

Regional Champions

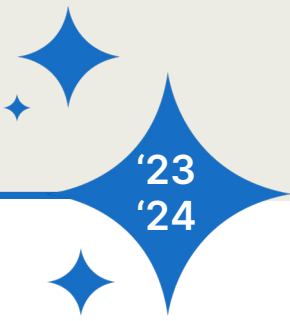
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**Building on Principles
of Ending the HIV Epidemic**



Regional

Champions



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Ending the HIV Epidemic**

Ending the HIV Epidemic in the United States (EHE) scales up four science-based strategies that can end the HIV epidemic. The four strategies, called “pillars,” are Diagnose, Treat, Prevent, and Respond. The eight Regional AETC organizations provide targeted training, technical assistance, and capacity building support to assist clinics across the United States with implementing the four EHE strategies and as a result have helped these clinics make notable progress with their efforts to diagnose, treat, prevent, and respond to HIV.

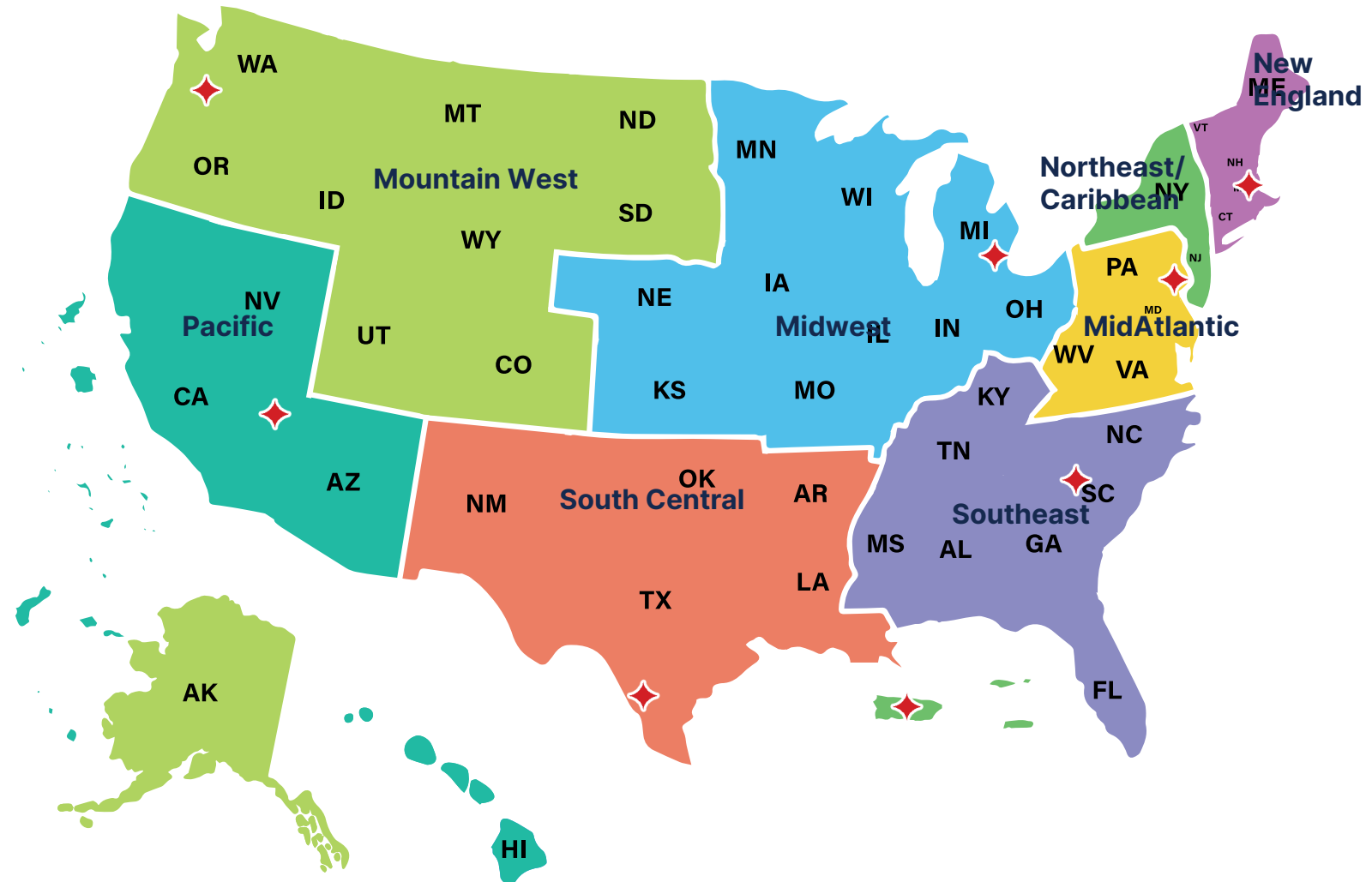
These clinics are Health Resources and Services Administration’s Federally Qualified Community Health Centers and Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program (RWHAP) funded Part A and Part B clinics that the regional AETCs collaborate with to integrate HIV status-neutral care in a continuous, patient-centered process.

To highlight the progress made in 2023 – 2024, each AETC region designated a "Regional Champion" clinic that they have worked closely with to successfully implement the EHE strategies that resulted in the clinic’s expanded capacity to provide HIV treatment and care. This brochure was developed to spotlight the innovative partnerships and efforts of the AETCs and these “Regional Champion” clinics.

We want to thank the regional AETC teams and their partnering clinical care teams in making great strides, one clinic at a time, in their work to integrate HIV care into primary care.

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MidAtlantic (MAAETC)



Spectrum Health Services, Inc.

Philadelphia, PA



Outstanding Attributes & Contributions:

- Myra Rutland, DNP, FNP-BC article, “Implementing Status Neutral Care in Primary Care Settings” in the Spring 2023 issue of HIV Specialist Magazine
- Dr. Rutland, Spectrum Health Center Director of Infectious Disease and Community Outreach, “The MAATEC program has been extremely helpful in being another voice collaborating in what I believe is the job of primary care to be the foot soldiers in ending the HIV epidemic. More of our primary care providers have become eager participants in prescribing PrEP.”
- Health Center colleagues meet the 4th Friday of each month to discuss PrEP cases. Having the regular updates and education from MAAETC allows the team to stay informed about clinical updates



Identified Need:

- Clinical care team education and support on status neutral care
- HIV testing and PrEP implementation



Implementation:

- HIV status neutral care
- Rapid HIV testing for everyone 13 years and older at least annually
- PrEP initiation and maintenance
- Monthly case conferences among clinical case team members to discuss PrEP client care



Outcomes:

- The number of **patients on PrEP increased by more than 526%** from 38 in 2020 to 200+ in 2023
- **2,000+ condoms** and PEP/PrEP information packets distributed each month
- Ongoing education for clinical care team members on creating a positive sexual health experience for patients at the clinic



Midwest (MATEC)



Corktown Health

Detroit, MI | Wayne County



Outstanding Attributes & Contributions:

- Taking HIV care to the next level by developing an LGBTQ+ community focused care and retention to care model
- Corktown Health has participated in HIV care for the past 30 years



Identified Need:

- A lack of primary care and health disparities for the LGBTQ+ community in the Detroit Metro area



Implementation:

- Developed internal processes, policies, electronic medical record (EMR) updates.
- Revised Human Resource policies for inclusivity
- Initiated CDC text messaging program (TXTXT) for antiretroviral therapy (ART) adherence of young adults
- Established an HIV-specialized dental clinic
- Created centralized management system for HIV Care & Management
- Formed partnerships with local CBOs for legal assistance



Outcomes:

- Strengthened Corktown’s ability to use the EMR to gather relevant data to more actively respond to patient needs
- Increased community testing and referrals for PrEP
- Strengthened clinical HIV skills for providers through tailored trainings, continuously making aware of guidance changes
- Strengthened awareness of implicit bias resources and tools through tailored training
- Supported HIV and hepatitis C virus (HCV) community testing efforts with seamless linkage to care at Corktown
- **Successful completion and submission of the Human Rights Campaign Health Equity Index (HEI) survey**



Corktown Health - LGBTQ+ Affirming Health Care
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan

Mountain West (MWAETC)



Sea Mar

Salmon Creek, WA

Outstanding Attributes & Contributions:

- Successfully transitioned from a practice transformation project (PTP) clinic to a Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program Part B & Part C funded clinic
- Initiation of the Rapid ART Program ensured 100% of newly diagnosed patients received their first dose of medication within 7 days of diagnosis and achieved viral suppression within two months
- After identifying unmet need, clinic champions built capacity for onsite high resolution anoscopy (HRA) for patients with HIV. Twenty-three patients were screened in 8 months, identifying 9 patients with abnormal anal cancer screening results, one of whom had HSIL and received treatment onsite

Identified Need:

- Improvements in HIV screening rates and rapid initiation of ART to address treatment barriers for newly HIV diagnosed patients

Implementation:

- Leveraged Oregon AETC support for capacity building and training on EMR system integration to increase HIV screening rates
- Implemented the Rapid ART Program for newly diagnosed patients, supported by peer navigator program for patient engagement
- Utilized on-site 340B pharmacy to increase access to HIV medication, with guidance from Oregon AETC
- Launched pilot project for HRA for anal cancer screening to enhance preventive care measures



Outcomes:

- Sea Mar Salmon Creek nearly tripled the number of patients with HIV receiving care, **from 34 patients in 2019 to 91 patients** in early 2024
- **92% of patients with HIV were virally suppressed** as of January 2024 and 100% of newly diagnosed patients were virally suppressed within 2 months of engagement
- Successful **re-engagement of 60% of HIV patients** lost to follow-up through the Rapid ART Program and integration of peers
- Successful replication of routine HIV screening prompts at all Sea Mar primary care clinics, resulting in a significant **increase in HIV screening across the system, 7% in 2018 as compared with 23% in 2022**



New England (NEAETC)



DotHouse Health Center

Dorchester, MA



Outstanding Attributes & Contributions:

- Multidisciplinary approach to improving HIV prevention services across departments, including urgent care and behavioral health



Identified Need:

- Standardized assessment tools, workflows and protocols needed for sexually transmitted infection (STI) screening and PrEP prescribing in urgent care
- Expanded training across departments



Implementation:

- Standardized STI/HIV risk form implemented in urgent care department; with sexual health RN triaging asymptomatic STI visits
- PrEP standing order and visit protocol approved by the Chief Medical Officer (CMO)
- Sexual Health RN workflow for positive STI results notification and PrEP education



Outcomes:

- STI/HIV prevention team has successfully been embedded in urgent care
- Enabled enhanced counseling, promoted same-day PrEP initiation and increased awareness of PrEP/PEP among the primary care nursing team
- **84 new patient referrals received in 2023** with new protocols and workflows



Northeast/Caribbean (NECA)



HealthPro Med (HPM)

San Juan, PR
(HPM Health Center sites in San Juan, Carolina, Guaynabo)



Outstanding Attributes & Contributions:

- The clinic's one-stop shop model integrates HIV services & primary care, emphasizing prevention, screening, and addressing social determinants of health



Identified Need:

- Integrated HIV services and primary care, focusing on prevention, screening, and addressing social determinants of health
- Workforce capacity building in HIV testing, PrEP programming, treatment adherence, and community outreach



Implementation:

- Implemented one-stop shop model for integrated HIV services and primary care
- Certified workers conduct outreach and provide rapid testing in high-risk areas
- Participated in "Twinning Project" with NECA+HPM, sharing expertise in HIV services and workforce capacity building
- Presented successful strategies for expanding PrEP access and implementation at major conferences



Outcomes:

- **400% increase in PrEP patients** through participation in the “Twinning Project” with NECA+HPM
- Presented at major conferences, showcasing successful strategies
- Demonstrated twinning as a viable training modality for workforce capacity building



Pacific (PAETC)

1820



Huntridge Family Clinic

Las Vegas, NV



Outstanding Attributes & Contributions:

- LGBTQI+ focused clinic, HIV testing, HIV treatment, PEP/PrEP, STI testing and treatment, harm reduction services, transgender care



Identified Need:

- Address retention in care among patients with HIV
- Decrease the monthly percentage of missed visits among patients with HIV



Implementation:

- Adaptation of the [ANSWER Outreach Protocol](#) with a specific focus on outreach to all patients with HIV who missed a scheduled medical visit, recording barriers to care
- Utilized Plan-Do-Study-Act (PDSA) cycles for implementation



Outcomes:

- Although recently implemented, **“no shows”** have **decreased from 30% to 26%** in one month
- Development of a tailored protocol led by Case Manager Project Champion
- **Routine review of project indicators** and documentation of patient-reported barriers to care
- Services and strategies are offered to overcome identified barriers



South Central (SCAETC)



South Texas Rural Health Services

Carrizo Springs, TX

SCAETC Regional Partner: University of Texas (UT) Health San Antonio, TX



Outstanding Attributes & Contributions:

- Institutionalized clinical guidelines for opt-out HIV screening
- Developing a PrEP program with support from UT Health San Antonio



Identified Need:

- Improve HIV screening rates and linkage to care services in the rural Texas community
- Technical assistance and consultation to establish clinical guidelines and develop a PrEP program



Implementation:

- Institutionalized clinical guidelines for opt-out HIV screening
- Actively developing a PrEP program with support from regional partners
- Continues to receive consultation to increase clinic capacity



Outcomes:

- Increased **HIV screening rate from 1% in 2021 to 43.4% in 2024**
- **Identification of two positive HIV cases** with successful linkage to long-term HIV care services
- Institutionalization of clinical guidelines for opt-out HIV screening within the clinic setting
- Ongoing development of a PrEP program with support from the regional partner, contributing to improved HIV prevention efforts in the community



Southeast (SEAETC)



Rural Health Services, Inc.

Aiken, SC



Outstanding Attributes & Contributions:

- The leadership's HIV expertise and inclusion of a sexual health program in new provider orientation further demonstrate their commitment



Identified Need:

- Increase HIV screening rates and expand services.
- Peer support, outreach, and long-acting injectable (LAI) PrEP and ART enhancements



Implementation:

- Began tracking HIV services closely and introduced peer support
- Implemented robust HIV testing outreach
- Initiating LAI PrEP and prepared to offer LAI ART upon patient request
- Utilized experienced leadership in HIV and incorporated a sexual health program into new provider orientation



Outcomes:

- Implemented robust HIV testing outreach with greater than **500 rapid tests** done so far
- Initiated LAI PrEP and prepared for LAI ART provision
- Enhanced provider orientation with the inclusion of a sexual health program
- **Increased HIV screening rates significantly from 19.6% in 2020 to 38.94% in 2022**



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Contact any of the regional AETCs: www.aidsetc.org/directory