



## Ending the Epidemic

### IPROs AIDS Information Management System Supports Campaign to End the HIV/AIDS Epidemic in New York State



#### New York State's Three-Point Plan

1. Identify persons with HIV who remain undiagnosed and link them to health care
2. Link and retain persons diagnosed with HIV in health care to maximize virus suppression so they remain healthy and prevent further transmission
3. Facilitate access to Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) for persons who engage in high-risk behaviors

#### The Challenge

In 2014, New York State announced a three-point plan to reduce gaps along the HIV care continuum, decrease new HIV infections, and for the first time since the identification of the human immunodeficiency virus, achieve a reduction in the number of people living with HIV in New York State. The objective was to reduce the number of newly diagnosed HIV infections from 3,000 in 2012 to less than 750 by 2020.

#### The Approach

IPRO's AIMS program has supported the EtE effort by designing and initiating review programs that

- Promote development and implementation of HIV testing policies in inpatient and ambulatory healthcare settings
- Monitor the use of PrEP (Pre-exposure prophylaxis) and PEP (Post exposure prophylaxis)
- Assess viral load suppression in HIV patients
- Track retention in care of HIV patients
- Evaluate access to care for individuals at higher risk of HIV infection such as those who are homeless, transgender and substance users

In support of the NYSDOH commitment to the EtE, IPRO has also conducted the annual focused review of HIV and hepatitis C (HCV) care within the Department of Corrections and Community Supervision (DOCCS). Performance indicators were applied to uniformly assess the quality of HIV and HCV care within a DOCCS hub each year.

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## The Results:

**240**  **Hospitals and ambulatory care centers** are reviewed annually

Three **HIV Special Needs Plans** affiliated with **more than 150 providers** are reviewed annually. In 2020:

**99%** of SNP enrollees received antiretroviral therapy 

**77%** suppressed at last viral load of review period

**68%** always suppressed within review period

**HIV and Aging review** of 2018 data showed 97% of patients are receiving antiretroviral therapy. However, poor documentation of pre-existing health conditions, housing status and behavioral health screening was noted.

Review now includes **social determinants of health**—all of which are considered key factors in HIV-related health outcomes.

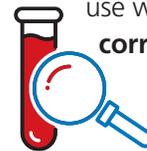
healthcare engagement  
behavioral health  
**Social** substance use  
**Determinants of Health** food  
housing security education  
employment transportation

New York State's **'End the Epidemic'** initiative was expanded in 2021 to ensure that current HIV and Hepatitis C Treatment and Care policies were present in all **25 sheriff-run county and medium jails in NYS**. IPRO provided assistance to attain **100%** compliance.



An assessment of the effectiveness of **Managed Care Organizations** in increasing HIV viral load suppression among members showed that while antiretroviral

use was documented in **79%** of patients, **corresponding viral load response was measured in only 66%.**



Close to **15,000 mother-to-child pairs** were reviewed from 1997 to 2021. The mother-to-child **HIV transmission rate significantly declined** during this two-decade period.

## Conclusion

Ending the Epidemic (ETE) in New York State was designed to save lives and improve the health of New Yorkers by maximizing the availability of lifesaving, transmission-interrupting treatment for HIV. The initiative will transform New York from a state with the worst HIV epidemic in the country to a future where new infections are rare and those living with the disease have normal lifespans with few complications.

IPRO's capacity to collect, analyze and interpret data is an essential component of the state's EtE effort. For more than three decades, IPRO has been a trusted partner in this work, contributing staff skills, knowledge, and expertise to meet the project's evolving needs. The longevity of this engagement is a testament to IPRO's experience and capacity to successfully respond to the client's shifting priorities as the initiative matures.

For information on IPRO, contact us at [info@ipro.org](mailto:info@ipro.org)