

Reframing the Focus:

Communities Ending the HIV Epidemic

Ending
The
HIV
Epidemic

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Introduction & Objectives



- ▶ Describe the Ending the HIV Epidemic initiative and its components.
- ▶ Gain community feedback on the Essex County plan.
- ▶ Ensure community voices are woven into the design and implementation of EHE-related activities.
- ▶ Devise new strategies to engage community members.

Poll Question # 1



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How familiar are you with Essex County's Ending the HIV Epidemic (EHE) plan?

Poll Question #2

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How involved was the HIV community in the development of the EHE plan?

What is EHE?



Announced by the Trump Administration in 2019, this national 10 year initiative aims to reduce new HIV infections by 75% in 5 years and to less than 3,000 new infections per year by 2030.

- ▶ Funding focused in 48 counties, Washington, DC, San Juan (PR), and seven states with a high burden of HIV in rural areas (mostly southern states).
 - ▶ NJ's high burden counties are Essex and Hudson Counties.
- ▶ Implement effective and innovative strategies, interventions, approaches, and services to reduce new HIV infections in the United States.

A large white arrow pointing downwards, containing text about the goal of the initiative. The text is centered within the arrow.

GOAL:

75% reduction
IN NEW HIV INFECTIONS
BY 2025 AND
AT LEAST
90% reduction
BY 2030.

The Players

- ▶ **The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)** – Support the development and implementation of comprehensive HIV programs.
- ▶ **Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)** – Through the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program and Health Center Program, supports increased HIV testing and expanding access to PrEP.
- ▶ **Other collaborators:** National Institutes of Health (NIH) Centers for AIDS Research (CFARs), the Indian Health Service (IHS), and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Association (SAMHSA).

The Four Pillars

- ▶ **Pillar 1: Diagnose** all people with HIV as early as possible.
- ▶ **Pillar 2: Treat** people with HIV rapidly and effectively to reach sustained viral suppression.
- ▶ **Pillar 3: Prevent** new HIV transmissions by using proven interventions, including pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) and syringe services programs.
- ▶ **Pillar 4: Respond** quickly to potential HIV outbreaks to get needed prevention and treatment services to people who need them.



EHE – Ryan White HIV/AIDS Programs



- ▶ An opportunity to have a broader approach to addressing HIV than what is authorized in RWHAP legislation.
- ▶ Not limited to Ryan White services or priority settings.
- ▶ **Only requirement is that the client has a documented HIV diagnosis.**

NEMA EHE Goals



- ▶ Increase viral load suppression (VLS) to 90% (for Ryan White clients not virally suppressed as of 2019).
 - ▶ Increase linkage to care and VLS for newly diagnosed clients to 90%.
 - ▶ Increase VLS to 90% for “hard to serve” clients new to the Ryan White program.
- ▶ Maintain VLS for low income people living with HIV (PLWH) through a supportive housing program.
- ▶ Develop comprehensive data sharing and data care system infrastructure.
- ▶ Respond to cluster detection activities.

U=U

UNDETECTABLE EQUALS UNTRANSMITTABLE

EHE – Primary Care HIV Prevention



- ▶ **Outreach** – engage new and existing patients in HIV prevention services, identifying those at risk for HIV using validated screening tools.
- ▶ **HIV Testing** – Increase the number of new and existing patients tested for HIV.
 - ▶ PrEP Prescriptions – Provide HIV prevention education and prescribe and support the use of clinically indicated PrEP for HIV negative persons.
 - ▶ Linkage to Treatment – Link those who test positive for HIV to HIV treatment.
- ▶ **Partnerships** – Establish new and/or enhance existing partnerships to support identification of at risk individuals, testing, linkage to treatment, and other activities.

Whole-of-Society Initiative

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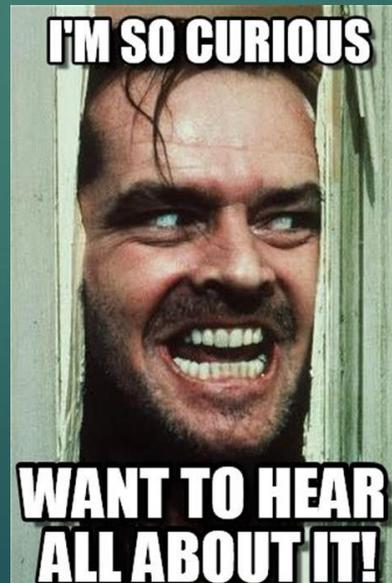
An approach that incorporates public agencies, businesses and organizations, communities, and the entire public as a whole.



What is “disruptive innovation?”

Innovations that make products and services more accessible and affordable, thereby making them available to a larger population.

What does this mean for the Ryan White community and other communities affected by HIV?



Essex County Profile



- ▶ 9,630 PLWHA in Essex County as of 12/31/2019
 - ▶ Approximately 70% of the EMA's total HIV population
 - ▶ Essex County represents 25% of NJ's HIV epidemic (9,630/38,069), but only 9% of NJ's total population
 - ▶ 92% of PLWH in Essex County are racial/ethnic minorities
 - ▶ 62% of PLWH in Essex County are male; 38% of PLWH are female
 - ▶ Leading transmission categories:
 - ▶ Heterosexual Contact – 29% among men, 68% among females
 - ▶ Men who Have Sex with Men – 25%
 - ▶ Injection Drug Use – 17%
 - ▶ In 2019, there were 197 newly diagnosed PLWH in Essex County
 - ▶ Newark is the epicenter with 41% of EMA's PLWH



What are health disparities?

Health disparities are preventable differences in the burden of disease, injury, or in opportunities to achieve optimal health.



Now, Let's Focus...

- ▶ **Pillar 1: Diagnose** all people with HIV as early as possible.
- ▶ **Pillar 2: Treat** people with HIV rapidly and effectively to reach sustained viral suppression.
- ▶ **Pillar 3: Prevent** new HIV transmissions by using proven interventions, including pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) and syringe services programs (SSPs/SAPs).
- ▶ **Pillar 4: Respond** quickly to potential HIV outbreaks to get needed prevention and treatment services to people who need them.

"We will not end the HIV epidemic without the voices and participation of the communities most severely affected by HIV."

- Former CDC Director,
Robert R. Redfield, MD



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1. How do we ensure everyone living with HIV has access to HIV treatment?
2. What can the Essex County community as a whole do to lessen the health disparities faced by its residents?
3. How can we build trust and long-term partnerships with community members?

Q&A

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Poll Question #3



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After attending this presentation, how informed do you feel about Essex County's Ending the HIV Epidemic (EHE) plan?

Stay Connected

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- ▶ Community Engagement Activities
- ▶ Newark EMA HIV Services Planning Council & Subcommittees
- ▶ New Jersey HIV Planning Group (NJHPG) & Subcommittees
- ▶ Other regional committees, planning groups, and collaboratives
- ▶ Ad Hoc EHE Committees
- ▶ Share YOUR experiences and ideas
- ▶ And most importantly...

encourage your peers and support systems to get involved!

THANK YOU!

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See the plan at:

www.nemaplanningcouncil.org/ending-the-hiv-epidemic

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