



2019
Partnerships of
Distinction
Winner

A Case Study on AIDS Free Pittsburgh

GOAL: ENDING THE AIDS EPIDEMIC IN ALLEGHENY COUNTY BY 2020

On December 1, 2015, World AIDS Day, AIDS Free Pittsburgh launched with the mission of achieving an AIDS free county and reducing the number of new HIV infections by 75% by 2020. This collective impact project brings together diverse stakeholders to share resources to end this epidemic by encouraging patient centered care and ensuring everyone has access to prevention and treatment services.

PARTNERSHIP: 20 + PARTNERS WORKING TOGETHER TO MAKE AIDS FREE PITTSBURGH A REALITY

AIDS Free Pittsburgh is a collaborative effort, public health movement to end the AIDS epidemic. This is accomplished by using a collective impact framework: bringing together government agencies, healthcare institutions, and community-based organizations to support those affected with HIV/AIDS and raise awareness around this issue. Partners also work together to promote diagnosing those with HIV earlier, linking those who are newly diagnosed with HIV to services within 48 hours, and supporting efforts to reduce transmission among high-risk groups.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS: LOWEST NUMBER OF DOCUMENTED HIV DIAGNOSES IN ALLEGHENY COUNTY IN THE PAST 10 YEARS

The group of diverse stakeholders who make up AIDS Free Pittsburgh pool their resources and capacity to perform community outreach, healthcare provider education, advocacy and quality improvement projects in order to accomplish their goal of an AIDS free Allegheny County by 2020. Since this project began, significant progress has been made towards their goal:

- The number of new HIV diagnoses in Allegheny County has declined by 30%. This is the lowest number of documented HIV diagnoses in Allegheny County over the past 10 years.
- There has been an expansion of HIV screening in ED, inpatient, and community medical settings.
- There was an increased linkage to care rate for the two largest HIV care clinics in Allegheny County (from 44.4% in 2015 to 70.3% in 2017).
- Community awareness of PrEP as an HIV option grew from 21% in 2016 to 43% in 2018 and PrEP use grew from 3% in 2016 to 20% in 2018, according to a community survey performed by the group.

MUTUAL BENEFITS

The University of Pittsburgh's School of Social Work, School of Medicine, and Graduate School of Public Health play a key role in the AIDS Free Pittsburgh Collaboration. The partnership between the University, other community-based organizations, and government agencies bring unique mutual benefits. This partnership has brought increased community perspective into the education of students in each of these schools: community members have come in for lectures and students have the opportunity to partner outside of the classroom with AIDS Free Pittsburgh partners as they spearhead data collection for the group's annual community survey. School of Medicine students also have the opportunity to work with AIDS Free Pittsburgh partners to perform rounds that focus on HIV rapid linkage to care, pre-exposure prophylaxis, and working with LGBTQ communities in clinical practice. The partnership also leads to increased communication and collaboration among stakeholders, creating mutual accountability, which drives this successful project forward. This is shown through AIDS Free Pittsburgh partners reporting increased collaboration around HIV prevention and testing efforts in 2017.

"Since AIDS Free Pittsburgh launched, the number of new HIV diagnoses in Allegheny County has declined by 30%. This downward trend is promising and indicates that the collective impact of more than 20 different community partners and stakeholders..."

**- Sean DeYoung,
Chief Executive Officer,
Allies for Health + Wellbeing**



METHOD: USING COLLECTIVE IMPACT TO MAKE CHANGE

The AIDS Free Pittsburgh Project uses collective impact, which brings together organizations from different sectors to work together to solve a common problem. This model can create powerful results, but it is dependent on a backbone organization, in this case, the Jewish Healthcare Foundation, to bring groups together to create "a common agenda, shared measurement systems, mutually reinforcing activities, [and] continuous communication" (Kania & Kramer, 2011). Through the Jewish Healthcare Foundation's support, the AIDS Free Pittsburgh project has been able to bring together resources from organizations who may have been "working apart separately, instead of together" to create key outcomes and strategies including: normalizing HIV testing and increasing access to PrEP (FSG, 2011).

**WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT
COLLECTIVE IMPACT?
CHECK OUT THESE RESOURCES:**

Watch this video from FSG titled
"Tackling Complex Problems
Through Collective Impact"

Read "Collective Impact" by John
Kania & Mark Kramer in the
Stanford Social Innovation Review

References

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