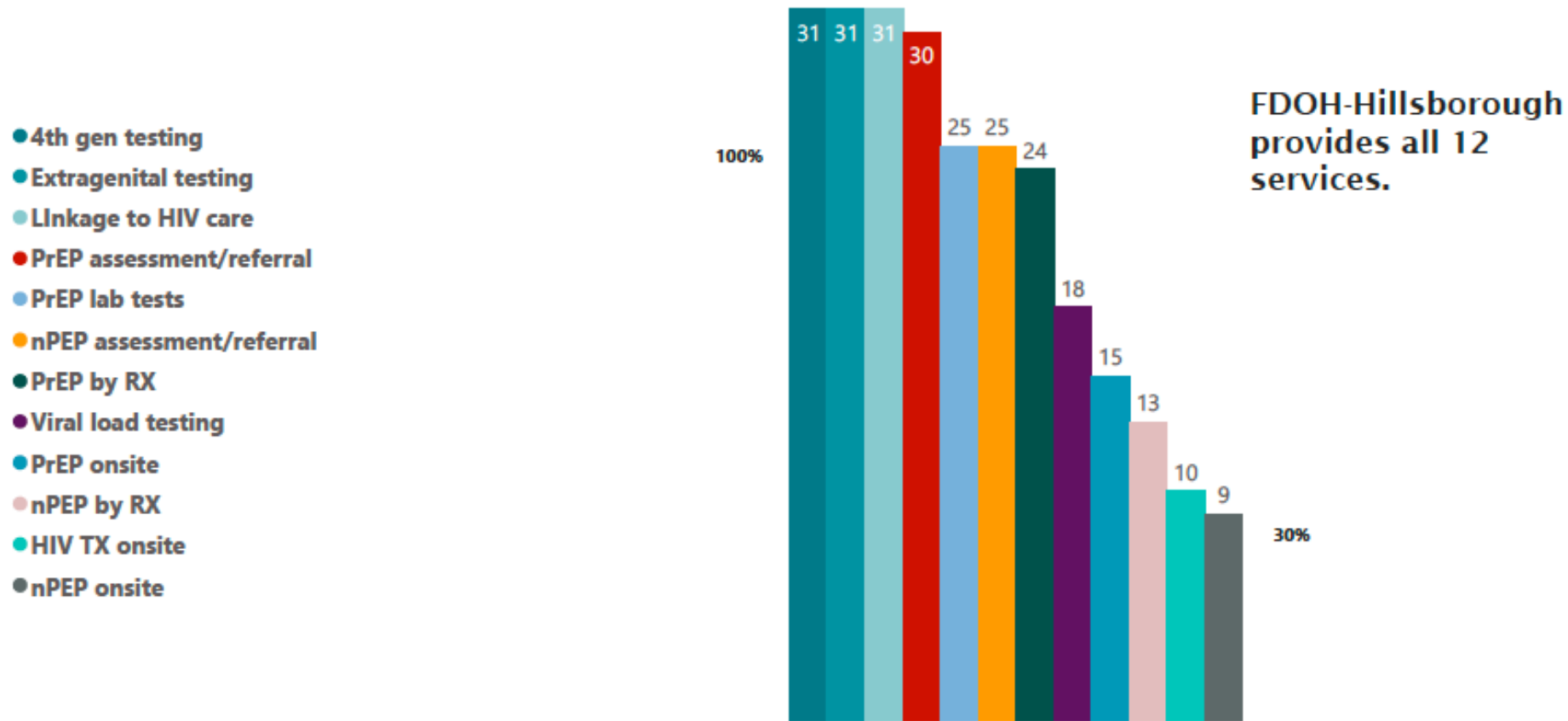
PrEP and nPEP

Linkage to care

Partnership

All clinics provided 4th generation HIV and extragenital testing, and most provided some PrEP services. However, nPEP and HIV treatment services were rarer.

Number of clinics providing each of 12 HIV services



31 Total STD Specialty Care Clinics

7 Receiving EHE Component C funding

24 Not receiving EHE Component C funding

Scaling up



Hire and retain a provider and clinic nurses



Using heat map for HIV and PrEP campaign

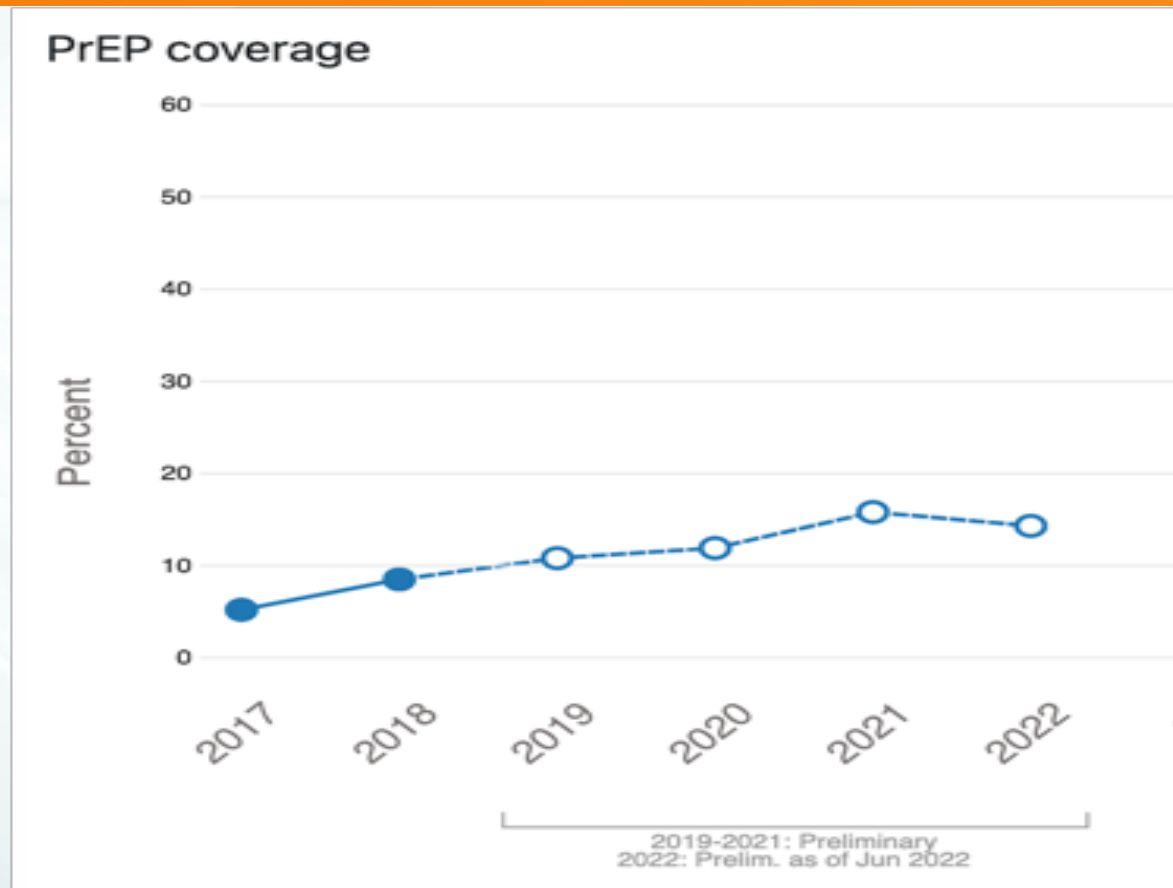


Monthly lunch and learn with the Ratelle PTC

PrEP and HIV

- Increased PrEP Prescription and coverage ~3x since 2017

Source: <https://ahead.hiv.gov/>



Linkage to care



Linkage to care coordinators



IDEA Exchange Tampa



Red Carpet Entry Program



Sylvie Ratelle
STD/HIV
Prevention Training
Center

A Project of the Division of STD Prevention
Massachusetts Department of Public Health
Funded by the CDC

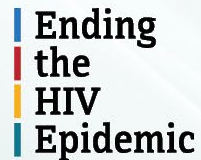


Partnerships

INTRA-JURISDICTIONAL

EHE ↔ FTC ALIGNMENT

2023 WORKSHOPS



Tampa, FL
June 6, 2023

Federal, State and County Policy Alignment



THE AIDS INSTITUTE

Michael Ruppal
Executive Director,
The AIDS Institute

Federal, State and County Policy Alignment



- Federal Budget

- Debt ceiling negotiations and impact on programs.
- ABAC Chart (handout)
- HIV Community Funding Requests Letter (handout)
- Budget Cuts to EHE (handout)

Federal, State and County Policy Alignment



- State Policy
 - Legislative Session
 - Medicaid “Unwinding”
 - Harmful legislation
 - Preparing for next session
 - Meeting with policy makers
 - Advocacy

Federal, State and County Policy Alignment



- County Policy

- EHE Hillsborough
- EHE Pinellas
- IDEA Exchange Tampa
- Harmful policies
- Meeting with policy makers (county / health department)
- Advocacy

Looking to make a difference?

Ready to put your thoughts into action?

Interested in HIV policy and advocacy in Florida?



Join Florida HIV/AIDS Advocacy Network (FHAAN)!

- Stay up to date on Florida-specific issues & trends, as well as HIV / Healthcare policy issues that impact people living with HIV and those community advocates concerned with this topic.
- Hear from your peers from around the state on what we're working on, state level strategy, and policy making.
- There's always more to be done, the work never ends. Help us help others; join our cause in providing education to people and elected officials about our issues and our proposed solutions.
- Help us be part of the solution for people living with HIV in Florida.

Join us at

<http://www.FHAAN.org>

and click

“Apply to Become a Member”

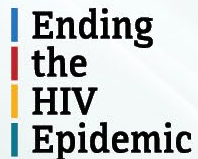


Have questions? Feel free to contact KBargar@fhaan.org or JWynn@fhaan.org.

INTRA-JURISDICTIONAL

EHE ↔ FTC ALIGNMENT

2023 WORKSHOPS



Tampa, FL
June 6, 2023

**Community
Access & HIV Services**

Keayea Lee
Outreach Supervisor
Empath Partners in Care

About EPIC



EPIC (Empath Partners in Care) a member of **Empath Health** is a nonprofit organization that offer full support and services for individuals with HIV/AIDS. Our mission is to empower and support clients to stay healthy. We help our clients thrive by providing medication support through our pharmacy, housing assistance, pantry access, counseling, financial assistance, medical case management, prevention & outreach programs, and day center supportive services.

Service Benefits vs. Challenges



Identified Benefits

- Testing
- Prevention
- Education
- Medication
- Supportive Services

Challenges

- Stigma and Privacy
- Misconceptions
- Treatment Cost Fears

Public Awareness of Services

I am convinced that knowledge is power - to overcome the past, to change our own situations, to fight new obstacles, to make better decisions.

[Benjamin Carson](#)



INTRA-JURISDICTIONAL

**EHE ↔ FTC
ALIGNMENT**

2023 WORKSHOPS

Addressing Criminalization as a Barrier to Ending HIV



Moderator:
Sean McIntosh
Research Coordinator
The AIDS Institute

Panelists

- Tyrone Singletary
Prevention Programs Coordinator – Metro Inclusive Health
- Rose Hornedo
Prevention Team Leader, Region 5 – CAN Community Health
- Michael Ruppal
Executive Director – The AIDS Institute

Scaling Up PrEP Access and Utilization



Moderator:
Carlos A. Mercado
Founder, Impact Speaker, and Coach
Florida Dept. Of Health – Hillsborough County

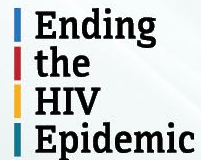
Panelists

- Jeffrey Lluberes
Program Supervisor – Empath Partners in Care (EPIC)
- Malik Waters
Project Lead, Ending the HIV Epidemic – Metro Inclusive Health
- Keayea Lee
Prevention and Outreach Coordinator– Empath Partners in Care (EPIC)

INTRA-JURISDICTIONAL

EHE ↔ FTC
ALIGNMENT

2023 WORKSHOPS



Tampa, FL
June 6, 2023

**Scaling Up PrEP
Access and
Utilization**

Carlos A. Mercado, MBA
Director, Disease Control
Division, Florida Department
of Health in Hillsborough
County

Hillsborough County Current PrEP Access and Utilization Levels

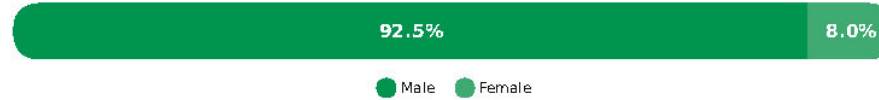


PrEP (Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis)

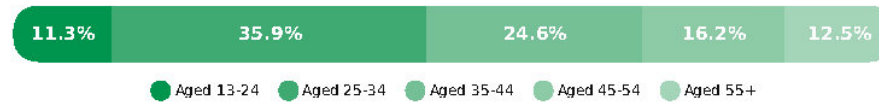
Number of PrEP users, 2021
2,040

Rate of PrEP users per 100,000 population, 2021
167

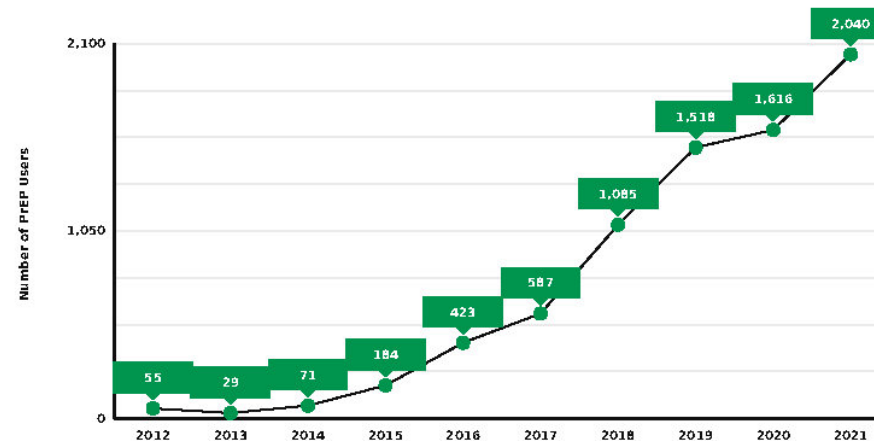
Percent of PrEP users, by Sex, 2021



Percent of PrEP users, by Age, 2021



Number of PrEP Users, 2012-2021





PrEP-to-Need Ratio (PNR)

The 2021 PrEP-to-Need Ratio (PNR) is the ratio of the number of PrEP users in 2021 to the number of people newly diagnosed with HIV in 2020. PNR serves as a measurement for whether PrEP use appropriately reflects the need for HIV prevention. A lower PNR indicates more unmet need.

PNR, 2021

8.26

PNR, by Sex, 2021

Male: 9.73

Female: 3.08

PNR, by Age, 2021

Aged 13-24: 4.60

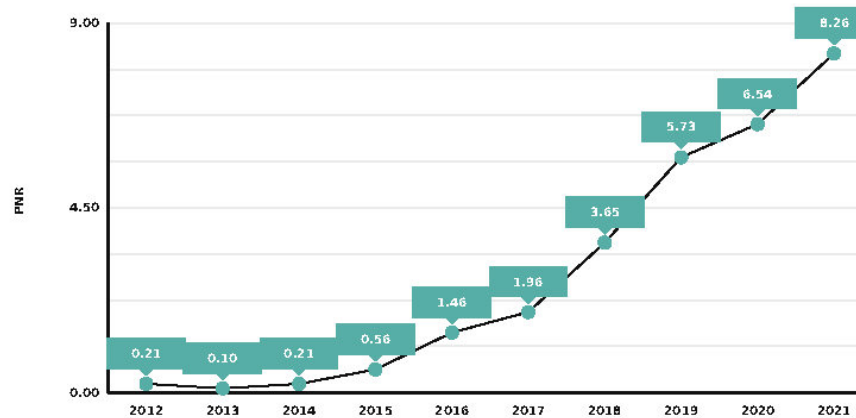
Aged 25-34: 7.80

Aged 35-44: 11.39

Aged 45-54: 8.68

Aged 55+: 12.19

PNR, 2012-2021



Halfway to
County-Centered
PrEP Access
and Utilization
Levels

Contact Information



Carlos A. Mercado

Director, Disease Control Division

Florida Department of Health in Hillsborough County

<https://hillsborough.floridahealth.gov/>

Office: (813) 559-4345

Cell: (813) 267-2130

Email: carlos.mercado@flhealth.gov

INTRA-JURISDICTIONAL

**EHE ↔ FTC
ALIGNMENT**

2023 WORKSHOPS

Optimizing Social Determinants to Achieve U=U



Moderator:
E.S. Myles
EIS Program Coordinator
Metro Inclusive Health

Panelists

- Kayon Henderson
Manager, Housing and Community Development –
City of Tampa
- Kiala Dureke
Outreach Prevention Specialist - Midway Specialty
Care Center
Director, Inclusive Services – Diversity+ Train

Implementing HIV Status Neutrality in Practice



Moderator:
Anelize Wessler
Nurse Practitioner
CAN Community Health

Panelists

- Dr. Heather Henderson
Director, Social Medicine Section – Tampa General Hospital

INTRA-JURISDICTIONAL

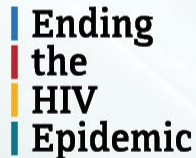
**EHE ↔ FTC
ALIGNMENT**

2023 WORKSHOPS

INTRA-JURISDICTIONAL

**EHE ↔ FTC
ALIGNMENT**

2023 WORKSHOPS



Tampa, FL
June 6, 2023

**Identified Challenges and
Opportunities to
EHE in Tampa/Hillsborough
County**

Scott Lyles
EHE and FTC Alignment Consultant
Fast-Track Cities Institute

HIV Care Continuum Optimization for EHE and FTC Goals

- Get creative in expanding testing- Open testing in places where people don't expect you
- Meet people where they are at the times that work for them
- Bringing more mobile services to the community
- Continuous education and feedback to providers – re-educate on Rapid ART and PrEP
- Challenges with linkage to care with opt out testing at ED - sensitization on personal circumstances of people getting tested informing linkage

Improving Engagement

Widen the circle

- Youth
 - Find spaces outside the school to engage them
- Parents
 - Educate parents to better support their youth
- Transgender populations
- Faith-based leaders
- Black heterosexual identifying men
 - Address the stigma that is keeping them from the table – invitation not accusation

Centrality of Community



- Community needs to be at the table when developing new programs and policies – there are processes and procedures that don't fit within the existing programs
- Community organizations need to be prioritized for funding
 - Funding is based on volume, smaller organizations may not have numbers but they have reach
 - Question the existing funding systems and how to make it more relevant to community
- How to build capacity of small community organizations to manage larger budgets?
- Engage community on HOW to spend existing funds

Policy Landscape



- Intersection of racism and HIV criminalization
- Assumed guilt just for living with HIV
- Careful with how U=U is used in criminalization so we don't separate "good people living with HIV" and "bad people living with HIV"
- How do we mobilize to change these laws?
 - Need to educate legislators on HIV transmission – data alone is not enough
 - Community needs to be in the room in educating legislators on the impact of laws – LA Coalition on Criminalization and Health
- Once laws are changed
 - Educate law enforcement officers
 - Educate community that this is not something you can be criminalized by
 - Remove people from sex offender list
 - Prepare a body of lawyers that are equipped with the knowledge to stand by the community

Scaling up PrEP Access and Utilization



- Stigma associated with HIV makes people hesitant to hear about PrEP
- Normalize PrEP as part of wholistic care
- Representation matters! – inclusion of black and Latinx women on advertisements for PrEP
- Access – need to make the processes for accessing PrEP easier
 - Need to keep up momentum so people link to PrEP
 - Same day PrEP
 - Bring PrEP directly to community events

Stigma



- Stigma in healthcare settings – training as a continuous process
- Need to normalize U=U and PrEP – kitchen table conversations
- De-stigmatize black men’s assumed role in transmission
- Religion and stigma- Capacity building for faith-based leaders to support their communities.
- Language matters!
 - De-stigmatize language on sex and sexuality

Social Determinants of Health



- Federal funding cuts for affordable housing; unsustainable cost for building more affordable housing (lasagna of money)– creatively “braiding” funding
 - HOPWA dollars, EHE dollars, other funding/medical dollars
 - Unique partnerships to ensure affordable housing – Gulf Coast Housing Perspective working with health insurance providers and FQHCs
- Resources that can be mobilized at local level
 - DHHS resources
 - Office of community development
 - Available lots
 - Making the budget stretch - townhomes, duplexes
- Intersecting vulnerabilities of those who are unhoused – beyond HIV. How can these intersecting vulnerabilities be addressed?
- Need to think about other social determinants of health
 - Transportation
 - Social injustices
 - Socio-economic status

HIV Status Neutral Services

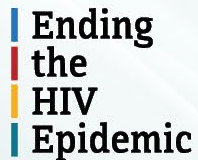


- Funding – how to get funding for wrap around services to implement status neutrality
- Status neutrality is not limited to HIV – it should focus on equitable whole person quality of care and quality of life irrespective of serostatus
- Capacity building for providers on linkage to care for ALL

INTRA-JURISDICTIONAL

**EHE ↔ FTC
ALIGNMENT**

2023 WORKSHOPS



Tampa, FL
June 6, 2023

**Actionable EHE and FTC
Implementation Steps
in Tampa/Hillsborough County**

Dashiell Sears
Regional Director – North America
Fast-Track Cities Institute

FTC – EHE Joint Focus



- FTC-EHE Synergies are significant
- Areas of joint focus in 2022-2025, including:
 - Technical guidance: **Inter-/Intra-jurisdictional planning**
 - Health inequity: **Social Transformation Agenda**
 - Capacity-building: **LAI tx/PrEP implementation, person-centered care, cultural responsiveness**
 - Best-practice sharing: **Best Practice Repository**
 - Assessment tools: **QoC, QoL surveys**
 - Public policy interventions: **Housing, criminalization**
 - Health workforce: **Stress, burnout, well-being survey**
 - **Stigma elimination: #ZeroHIVStigmaDay**

Leveraging FTC for EHE



EHE Goals

- Expanding Engagement Points for EHE Advocacy – Widening the Circle
- Integrating treatment and prevention strategies together to achieve status neutrality
- Local stakeholder buy-in and education [health networks/districts, clinicians, educators]
- Strengthening Health System Resilience
- Upscaling integrated care models addressing intersectional infections and conditions (MPX, hepatitis, syphilis, gonorrhea, chlamydia, under- or non-insured, unhoused, mental health, addiction)
- Measuring and assessing Quality of Care and Quality of Life Metrics

FTC Advantage

- **Social Transformation Agenda**
 - **Leveraging FTC core groups to enhance engagement with community-based stakeholders towards comprehensive planning that supports EHE and equity-based goals for social determinants**
- **Inter-jurisdictional holistic HIV planning,**
- **Best Practice documentation/validation/sharing,**
- **Implementation Science funded studies**
- **Research and guidance for universal stigma, QoC, QoL metrics**

Leveraging FTC for EHE, Cont.



EHE Goals

- Policy advocacy for holistic HIV health systems
- Increase HIV awareness in non-traditional medical fields and general community
- Eliminating disparities in HIV health outcomes, rates of new infections, and PrEP uptake
- Optimizing the urban and rural HIV care continuum
- Enhancing accessibility for HIV service and clinical interfacing for key populations

FTC Advantage

- **Model Policies, HIV Care Optimization Guidance, Status Neutral implementation**
- **Normative Implementation guidance for DoxyPep and DoxyPrEP**
- **Normative guidance on strengthening STI capacities for clinics and health departments**
- **Data and Research for policy impact**
- **Social Transformation Agenda, Inter-Jurisdictional Planning, QoL/QoC Assessments**
- **Global reach for leading edge partnership exploration**

For Tampa/Hillsborough County



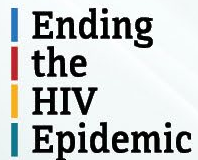
Identified need

- De-Siloing admin and planning orgs
- Need identified champions for identified funding and collaboration understanding funding limits and flexibility
- Data sharing – PrEP and service collaboration
- Work force development, knowledge transfer, and engagement

INTRA-JURISDICTIONAL

EHE ↔ FTC ALIGNMENT

2023 WORKSHOPS



Tampa, FL
June 6, 2023

Closing Remarks

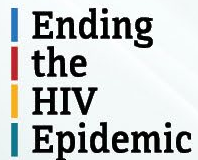
Dr. José M. Zuniga
President/CEO
IAPAC and FTCI

- **TOGETHER**, we can achieve a future in which:
 - New HIV infections are **EXCEEDINGLY RARE** and AIDS-related deaths are a thing of the past
 - People living with and affected by HIV are **VALUED** and not subjected to inequality
- Lags in our global, national, municipal HIV responses reflect underlying **SOCIAL INEQUALITIES**:
 - **GAY MEN, OTHER MSM** who are forced to live on societal margins
 - **TRANSGENDER INDIVIDUALS** whose identities are violently suppressed
 - **RACIAL, ETHNIC MINORITIES** who lack socioeconomic opportunity and confront racism
 - **WOMEN, GIRLS** who often lack a voice about their own bodies and healthcare decisions
- Ending the HIV epidemic does not just mean suppressing or even curing the virus, but rather **ADDRESSING MYRIAD INJUSTICES** that have been both causes and effects
- HIV is as much about **HUMAN RIGHTS AND SOCIAL JUSTICE** as it is about public health or science
- EHE and FTC are well **ALIGNED AND SYNERGISTIC** to advance a **HOLISTIC** HIV response

INTRA-JURISDICTIONAL

EHE ↔ FTC ALIGNMENT

2023 WORKSHOPS



Tampa, FL
June 6, 2023

Closing Remarks

J. Carl DeVine
CEO
Banyan Tree Project, Inc.