



Ending
the
HIV
Epidemic

East Bay HIV Strategic Plan, 2021-2025

Updated for 2023

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Overview

The United States launched a bold new HIV public health partnership in 2020 called *Ending the HIV Epidemic: A Plan for America*, a ten-year nationwide initiative with the goal to achieve a 90% reduction of new HIV infections by 2030. The East Bay was identified as one of the 57 geographic areas in the US most heavily impacted by HIV.

East Bay Getting to Zero is the community coalition supporting the Ending the Epidemic (EHE) plan for Alameda and Contra Costa Counties. This is a community-driven “living” East Bay HIV strategic plan that synthesizes the best from everyone involved, is flexible and responsive to local needs, addresses structural inequities, and is used to make systemic change to achieve our vision of an East Bay with zero HIV stigma, zero health disparities, and zero new HIV transmissions. This plan is aligned with the National HIV/AIDS Strategy 2022-2025 and the California Ending the Epidemic Plan. Our core values of equity and healing include work that is people-first, trauma-informed, healing-engaged, anti-racist, sex positive, community-driven, data and science-driven, adaptive and resilient.

Highlights of 2022 accomplishments include the community messaging group and Grupo de Charla launching the Loteria.Love campaign, featured on 90 AC Transit buses and showcasing art from local artists. Collaborations were strengthened with substance use organizations and a new East Bay substance use overdose prevention safety plan toolkit was created and distributed. The streamlined rapid ART process was implemented in emergency department and street settings. Innovative home HIV testing and linkages strengthened with the Take Me Home program, and the HOPE mobile clinic pilot launched. PrEP services were added to the service directory. The youth network celebrated the completion of the Love & Rage Mural and the first graduates of the Youth Internship Program, Ramirez Brown and Gabriel Jimenez. The housing group held a Housing 101 workshop and created Simple Guides to Finding Housing in Alameda County and Contra Costa County. Strategic priorities for 2023 are highlighted below.

EAST BAY HIV STRATEGIC PRIORITIES FOR 2023

<p>COMMUNITY MESSAGING</p> <p>EAST BAY AIDS MEMORIAL GARDEN</p> <p>DIGITAL STORYTELLING SERIES</p>	<p>IMPROVING COLLABORATIONS</p> <p>MENTAL HEALTH SKILLS AND REFERRALS</p> <p>HIV SERVICES IN STREET, SHELTER AND ED SETTINGS</p>	<p>INNOVATIVE MODELS</p> <p>INJECTABLE PREP & HIV TREATMENT</p> <p>MOBILE HIV SERVICES</p> <p>HOME HIV & STI TESTING</p>	<p>YOUTH ENGAGEMENT</p> <p>YOUTH-ADULT PARTNERSHIPS IN GENDER & SEXUAL HEALTH EDUCATION</p>	<p>HOUSING INITIATIVES</p> <p>HOUSING “NUTS AND BOLTS” CASE CONFERENCES</p>
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Long-term goals are aligned with the National HIV/AIDS Strategy 2022-2025 and Ending the HIV Epidemic (EHE) goals.

- ≥75% reduction in new HIV infections
- 95% of people living with HIV know their HIV status
- 95% of people diagnosed with HIV are linked to HIV medical care
- 95% of people diagnosed with HIV are virally suppressed
- ≥50% of people with PrEP indications are on PrEP

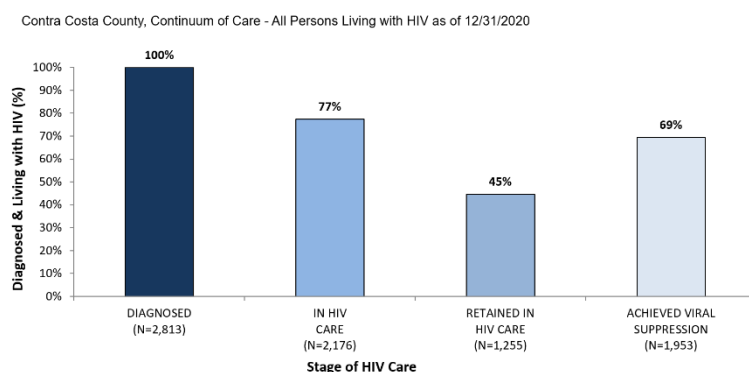
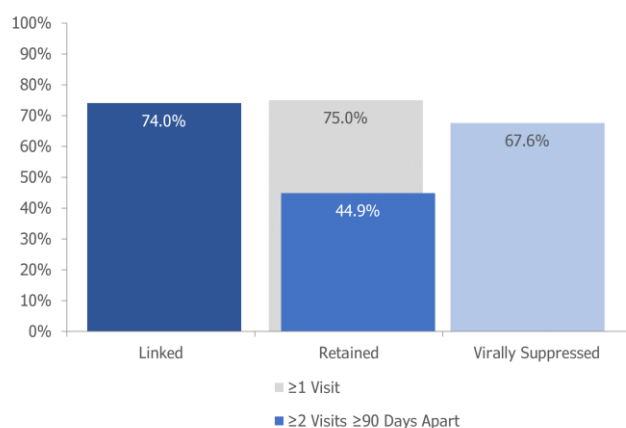
Strengths and Opportunities

Strengths	Opportunities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shared core values around equity and healing as described above. • Coalitions: Linkage and retention network since 2011 working on warm handoffs, rapid linkage. PrEP network since 2017 scaling up PrEP services. East Bay Getting to Zero network since 2017. • Strong, resilient community-based organizations with deep commitment to equity. • Multiple HIV PrEP and care clinical sites with expert teams, including EtHE and Ryan White Parts A/B/C/D-funded sites, community health centers, public and private hospitals. • Universal HIV testing projects in Alameda Health Systems and (previously) Sutter hospital emergency rooms, community health centers and street/shelter teams. • Meeting people where they're at: community-based HIV testing and education projects. • Public health departments committed to equity and addressing disparities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confusing, complex, fragmented health insurance system. • Complex and uncoordinated health service delivery system. • Organizational and departmental silos. • Competition for limited grant funds. • Structural inequities: racism, sexism, classism, heterosexism, transphobia, xenophobia. • Stigma and judgment: HIV-related and others related to structural inequities above. • Unaddressed and inadequately addressed social determinants of health. • Unmet needs in secure housing, mental health and substance use services. • Barriers to services due to immigration status and lack of language access. • Growing need for technology access and skills in vulnerable communities to access telehealth and other remote services.

Continuum of HIV care, data, gaps and disparities

(Detailed references [here](#))

There were 9,120 people diagnosed with HIV and living in Alameda or Contra Costa County as of December 2021.



HIV in Alameda County, 2019-2021; ACPHD HIV Epidemiology and Surveillance Unit, February 2023.

Contra Costa County HIV data from the Contra Costa Public Health Epidemiology team, October 2022.

Analysis of East Bay HIV epidemiology trends

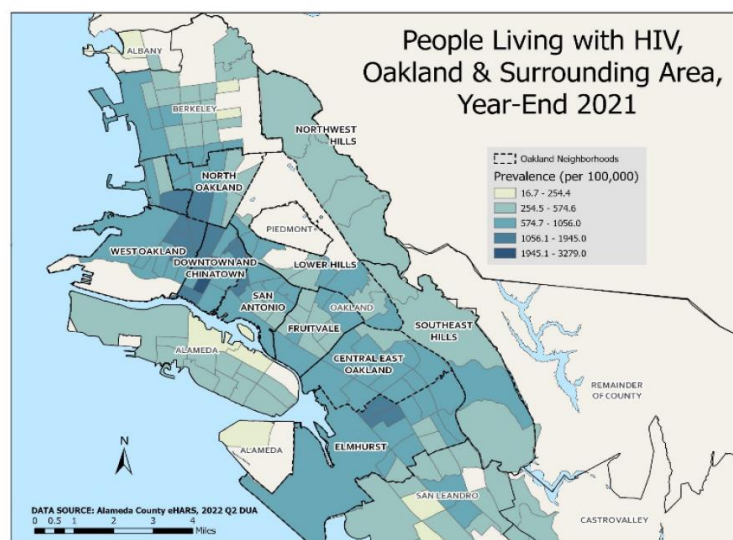
New HIV diagnosis rates in the East Bay have overall decreased since 2006. The 32% increase of new HIV cases in 2021 from 2020 (307 vs. 234) was likely mostly due to increased access to HIV testing as in-person labs and community testing services resumed during the Covid-19 pandemic. East Bay linkage, retention and viral load suppression rates were also lower in 2020 compared to 2019. Disparity gaps increased in 2019 for new diagnoses among Latinx people and young people of color, as well as in retention and viral load suppression for Black/African American residents, men who have sex with men who inject drugs, young adults and uninsured residents. 2021 and 2022 data from HIV ACCESS sites show improvements in linkage and viral load suppression rates, which hopefully reflects trends in the East Bay overall. An updated disparities analysis is planned for summer of 2023.

Gaps in care in both counties combined

- 2,723 PLWH were not virally suppressed in 2020 (1,863 in Alameda County and 860 in Contra Costa County).
- 307 people were newly diagnosed with HIV in 2021 (199 in Alameda County and 108 in Contra Costa County).

Alameda County-wide data are from *HIV in Alameda County, 2019-2021*; ACPHD HIV Epidemiology and Surveillance Unit, February 2023.

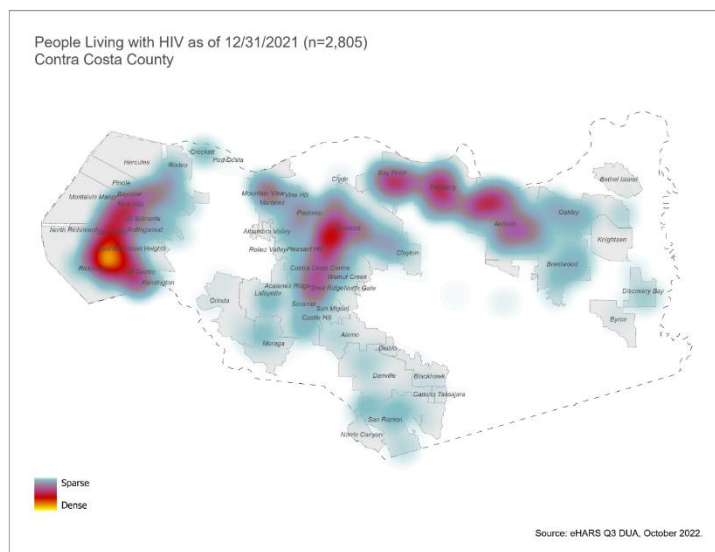
- There have been **160-300 new HIV diagnoses per year since 2006: 160 in 2020 and 199 in 2021.**
- In 2021, there were **6,212 people living with HIV (PLWH)**; 368.1 PLWH per 100,000 (0.4%) residents.
- **Among people diagnosed 2019-2021:** 85% male sex at birth; 73% MSM (men who have sex with men); 34% African American; 33% Latinx (vs. 19% white); highest rates among ages 20-39.
- **Geographic prevalence:** The city of Emeryville had the highest HIV prevalence, followed by Oakland, Ashland, and Hayward Acres. In Oakland, West Oakland, Downtown, and Chinatown had the highest HIV prevalence.



Alameda County Public Health Department,
HIV Epidemiology and Surveillance Unit, February 2023

Contra Costa County-wide data are from the Contra Costa Public Health Epidemiology team, October 2022.

- There were **97 new diagnoses in 2019, 74 in 2020, and 108 in 2021.**
- At the end of 2021, there were **2,805 people living with HIV**: 241 PLHIV per 100,000 (0.2%) residents.
- **Among people diagnosed 2019-2021:** 88% cis male; 64% MSM; 28% African American; 36% ages 20-29.
- **Geographic prevalence:** Among people diagnosed 2019-2021, 37% were residents of East County, 34% were residents of West County, and 28% were residents of Central County.



Contra Costa Public Health Epidemiology team, October 2022

Summary of key communities and core values

Key communities with disparities in HIV diagnosis	Key communities with disparities in HIV care	Core values
<p>People with disproportionately high HIV diagnoses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Black/African American people, including women ● Latinx people ● Young adults (ages 20-39) ● Transgender people ● Men who have sex with men ● People who use drugs ● People who are incarcerated ● People experiencing homelessness <p>Disproportionate late diagnoses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Older adults (ages 50+) ● Latinx people, especially women ages 50+ ● Asian and Pacific Islander people ages 25-29 <p>Please see references here.</p>	<p>People less likely to be linked to care:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● People diagnosed in EDs ● People who use drugs ● People with mental health conditions <p>Less likely to be retained in care:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Transgender people ● People ages 20-29 > ages 30-39 ● MSM who inject drugs ● Uninsured people <p>Less likely to be virally suppressed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Black/African American people ● MSM who inject drugs ● People ages 20-29 > ages 30-39 ● People experiencing homelessness <p>Please see references here.</p>	<p>Focus on Equity and Healing by being:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● People-first ● Trauma-informed ● Healing-engaged ● Anti-racist ● Sex positive ● Community-driven ● Data and science-driven ● Adaptive and resilient

Working groups

East Bay HIV strategic activities are led by East Bay Getting to Zero working groups, whose members design, implement and evaluate activities with many community collaborators. The linkage network was formed in 2011 and focuses on improving collaborations. The prevention and testing network was formed in 2017 and focuses on innovative service models. The youth network was formed in 2019 and focuses on youth engagement. The housing group was formed in 2021 and focuses on housing initiatives. The community messaging group, Poz+ and Grupo de Charla groups were formed in 2020 and focus on community messages. Details on each group's accomplishments, activities and metrics are described below.

Poz+ group

The intentions of the Poz+ group are to build community among people living with HIV in the East Bay, to get to know one another and learn more about each other, to share best strategies for living well with HIV, to discuss the current information around HIV and COVID, and discuss how to disseminate the information and implement strategic priorities.

In 2021, the Poz+ group grew in its membership and involvement in the steering committee, community messaging, linkage meetings and community events. Special accommodations are set in place for confidentiality and comfortability, meeting each person where they are in their disclosure comfort.



In 2022, the Poz+ group laid the foundation to establish an AIDS memorial space in the East Bay. The group identified a need for space that honors the East Bay HIV affected community, memorializes people lost to HIV/AIDS and inspires an environment for healing and reflection. With the support of the EBGZ core team, EBGZ steering committee, and the Oakland Mayor's office, the Poz+ group secured a space and developed a preliminary design for the future garden within The Gardens at Lake Merritt at 666 Bellevue Ave in Oakland.

The collective vision for the East Bay AIDS Memorial Garden is for it to be an ode to people living with HIV, in memoriam of those lost to the epidemic, and a space for intergenerational connection and dialogue about the legacy of the HIV and LGBTQ+ movements. Poz+ goals for 2023 include meeting once a month to:

- Lead the community engagement, fundraising, and design process for the East Bay AIDS Memorial Garden,
- Create a community mural with Poz+ collaboration,
- Advise other working groups, and
- Observe HIV awareness dates, support digital media development and create or collaborate on other community events.

Grupo de Charla

The Grupo de Charla Spanish language working group was created in 2020 with the purpose of providing information related to HIV/STI transmission and prevention, support, and community-based collaborations to Spanish-speaking agencies and communities in Alameda and Contra Costa counties.

Grupo de Charla's priorities are to:

- Create culturally appropriate, sex-positive, and inclusive messaging in Spanish (not translated).
- Build a strong network by promoting collaborations with other agencies and community-based organizations.
- Work toward eradicating stigma and stereotypes around HIV, sex and pleasure.

One of the most important achievements of 2022 was Grupo's annual National Latinx HIV/AIDS Awareness community events, including a virtual mini-conference showcasing a panel of all Spanish-speaking experts sharing best practices on implementing inclusive language and promoting sex positivity, and an in-person educational and celebrational event to commemorate National Latinx HIV/AIDS Awareness Day. The group also adapted the 'Sexy Lotería' campaign into the Loteria.Love AC Transit ad campaign to promote HIV testing, PrEP, U=U, and sex positivity. The campaign was featured on 90 AC Transit buses spanning from Richmond to Hayward in Summer 2022.

Grupo de Charla's objectives for 2023 are to continue prioritizing strong collaborations with community-based organizations, increase Spanish-speaking community members participation, promoting the use of inclusive language in our agencies and messaging, and leading a queer Latine-focused community mural project through a grant awarded by the Equality California Institute.

Strategic priorities, activities and metrics



Community Messaging	
Vision	An East Bay-specific campaign that includes multigenerational, multicultural and multilingual messaging that inspires hope and reaches all our communities.
Top priorities for 2023	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Murals led by local artists in key communities. 2. Visual Storytelling Series chronicling and de-mystifying the experience of receiving HIV-related services in the East Bay. 3. East Bay AIDS Memorial Garden design and community collaboration.
Accomplishments in 2021 and 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The <u>Loteria.Love</u> campaign was featured on 90 AC Transit buses across the East Bay in 2022, showcasing art from local artists in key communities.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● In collaboration with SF Department of Public Health and the Kaiser Family Foundation, the Bay Area-wide Greater Than AIDS PrEP Campaign launched in 2022, with over 15.3 million digital impressions, 1.3 million video views and 133,000 clicks to local online informational resources. ● Growing engagement on digital social media platforms and with key influencers and local partner organizations. ● The East Bay Love campaign launched new community-facing web pages in 2021 on how to access free same-day HIV/STD testing, PrEP and treatment.
Equity Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Place a greater focus on the experiences and stories of people impacted by HIV. ● Create messaging in Spanish from a Latinx cultural perspective (not translated). Same for other languages used in messaging campaigns. ● Integrate PLWH leadership, diverse community voices, patient/client lived experiences to create messaging that reflects and reaches all key communities. ● Strategically place messaging in public spaces, facilities, and social services agencies to reach those with limited technology and media access. ● Engage community gatekeepers, faith leaders, house ball community members, etc. by developing messaging materials and/or “care packages.”
Activities planned for 2023-2025	<p>Determining messages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Interweave HIV messaging with STD, mpox, and other intersectional topics. ● Engage both youth and parents/guardians/adult family members using messaging to increase support for youth engagement and reduce stereotypes and stigma. <p>Message dissemination:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Engage local influencers including network members, PLWH, women, youth, political leaders, creatives, and sports influencers. ● Commission and curate art and music from the community, including Alameda, Contra Costa and Solano counties. ● Identify and integrate messaging into existing popular media, such as Instagram and Facebook Live, YouTube, and Spanish-language media. <p>Creating a legacy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Engage all community stakeholders in the creation of the East Bay AIDS Memorial Garden to memorialize, educate, de-stigmatize, and heal across all communities.
Structural change	Cultural shifts to normalize HIV testing, prevention, care and destigmatize HIV.
Metrics, evaluation and improvements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Short-term (annually): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Track and increase engagement on digital media platforms. ○ Track placement and community response to non-tech-based messaging campaigns in community spaces. ○ Evaluate demographics of viewers when possible. ○ Make adjustments to increase engagement in key communities. ● Medium-term (2-5 years): Increase HIV testing, PrEP uptake, Viral Load Suppression rates among key populations. ● Long-term: Decrease new HIV diagnosis rates.



Improving Collaborations

Vision	A collaborative community of HIV service organizations, advocates and community members who work together on common goals and amplify each other's work.
Top priorities for 2023	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Strengthening skills in mental health assessments, suicide prevention and therapeutic alliances and collaborations with East Bay mental health organizations. 2. Implementing <i>same-day</i> HIV prevention, testing and treatment services in ED, street, shelter, housing and substance use settings. 3. Injectable ART and PrEP collaborative learning to increase equitable access.

Accomplishments in 2021 and 2022	<p>New/revised tools and resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A new <u>East Bay substance use overdose prevention safety plan toolkit</u> was created and publicly distributed in 2022 through a collaboration with HEPPAC, Punks with Lunch, Bridge Clinic and the EBG TZ network. ● A <u>streamlined rapid ART and linkage process</u> was developed collaboratively with ED and street teams, published and implemented in 2021 and updated in 2022. ● The <u>EBGTZ.org</u> directory was redesigned in 2021 to be an easier place to find <u>services and contacts</u>, <u>local events</u>, <u>resources</u> and materials in Spanish. The <u>service directory</u> had over 6,000 users in 2022, a 53% increase compared to 2021 and 10 users in 2020. <p>Improvements in linkage and rapid ART rates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 30-day linkage rates for community health center and Highland Hospital HIV clinics increased to 91% in 2022 compared to 87% in 2021 and 75% in 2020. ● Same-day rapid ART rates for community health center and Highland Hospital HIV teams increased to 93% in 2022 compared to 85% in 2021 and 76% in 2020. ● Highland linkage rates increased from 44% to 88% from Sept 2020 to 2022. ● Highland ED started 36 newly diagnosed people on rapid ART in 2022. ● PLWH experiencing homelessness receiving care at the Trust Clinic saw their overall viral load suppression increase from 35% to 70% in Sept 2020 to 2022. ● A collaborative partnership has been formed between Asian Health Services, La Clínica, LifeLong and BACH to support rapid ART, including linkages from the Emergency Departments, street teams, and the Glenn Burke Wellness Clinic. <p>Community collaboration events and workshops:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● In October 2022, the linkage network <u>met</u> to strengthen housing access. ● In May 2022, EBG TZ collaborated with Alameda County Healthcare for the Homeless to hold a <u>training workshop</u> for frontline outreach workers on HIV and hepatitis testing and linkages in street and shelter settings. ● In April 2022, the linkage network held a <u>substance use, overdose prevention and safety plan workshop</u> with HEPPAC, Punks with Lunch, Bridge Clinic, resulting in a new <u>toolkit</u> and strengthened coordination with HIV and substance use services. ● In October 2021, the linkage network met to strengthen access to housing, build collaborations between HIV and housing organizations and a <u>housing webpage</u>. ● In August 2021, the network <u>met</u> to strengthen ED & substance use collaborations. ● In April 2021, the linkage network met to update our <u>online service directory</u>.
Equity Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Pursue funding opportunities that promote collaborations, measure quality over quantity, and prioritize collaboratively addressing needs and gaps in network of care over competition for funds. ● Improve the linkage process for patients diagnosed in the Highland Emergency Department who are disproportionately affected by persistent and severe mental health diagnoses, substance use disorders, and chronic housing instability. ● Provide ongoing training and dialogues about structural racism, sexual orientation and gender identity, and sensitive services for youth across our network. ● Hire multilingual and bicultural staff to normalize the use of Spanish and other languages as well as integrate diverse perspectives.
Activities planned for 2023-2025	<p>Strengthening warm hand-offs and rapid linkages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Develop and implement a new protocol and process for same-day ART for people re-engaging in HIV care through the Highland Emergency Department (ED). ● Improve linkages and rapid ART for people with new diagnoses at the Highland ED. ● Improve HIV testing, rapid ART, PrEP, linkages, treatment and lab access for people seen by the street, shelter, substance use and housing teams. ● Prioritize client preferences and support choice when making linkages/referrals.

	<p>Mental health skills and collaborations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Facilitate a collaborative workshop on assessments, suicide prevention and therapeutic alliances with East Bay mental health organizations. ● Develop an East Bay mental health resources and referrals guide and post resources on mental health and suicide prevention on the EBGZ.org website. <p>Injectable ART/PrEP skills and collaborations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Facilitate a quarterly East Bay HIV provider network clinical case conference to share updates, best practices, cases, questions and conundrums to develop creative and collaborative solutions to improve access and management of injectables. ● Share and post resources on injectable ART and PrEP on the EBGZ.org website. <p>EBGZ.org events calendar, service directory and guides:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Update the community events calendar and service directory at network meetings. ● Collaborate on community events such as World AIDS Day, HIV testing days, etc. ● Post resource guides and tools for community members and health care staff.
Structural change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Transparency in programs: Make all HIV services, resources and events freely accessible and transparent to all community members and healthcare staff. ● Continue to allow verbal consents from clients rather than requiring written consents when facilitating access to social services or coordinating care. ● Network-wide investment in improvements for linkages from the Highland ED. ● Grant/funding system revisions to integrate collaborations and prioritize collaboratively addressing needs and gaps over competition for funds.
Metrics, evaluation and improvements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Short-term (quarterly to biannually): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Track service directory, event calendar and resource web page views. ○ Track testing, linkage and rapid ART rates at service sites. ○ Review and update service directory and resources at quarterly meetings. ○ Make updates to keep directory, calendar and resources current. ● Medium-term (2-5 years): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Increase linkage and retention rates, especially from the Highland ED. ○ Increase the number of grant-funded collaborative projects. ○ Increase HIV testing, PrEP uptake and HIV treatment rates. ● Long-term: Decrease new HIV diagnosis rates.

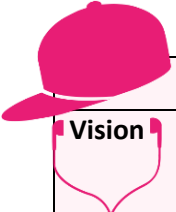


Innovative Service Models	
Vision	Healing-centered, integrated HIV prevention and care services anywhere and everywhere for all people, including rapid testing, same-day PrEP, rapid ART.
Top priorities for 2023	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Regional “test-everywhere” strategy - expanded home HIV/STD testing: scaling up home HIV/STI testing through the <u>TakeMeHome</u> program and HIV testing in non-traditional clinical spaces in the community, including mobile, street and shelter-based locations. 2. Strengthening rapid PrEP and rapid ART linkages from home, ER and mobile testing settings. 3. Equitable access to long-acting injectable ART and PrEP - developing protocols and communities of practice to establish best-practices for injectable ART and PrEP in hardy reached communities.

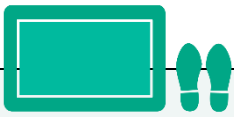
Accomplishments in 2021 and 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Regional “test-everywhere” strategy: home HIV testing and linkage protocols were implemented through the <u>TakeMeHome</u> program for both Alameda and Contra Costa Counties. This initiative was featured in the <u>East Bay Love</u> campaign. From 2021 to 2022, 500 tests were ordered, with the majority reaching young people of color (75% <35 years old and 68% non-white identified). TakeMeHome Phase 2 launch expanded services in 2022 to include 3-site STI testing, HCV and syphilis screening. In 2021 Contra Costa County implemented the <u>Home is Where the Swab is</u> home HIV/STD door-to-door testing service. ● Mobile clinic with HIV prevention and care: The HOPE (Healthy Options for People Everywhere) mobile clinic pilot launched in 2022 in collaboration with CAL-PEP and other community-based mobile street teams to scale up HIV services. The service model is based on interviews with key informants across the East Bay HIV community. ● Strengthened East Bay prevention network contacts: Service directory updates were made in 2021 and 2022 to include PrEP services. An East Bay PrEP navigator virtual meeting was convened in April 2021 to develop a contact list and email group for linkages, consultations, and PrEP navigation updates. ● A model for healing-engaged LGBTQ-centered care: The <u>Glenn Burke Wellness Clinic</u> (GBWC) at the Oakland LGBTQ Center was launched in 2021 and grew in 2022, offering HIV/STI testing and treatment, rapid ART, tele-PrEP, and gender-affirming care in addition to mental health, social services and youth services at the Center.
Equity Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Integrate PLWH leadership and voices from key communities to design new models of care and to identify which models work. ● Offering resources and trainings that are holistic, trauma-informed, healing-engaged and people-centered. Include services addressing intersectional social determinants of health including immigration, housing, employment and insurance status in client care. ● Develop a healing-centered one-stop shop model for LGBTQ-centered care. ● Design outreach activities that partner healthcare and community-based organizations together at local community events; reach community members where they are with health education and linkages to care focusing on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ streamlined and rapid benefits enrollment and ○ same-day access to mental/behavioral health and substance use services.
Activities planned for 2023-2025	<p>“Test-everywhere” strategy and home testing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Develop and implement a cross-county linkage and referral protocol: Focus on identifying low-barrier access points for rapid PrEP/ART and STI testing/treatment regardless of immigration status or ability to pay. ● Continue to explore innovative approaches to home, mobile, non-clinic-based phlebotomy services for PrEP and ART monitoring ● Continue to track the reach of non-traditional testing to increase first-time testing, testing among youth, people of color, and other communities hardly reached by traditional clinic models. Demographic data and user feedback will be tracked for equitable impact. <p>Strengthening linkages to HIV and PrEP services from home, mobile and other services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Build one-stop shops with integration of multiple service needs whenever possible, such as at the Oakland LGBTQ Center and HOPE mobile van pilot. ● Ensure that there is always a clear linkage to care information available for anyone conducting home/self-testing and wherever HIV tests are available. Distribute all self-test kits with a clear PrEP/HIV linkage contact attached. ● Develop PrEP Navigation working group and integrate Alameda County Public Health Investigation and Partner Services staff in Prevention & Linkage Network working groups to optimize linkage workflows to/from non-traditional clinical settings. ● Integrate HIV and PrEP services into other services, such as housing, food, re-entry, COVID testing, and mpox response.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Expand Rapid PrEP services through systematic stocking of generic F/TDF at all PrEP clinical sites. Injectable HIV antiretroviral therapy and PrEP: ● Include Injectable Agents as search field in EBGTZ service directory to improve access to sites offering these services. ● Initiate clinician communities of practice and refine clinical protocols for long-acting injectable options for ART and PrEP, with a focus on equitable access. ● To improve access to the recently FDA-approved long-acting injectable antiretroviral therapy (ART) and PrEP, develop processes and protocols for getting insurance coverage, in-clinic and home/street-based availability, and expanding injectable ART to include people who don't take the oral lead-in and/or are not virally suppressed.
Structural change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Support change in CA policy to allow HIV test results be disclosed electronically. ● Support change in commercial lab policies/practices to allow for self-collected HIV/STD swabs. ● Support a permanent change in policies to allow for immediate/remote RW enrollment. ● Support changes in clinic and reimbursement policies at FQHCs to allow same-day access mental health/substance use services. ● Share funding programs to pay for tech resources (smartphones and data plans) and training to support technology-enabled multilingual access to services for staff and clients.
Metrics, evaluation and improvements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Short-term (quarterly to biannually): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Track home-based and self-HIV testing and linkage rates. ○ Track HIV testing and linkage done in street/shelter settings. ○ Track opt-out HIV testing in public hospital and community clinic settings. ○ Review and evaluate testing in these settings for equity, access and coverage with the sexual health provider group. ● Medium-term (2-5 years): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Increase testing and linkage rates from home/self-testing. ○ Increase HIV testing, PrEP uptake, linkage and HIV treatment rates. ● Long-term: Decrease new HIV diagnosis rates.

Youth Engagement

 Vision	Engage youth advisory boards, LGBTQ youth teams, youth outreach workers, community-based youth organizations, providers and schools on community messaging and outreach, low-barrier PrEP and sexual health care, and build youth leadership pipeline.
Top priorities for 2023	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Low-barrier access to care: best practices shared and piloted through the youth clinical provider group, and messaging developed by the youth group. 2. Sex positive education through Youth-Adult Partnerships: engage parents and trusted adults in listening sessions about gender identity, sex positivity, reproductive/sexual health care alongside teams at youth-serving organizations to destigmatize sexual health services and support participation in comprehensive sexual health programs.
Accomplishments in 2021 and 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● First graduates of the Youth Internship Program: two youth interns were hired in 2021 to develop and distribute education via youth-focused social media. In Dec 2022, Ramirez Brown and Gabriel Jimenez completed the program and joined EBGTZ staff as Youth Engagement & Communications Specialists. ● Youth-led community messaging: completion of the <u>Love & Rage Mural</u>. In partnership with RYSE Youth Center, the first EBGTZ mural featuring a collaboration between a local artist and youth was debuted to the public. ● Youth-led community outreach events: EBGTZ held a youth-focused HIV testing event in June 2021 that featured rapid testing and PrEP information. ● Structural improvements to minor-consent Medi-Cal: In 2021, a policy change was made to allow minor-consent Medi-Cal electronic/remote re-certifications, though

	<p>they are still monthly. Family PACT policy change was made to include PrEP services and STI care for all genders and sexual orientations, and no longer requires contraception services.</p>
Equity Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Train all youth-serving providers to refer patients to youth-specialized services with a focus on vulnerable youth (unstable housing, sex trafficking, YMSM/QTPOC). ● Integrate the network of youth leaders and youth-serving providers into the larger EBGTZ community messaging efforts. Community messaging is discussed at each youth working group meeting, integrating youth voices into broader community messaging campaigns, including diverse, sex positive and creative messages. ● Support youth leadership capacity-building and the HIV/STD care/prevention pipeline including youth-to-youth, train-the-trainer education, and compensate youth appropriately for their work.
Activities planned for 2023-2025	<p>Low-barrier access to care and regional youth network:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Youth-serving providers in the network continue to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Share best practices and build capacity to provide low-barrier HIV prevention and testing. ○ Strengthen PEP-to-PrEP and PrEP services in emergency departments, juvenile justice centers, sexual assault support programs. ○ Increase the number of clinics with same-day PrEP and PrEP starter packs. ○ Develop sustainability plans, utilizing grants to increase service capacity and integrating services into existing longer-term processes. ● Youth leaders from youth advisory boards, LGBTQ youth teams and youth outreach workers aim to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Identify groups of youth who need additional support. ○ Identify sex-positive language for HIV prevention. <p>Sex positive youth community messaging:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Integrate the network of youth leaders and youth-serving providers into the larger EBGTZ community messaging efforts. ● Develop a collaborative youth outreach event for HIV testing and sex-positive education through events such as National Youth HIV Testing Day or National HIV Testing Day. ● Develop messaging using a sex positive approach to address stigma and provide resources and skill-building for trusted adults supporting youth ● Develop a youth leadership pipeline program
Structural change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Process changes for youth-serving providers to integrate universal, opt-out HIV testing, PEP and PrEP services in a wide variety of youth-centered settings.
Metrics, evaluation and improvements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Short-term (annually): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Track number of youth-serving providers and youth leaders in the network. ○ Track the number of sites providing PEP and PrEP services. ○ Track PEP and PrEP prescriptions by age and in youth-focused settings. ○ Collect feedback from youth leadership on needs/gaps to improve services. ○ Track and share demographic data on HIV diagnoses among young people, including racial/ethnic, gender/sexual orientation, geographical location, etc. ● Medium-term (2-5 years): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Develop and implement new interventions to address needs and gaps and increase equitable access to PEP and PrEP for youth. ○ Increase the number of youth leaders and providers in the network. ○ Increase the number of providers and sites providing same-day PEP and PrEP. ○ Increase HIV testing, PrEP uptake and HIV treatment rates among youth 13-24. ● Long-term: Decrease new HIV diagnosis rates among youth 13-24.



Housing Initiatives

Vision	Housing and HIV agencies increase access to permanent affordable and supportive housing and work together to support people with shelter and housing needs.
Top priorities for 2023	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Facilitate housing “nuts and bolts” case conferences to provide training and problem-solving for frontline HIV staff who are supporting people applying for permanent and supportive housing. 2. Support frontline staff and community members to apply for and obtain permanent and supportive housing.
Accomplishments in 2021 and 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Created and shared <i>A Simple Guide to Finding Housing in Alameda County, Vol. 1</i>, by Judy Eliachar and <i>A Simple Guide to Finding Housing in Contra Costa County</i>, by Angela Moore in October 2022. ● Held a collaborative community-wide Housing 101 workshop on October 13, 2022. ● Created and shared the Housing and HOPWA resource guide for Alameda and Contra Costa Counties in 2021. ● Created and shared the East Bay housing opportunities webpage in 2021. ● Held a community-wide housing linkages workshop on October 28, 2021. ● Convened the first-ever East Bay HIV housing working group in 2021.
Equity Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Share information across agencies to increase housing access for PLWH who have complex health, mental health and substance use conditions and/or other barriers to housing such as past evictions, felony convictions, etc. ● Provide training on housing resources available to priority populations such as undocumented immigrants, youth, chronically disabled, transwomen, pregnant people, LGBTQ+ and aging community members. ● Explore a reliable process to report and address housing discrimination faced by PLWH, LGBTQI+, and BIPOC community members and clients when it occurs.
Activities planned for 2023-2025	<p>Housing information sharing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Collaborate with housing and HIV organizations to share housing opportunities in a timely and accessible way. ● Share resources and updates in the EBGTZ newsletter and on the housing webpage. <p>Housing access capacity building:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Facilitate housing case conferences to provide in-person support for staff and clients to apply for housing opportunities. ● Support HIV staff to build skills in assessing housing needs, addressing common barriers, and applying for appropriate housing resources. ● Create and distribute volume 2 of the Alameda County housing guide. ● Share housing guides for Alameda and Contra Costa Counties. ● Improve information exchange between HIV organizations, agencies in the homelessness continuum of care, and providers of subsidized and affordable housing aligned with Alameda County’s Vision 2026 and Home Together Plan.
Structural change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Culture changes to have closer coordination of housing and HIV services. ● Practice changes to share housing opportunities across agencies and silos in a timely and accessible way.
Metrics, evaluation and improvements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Short-term (quarterly to biannually): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Monitor HIV testing, linkage and viral load suppression rates among people experiencing homelessness in the East Bay. ○ Implement improvement interventions to increase these rates. ● Medium-term (2-5 years): Increase HIV testing, PrEP uptake and linkage rates among people experiencing homelessness. ● Long-term: Decrease new HIV diagnosis rates among people experiencing homelessness. Increase the proportion of PLWH stably housed.