BRIDGING THE GAP

Effective Linkage to Care for New HIV Providers

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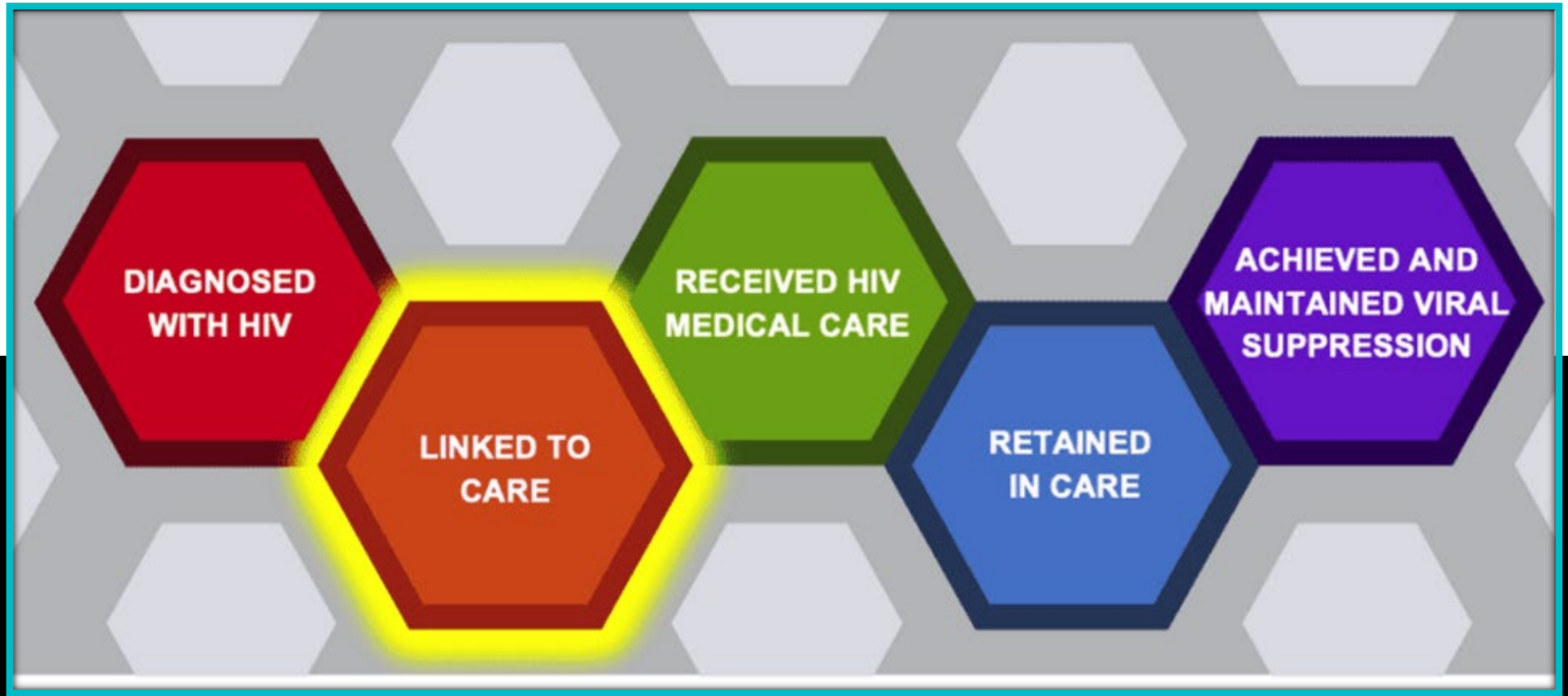
OBJECTIVES

To enhance understanding of HIV linkage to care within the HIV care continuum.

To identify barriers and solutions to improve linkage.

To empower participants with strategies to strengthen linkage systems.

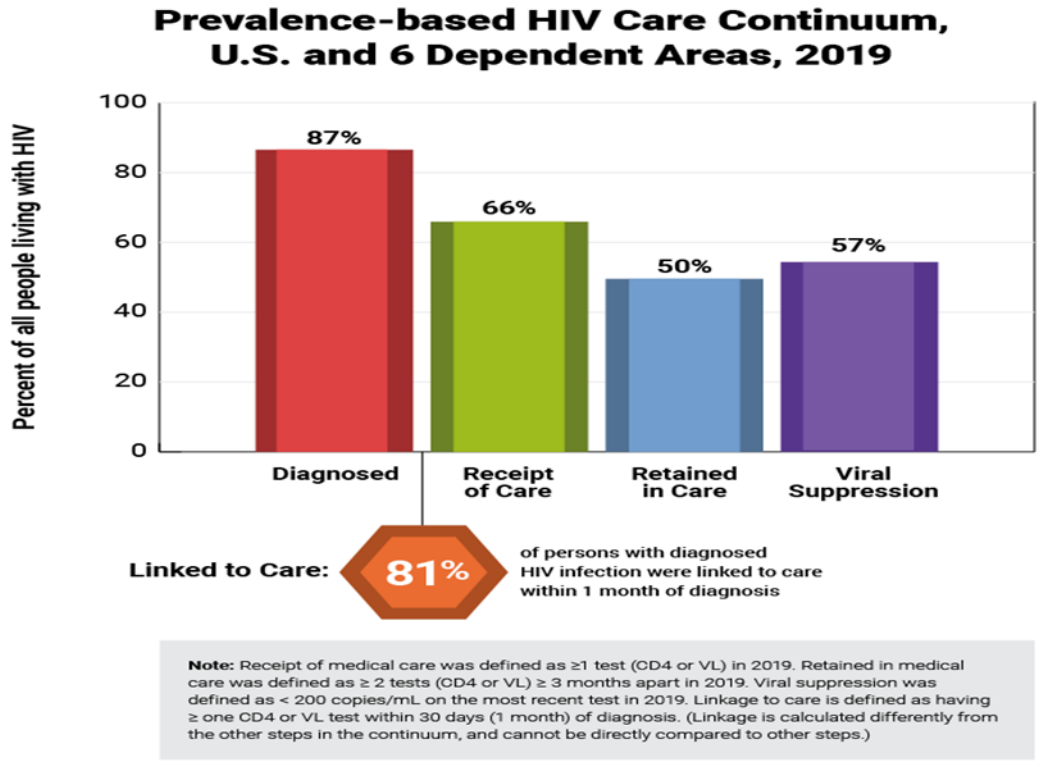
HIV Continuum of Care



PREVALENCE-BASED MONITORING

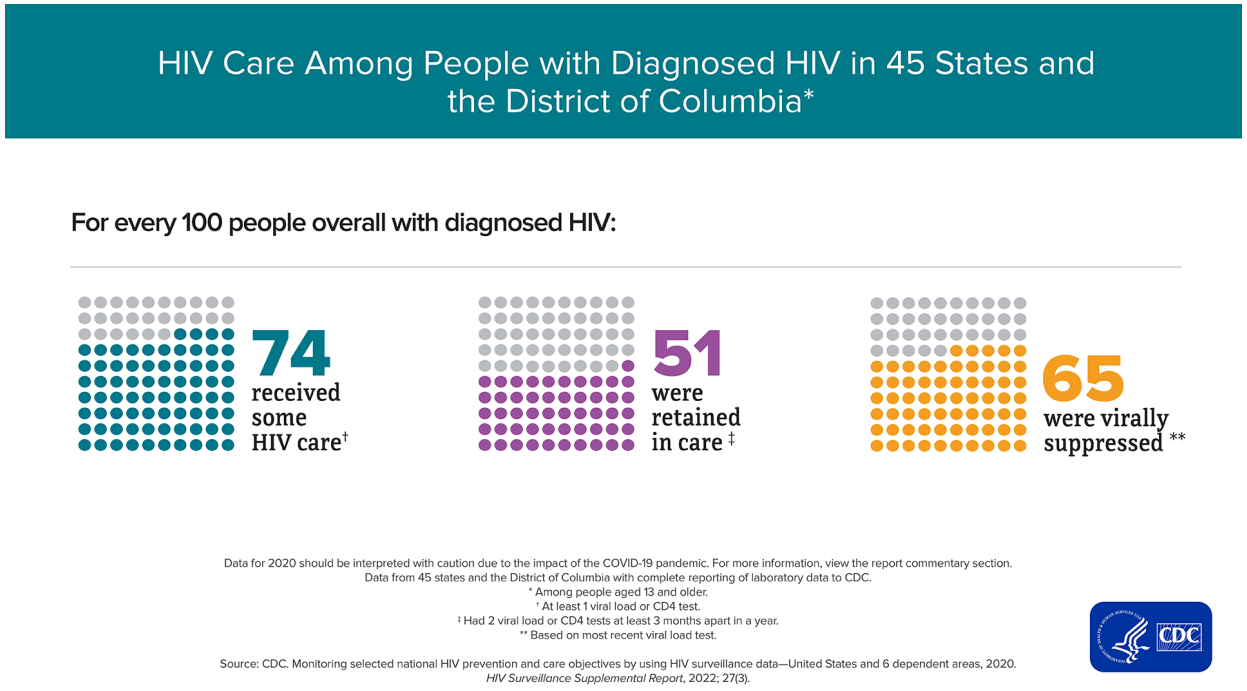
Assesses the effectiveness of HIV testing efforts in the U.S. by:

- Monitoring testing efforts in the U.S. and demonstrating the importance of diagnosing HIV infections to achieve viral suppression
- Monitoring how the U.S. is doing among all persons living with HIV
- Comparing U.S. data to other countries who monitor the continuum among all persons living with HIV



HIV.gov. (n.d.). *HIV/AIDS care continuum*. Retrieved September 30, 2024, from https://www.hiv.gov/federal-response/policies-issues/hiv-aids-care-continuum

DIAGNOSIS-BASED MONITORING

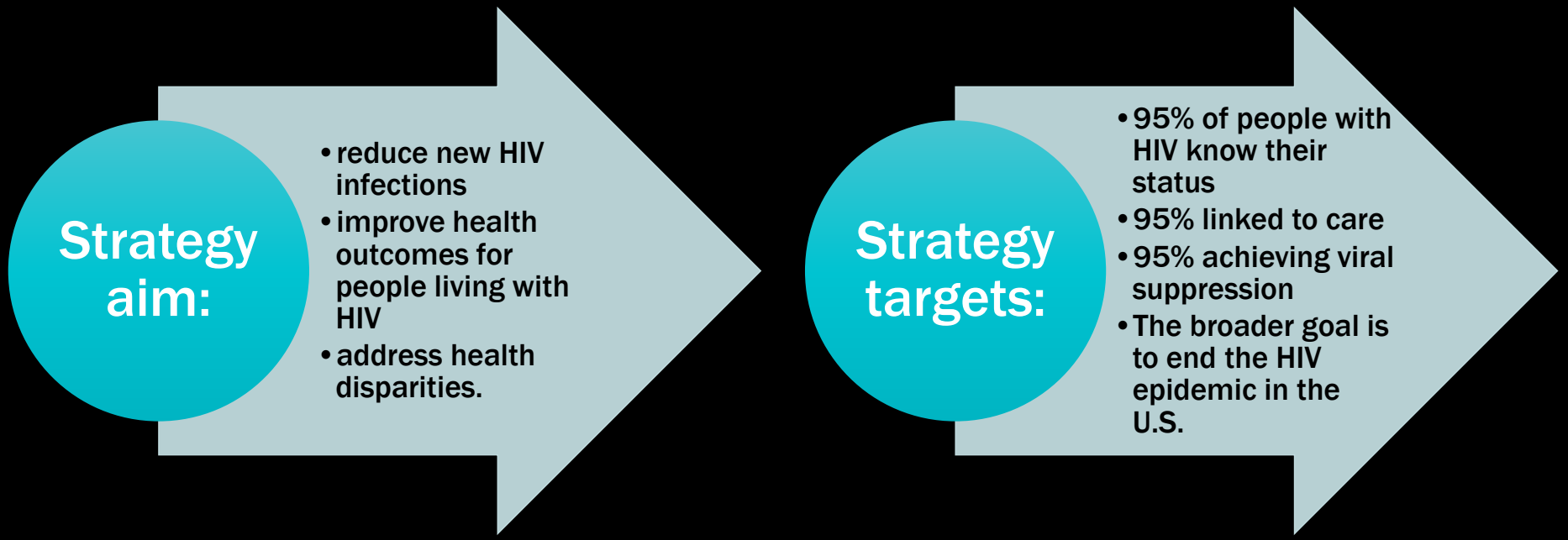


Assesses progress of HIV care in the US by:

- **Monitoring U.S. progress in comparison to national 2020 goals**
- **Monitoring U.S. progress in comparison to the UNAIDS 90-90-90 goals**
- **Monitoring disparities by examining data among sub-groups of the population**
- **Monitoring data at a local level to understand local progress and identify additional action steps to meet national level goals**

HIV.gov. (n.d.). *HIV/AIDS care continuum*. Retrieved September 30, 2024, from https://www.hiv.gov/federal-response/policies-issues/hiv-aids-care-continuum

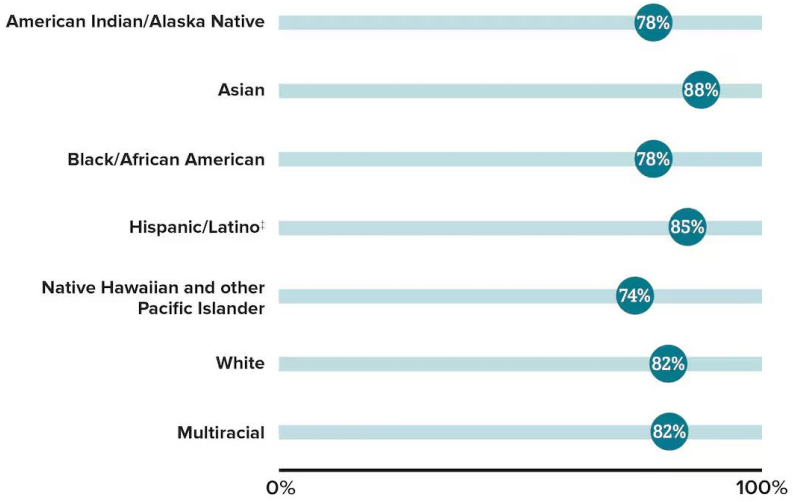
THE NATIONAL HIV/AIDS STRATEGY



Source: HIV.gov

Where We Stand

More than 80% of people overall with HIV diagnosed in 2022 were linked to care within one month of diagnosis.



Ending the HIV Epidemic

Overall Goal: Increase percentage of people with diagnosed HIV who are linked to HIV medical care to at least 95% by 2025 and remain at 95% by 2030.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Monitoring selected national HIV prevention and care objectives by using HIV surveillance data—United States and 6 territories and freely associated states, 2022. *HIV Surveillance Supplemental Report* 2024; 29(No. 2)

ENACTING THE STAGES

Stage 1: Delivering an HIV diagnosis:

- Create a Supportive Environment
- Use Clear, Compassionate Communication
- Offer Emotional Support
- Frame HIV as a Chronic but Manageable Condition
- Address Immediate Concerns
- Offer Peer or Social Support

Stage 2: Linkage to Care:

- Timely Connection with HIV Treatment Specialist (The Golden Window-within 30 days of diagnosis)
- Warm Hand-Off
- Provide a Clear Plan to Next Steps
- Assist with Logistical Barriers
- Does not end with initial connection to provider

Stage 3: Received Care

- At least one CD4 or viral load test run in a given year
- Initiating ART

Stages 4: Retaining Patients in Care:

- Build Trust and a Strong Relationship
- Tailored, Patient-Centered Care
- Ongoing Engagement and Follow-Up
- Peer Navigators and Support Networks
- Flexible Care Options

Stage 5: Assisting Patients in Achieving Viral Suppression:

- Consistent Monitoring
- Address Barriers to Adherence
- Promote Health Literacy
- Motivate with Positive Reinforcement

SHARING OUR EXPERIENCES

slido

Please download and install the Slido app on all computers you use

What are some of the biggest barriers you have encountered in linking individuals to care?

ⓘ Start presenting to display the poll results on this slide.

slido

Please download and install the Slido app on all computers you use

How do you think these challenges can be addressed in your community?

ⓘ Start presenting to display the poll results on this slide.

SUCCESSFUL LINKAGE STRATEGIES

Building Bridges to Care

Warm hand-off can alleviate drop-off

Personalized Care Pathways

Build a person-centered care plan

Strength in Community

Collaborate with community resource providers to build a care team

ENGAGING HARD-TO-REACH POPULATIONS

INNOVATIVE WAYS TO ALLEVIATE BARRIERS

Possible Service Delivery Options

- Telemedicine
- Virtual Consultations
- Mobile Health Clinics
- Appointment Reminder Systems

SUCCESS STORY

Diagnosis	Linkage to Care	Ensured medical care was accessed	Retained in care	Viral suppression
Meeting people where they are Providing tools for testing/diagnosis Keeping a trusted open line of communication	Provided support, empathy, and comfort Provided options to be connected with provider for treatment Facilitated a warm hand-off Offered peer support	Established a care team with provider Followed up with patient and provider to ensure patient received care Established support network for patient	Follow-up with patient Discuss their treatment and how it was going Assisted with alleviating barriers expressed	Patient adhered to treatment Achieved viral suppression within 4 months

UNTIL THERE IS A CURE...

Diagnose

- All persons living with HIV as early as possible

Treat

- Persons newly diagnosed rapidly and effectively to reach sustained viral suppression

Prevent

- Utilizing TasP (Treatment as Prevention), PrEP (Pre-exposure Prophylaxis), SSPs (Syringe Service Programs)

Respond

- Respond quickly to potential outbreaks to provide treatment and prevention services

Key EHE Strategies | HIV.gov

LINKAGE SUCCESS REQUIRES COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- **Assess Community Needs**
  - Conduct a needs assessment
  - **Engage stakeholders**
- **Tailor Program Design**
  - Culturally Competent Services
  - Offer inclusive services
- **Leverage Technology**
  - Telemedicine
  - Mobile Health Clinics
  - Appointment Reminders
- **Partner with Local Organizations**
  - Collaborate
  - Build partnerships
- **Offer Flexible Access to Care**
  - Walk-in Clinics
  - Extended Hours
- **Monitor and Evaluate**
  - **Track your success**
- **Focus on Retention**
  - Peer Navigation
  - Case Management
- **Secure Sustainable Funding**
  - Apply for grants

LINKAGE IN ACTION THROUGHOUT GEORGIA

Project RED Paint, Inc (Zero Borders)
(Remote)
Atlanta, GA 30349
(404)390-9825
(414)204-5935

THRIVE SS, Inc. (Fulton Community-Based)
2038 Stanton Rd
Atlanta, GA 30344
(404) 267-1519
www.thrivess.org

Positive Impact Health Centers (Dekalb/Gwinnett Community Clinic)
523 Church St
Decatur, GA 30030
(404) 589-9040
www.positiveimpacthealthcenters.org

Primary Care (Augusta-Multiple Locations)
2467 Golden Camp Rd
Augusta, GA 30906
(706)790-4440

Here's to Life (Fulton Community-Based)
1115 Ralph David Abernathy Blvd SW
Atlanta, GA 30310
(404) 500-3726
herestolifeatl.org

N.O.M.O. Organization (Macon Trans-Led)
n.o.m.o.nonprofit@gmail.com
4782276097

To Our Shores (Gwinnett Community-Based)
250 Langley Dr, Suite 1101
Lawrenceville, GA 30046
(770) 954-5997
www.toourshores.org

Columbus Health Department (Columbus)
501 Veterans Pkwy
Columbus, GA 31904
(706)321-6300


CONTACT ME