



ENDING THE HIV EPIDEMIC
Equitable Access, Everyone's Voice

The UCLA Center for HIV Identification, Prevention, and Treatment Services (CHIPTS) and the San Diego Center for AIDS Research (SD CFAR) welcome you to a

World AIDS DAY 2021 Event:

*ADDRESSING INEQUITIES AND
SYNDEMICS TO END THE HIV
EPIDEMIC*



CHIPTS
Center for HIV Identification, Prevention
and Treatment Services

CFAR
SAN DIEGO | CENTER FOR AIDS RESEARCH



Steve Shoptaw, PhD

Center Director,
CHIPTS



Chris Gordon, PhD

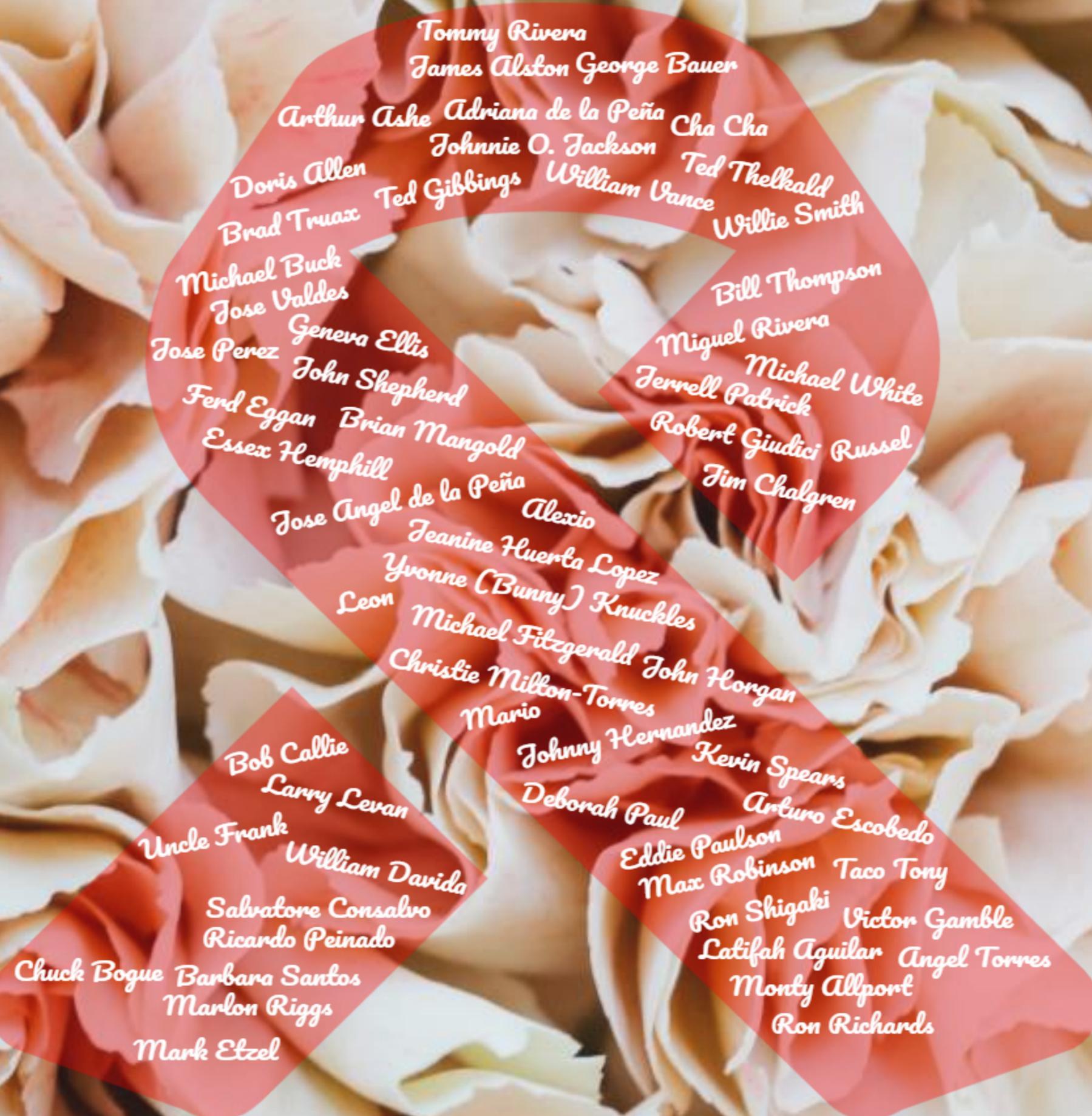
Branch Chief,
Division of AIDS Research,
NIMH

WELCOME & OPENING REMARKS

Today, we come together 40 years after the first reports of HIV/AIDS in Southern California for a reflective and celebratory event highlighting innovative research and community perspectives on how we can work together to address inequities and end the HIV epidemic.



REMEMBERING THOSE WE'VE LOST



Tommy Rivera
James Alston George Bauer

Arthur Ashe Adriana de la Peña Cha Cha
Johnnie O. Jackson

Doris Allen Ted Gibbings William Vance Ted Thelkald
Brad Truax Willie Smith

Michael Buck
Jose Valdes
Jose Perez Geneva Ellis

Bill Thompson
Miguel Rivera
Michael White
Terrell Patrick

Ferd Eggan John Shepherd
Brian Mangold
Essex Hemphill

Robert Giudici Russel
Jim Chalgren

Jose Angel de la Peña Alexio
Jeanine Huerta Lopez

Yvonne (Bunny) Knuckles

Leon Michael Fitzgerald John Horgan
Christie Milton-Torres

Mario Johnny Hernandez Kevin Spears

Bob Callie
Larry Levan

Deborah Paul Arturo Escobedo
Eddie Paulson

Uncle Frank William Davida

Max Robinson Taco Tony

Salvatore Consalvo
Ricardo Peinado

Ron Shigaki Victor Gamble

Chuck Bogue Barbara Santos
Marlon Riggs

Latifah Aguilar Angel Torres
Monty Allport

Mark Etzel

Ron Richards

CHIPTS HIGHLIGHTS

Innovative Approaches to
Address HIV Inequities and
Syndemics



Nina Harawa, PhD

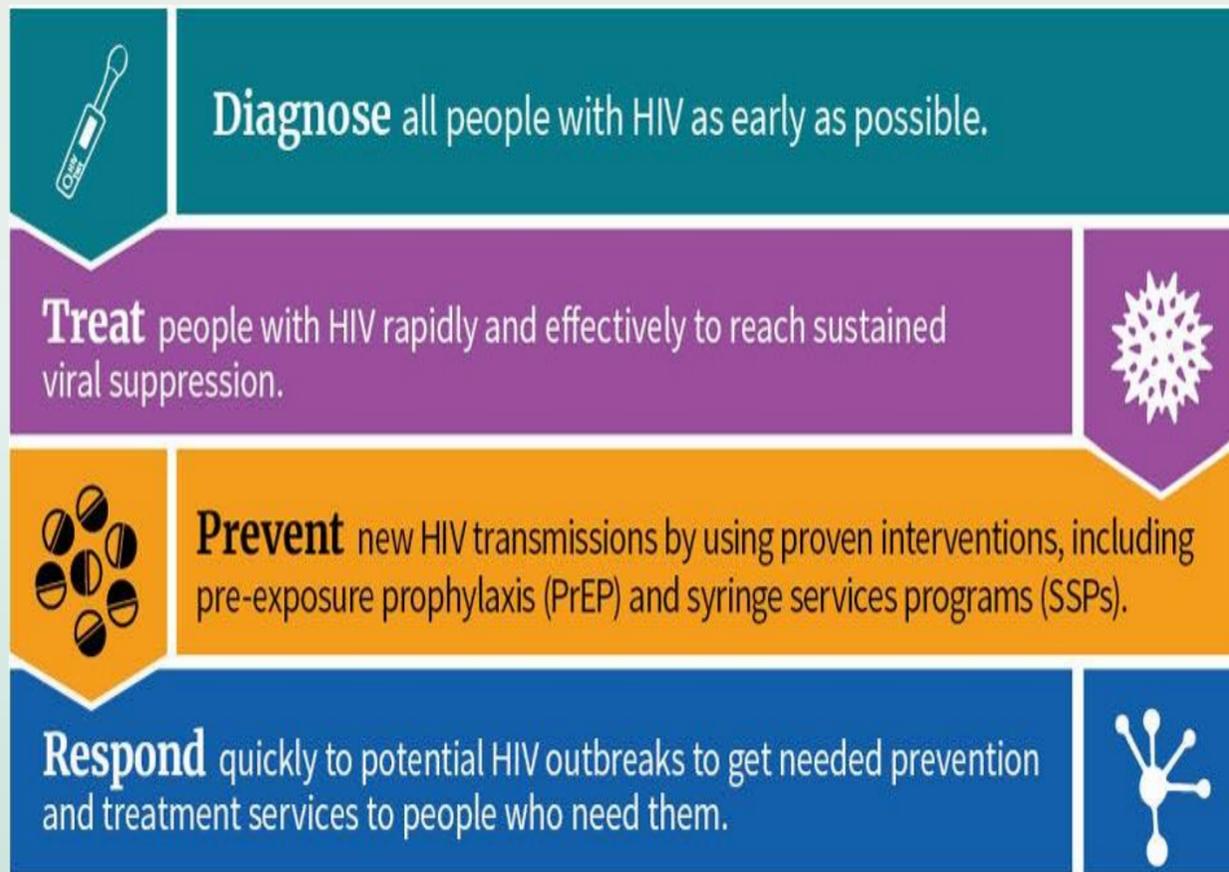
Core Director,
Policy Impact Core



David Goodman, MD, MAS

Core Scientist,
Combination Prevention
Core

Implementation Science Approaches to Address HIV Inequities and Syndemics



Ending the HIV Epidemic Implementation Science Supplements:

- *Regional response to HIV eradication efforts in southern CA counties*
- *Preparing for long-acting injectable treatment for HIV in Los Angeles*
- *Use of technology-based PrEP services to improve uptake, adherence, and persistence among young men who have sex with men and young transgender persons of color*
- *TeleHealth to optimize PrEP care continuum outcomes among cisgender Black and Latina heterosexual women*
- *Developing Implementation Strategies to Optimize PrEP Delivery to Immigrant Latino MSM in Los Angeles County*
- *Implementation of an Emergency Department HIV/SUD Screening and Treatment Referral mHealth Tool for Latino Patients*

And our UCLA 3R Implementation Science Hub focused on [Exploring Intersectional Vulnerabilities](#)

Integrating Research in Re-Entry Services: Maximizing Successful Health Outcomes for People with Criminal Justice Involvement



Overview

- Currently spearhead three research studies to **test the effectiveness of interventions in improving health outcomes** among populations at-risk or currently living with HIV who have experienced incarceration.
- This consortium of studies includes:
 - **LINK2**
 - **MEPS**
 - **BARS**
- Both LINK2 and MEPS studies include **navigation principles and cash incentives to facilitate access to services upon release** in order to support linkage, retention, stability, and harm reduction.
- BARS is a modeling study focused primarily on the impact of various biomedical prevention strategies on reducing HIV in Black gay, bisexual, and other MSM.
- The findings from these studies seek to **build on current best practices using a collaborative approach** between the study team and direct service providers.

A close-up photograph of a crowd of people at a protest or rally. In the foreground, a person's raised fist is prominent, showing a detailed tattoo on their forearm. Other fists are visible in the background, some holding small flags. The scene is filled with a sense of collective action and solidarity.

What We Do

LINK2

PI: Harawa (UCLA), Belzer (CHLA)

Collaboration between UCLA, CHLA, U Chicago and LAC DHS (Wolchok)

NIH-funded

08/08/2017 - 03/31/2022



GOALS:

- To adapt the LINK LA peer navigation intervention for adults **to create a *Youth Service Navigation (YSN) intervention to guide youth to needed services along the continuum of HIV care.*** This intervention combines medical, substance use and mental health care with comprehensive reentry support.
- To test the effectiveness of the new YSN intervention compared to standard of care services.



LINK2



WHY DOES THIS STUDY MATTER?

- HIV prevalence among incarcerated youth is **three times** that of the general population.
- Only an estimated **6-30% of YLWH achieve HIV viral load suppression** due to poor retention and adherence to anti-retroviral therapy (ART).
- Existing linkage and retention services are **insufficient to meet the acute needs of criminal justice-involved (CJI) YLWH**, particularly in the high-need period following release from incarceration.





MEPS

MEPS

PI: Harawa (UCLA)

Collaboration between UCLA, L.A. CADA, CDU, Friends Research Institute

CHRP funded

1/21/2019 - 4/30/2022

GOALS: To test the effectiveness of the *Mobile Enhanced Prevention Support (MEPS)* intervention:

1. To improve engagement in PrEP
2. To encourage regular screening for HIV, STIs, and hepatitis C
3. To encourage linkage to and retention in treatment for substance use disorders
4. To reduce recidivism



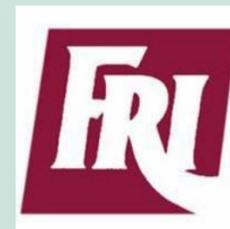


MEPS

MEPS

WHY DOES THIS STUDY MATTER?

- Many people are contracting HIV even though we have the tools to prevent it.
- Minorities (race, sexuality, gender), people with substance use disorders, and people who have been incarcerated are at greater risk.
- Reentry is a particularly risky time for substance use-related harms.



Free People Strike organizers at the June 7 Free People Now Rally, including members of the Coalition to Abolish Death by Incarceration (CADBI), the Human Rights Coalition, BLM Philly, the MOVE family, and Philly for REAL Justice. Photos: Courtesy of Free People Strike Facebook page, which states, "Credit for the majority of these photos goes to Care Workers Collective."

Three Projects One Mission

Improving Lives through Research



Community-University Partnerships

- **Community stakeholders driving the research.** We believe that research for disenfranchised communities is only relevant if it is informed by clients and their service providers. That's why our first approach to any study is engaging key stakeholders
- **What we offer:**
 - Community stakeholder engagement in frontline research
 - Supplemental services to existing programs
 - Improved health outcomes for study participants and the community overall
 - Potential to inform next generation of evidence-based practices

What We Need



- In order to draw meaningful conclusions from our research, we need to recruit a sufficient number of participants who meet our eligibility criteria
 - This includes for a BARS qualitative substudy of young Black gay, bisexual, and other MSM who have used opioids.
- The Covid-19 pandemic has severely limited our ability to recruit

Study Referrals

- **Study materials.** We provide flyers, referral guides, presentations, and animated shorts to our community partners to share with their clients and staff.
- **Direct linkage.** We have study personnel on standby to take calls from clients; jail-based clients can call us *collect*.
- Please *follow us* on:
Instagram:  MEPSProjectLA
Facebook:  Kevin MEPS
LINK2LA



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HPTN 094: INTEGRA

LA COUNTY SITE



HPTN 094 OVERVIEW



National Institute
on Drug Abuse

'A Vanguard Study of Health Service Delivery in a Mobile Health Delivery Unit to Link Persons who Inject Drugs to Integrated Care and Prevention for Addiction, HIV, HCV and Primary Care'

Design: two-arm, individually randomized, controlled, open-label study

Duration: Approximately 3 years, individual participants in study for 52 weeks



STUDY SITES:

LOS ANGELES
HOUSTON
PHILADELPHIA
BRONX
D.C.

WHAT MAKES US UNIQUE?



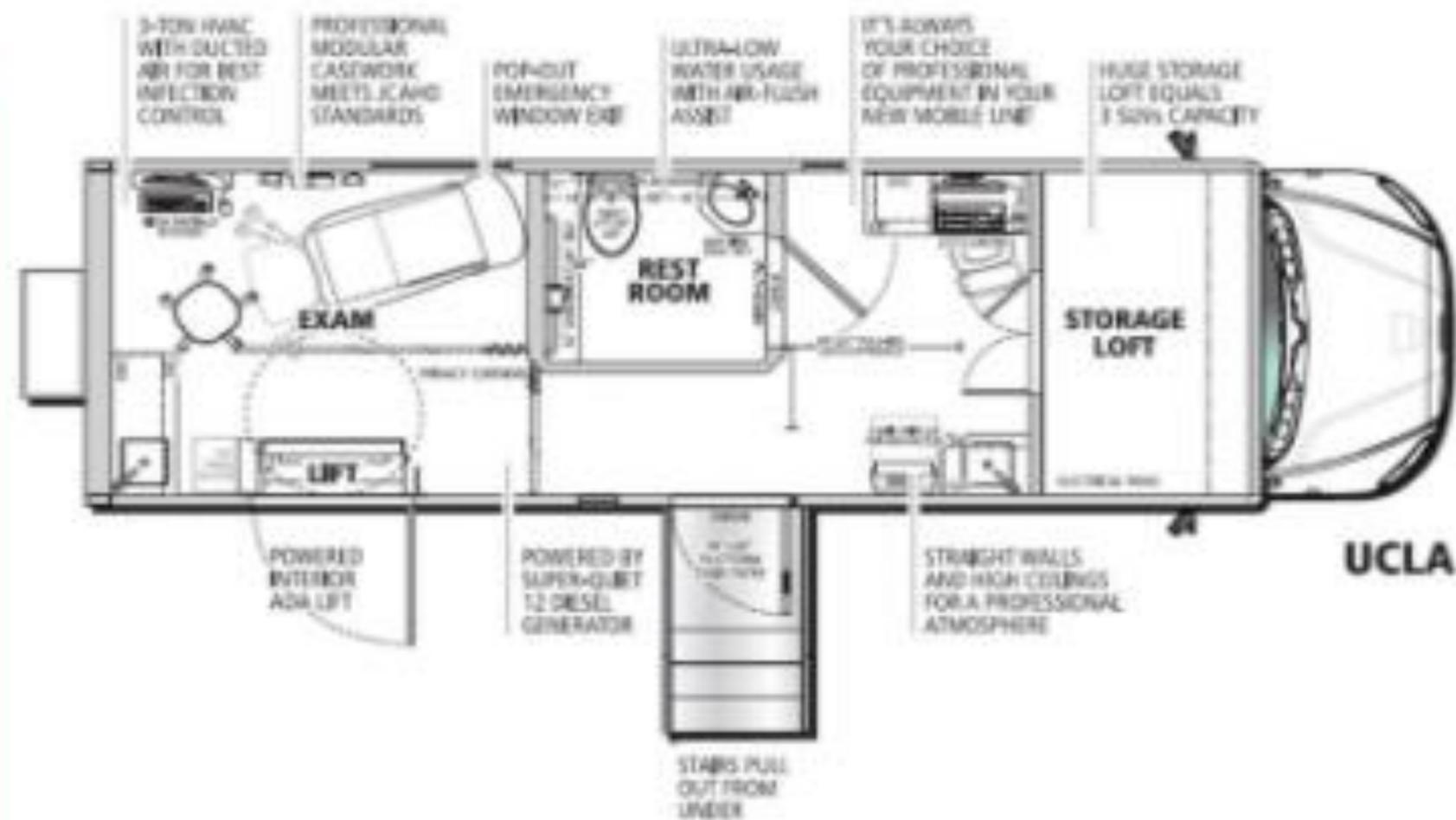
WE MEET PEOPLE WHERE THEY'RE AT.



Exam 1 - Front Wall



Exam 1 - Rear Wall



STUDY DESIGN



WHAT'S PEER NAVIGATION GOT TO DO WITH IT?

- Shared lived experiences / demographics
- Social learning theory- we learn from direct experience and by interacting with people who are similar to us
- Collaborative, encouraging style
- Helps the participants create and reach health goals and address nuanced barriers to treatment
- Make referrals to community services

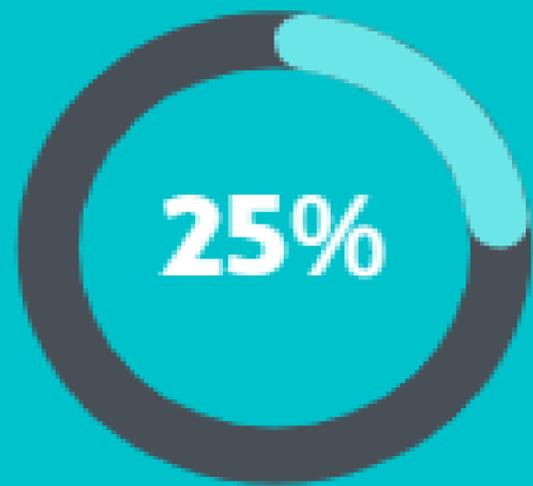


PARTICIPANTS

860 total participants nationwide

170 per site

Allotted 1:1 to intervention and active control arms

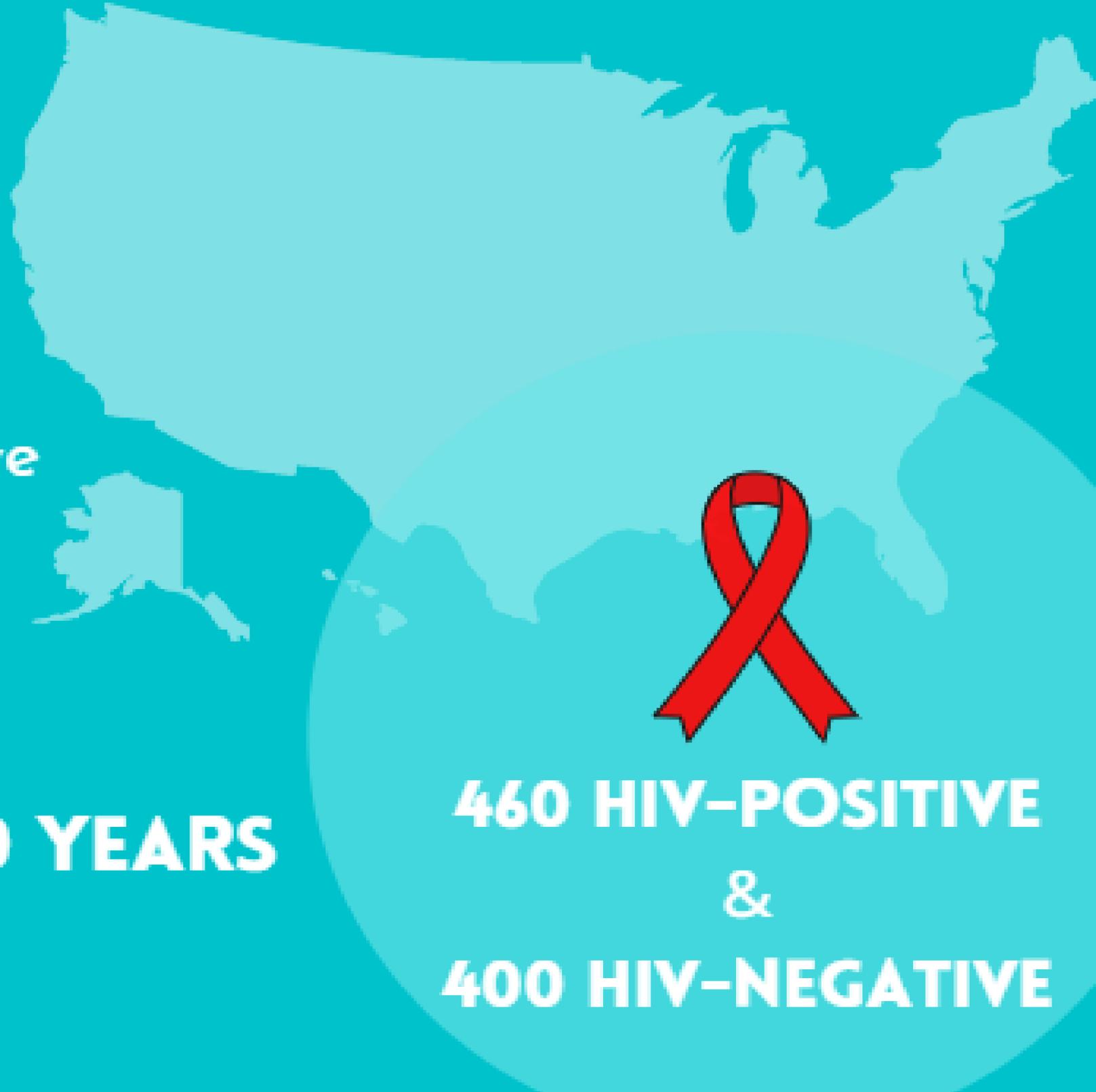


25%



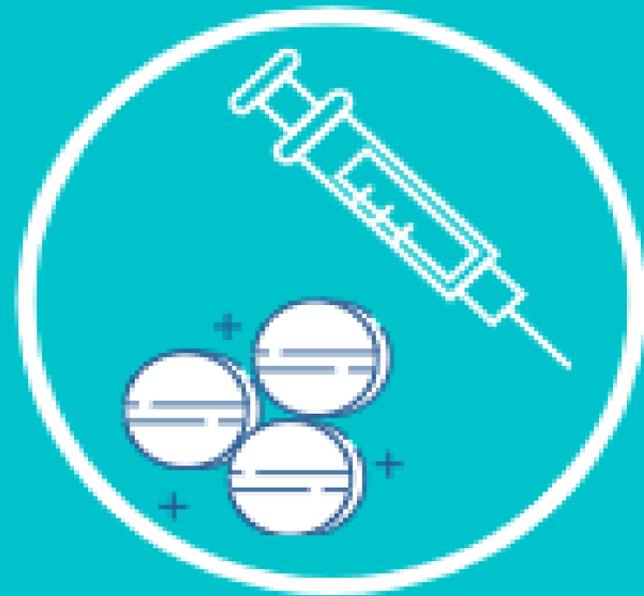
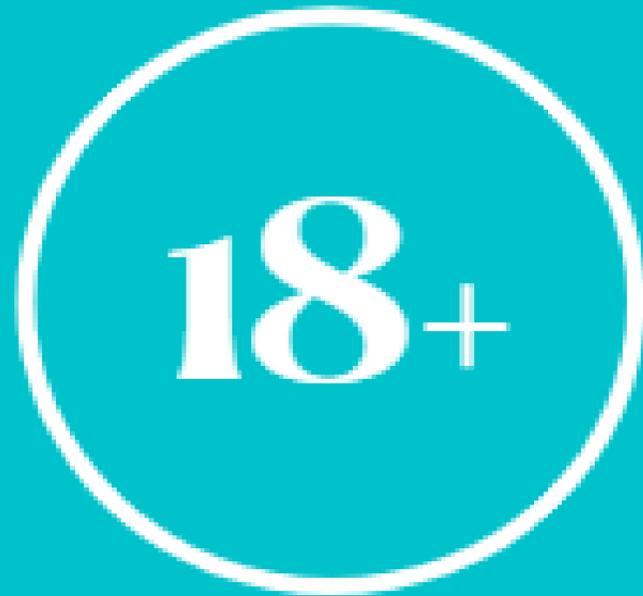
25%

< 30 YEARS



460 HIV-POSITIVE
&
400 HIV-NEGATIVE

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE?



18-60 years of age

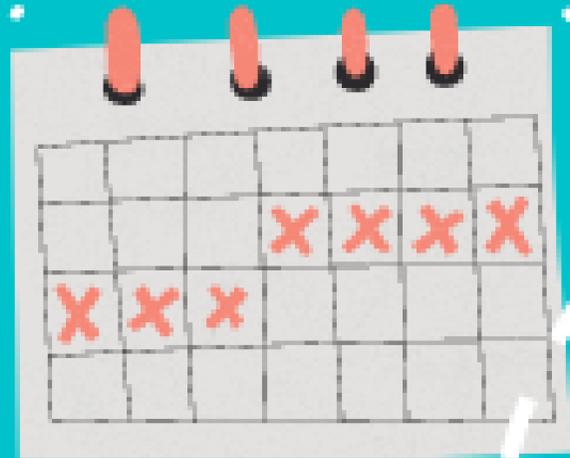
Diagnosed with opioid use disorder
per DSM-V



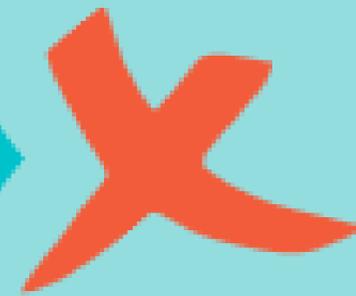
Willing to start MOUD

Self-reported sharing injection equipment
and / or
condomless sex in the last 3 months with a partner
of unknown HIV status

ANY EXCLUSION CRITERIA?



Co-enrollment in another study



Received medication assisted treatment for OUD in the last 30 days prior to enrollment by self-report

PRIMARY OUTCOMES

Primary outcomes are measured at week 26 (6 months)

- Alive
- Documented current use of medication for opioid use disorder

HIV-Related:

- If HIV (+) at time of enrollment: Alive, retained, and virally suppressed (VL<200/mL) at the week 26 visit
- If HIV (-) at time of enrollment: alive, retained, HIV negative, with detectable PrEP drugs in dried blood spot (DBS) samples at the week 26 visit

QUESTIONS?

Contact the Los Angeles HPTN 094 study team at
Hptn094@mednet.ucla.edu



SD CFAR HIGHLIGHTS

Innovative Approaches to
Address HIV Inequities and
Syndemics



Jamila Stockman, PhD

Co-Director,
Health Equity
Sociobehav. Sci. Core



Eileen Pitpitan, PhD

Co-Director,
Health Equity
Sociobehav. Sci. Core

Health Equity Sociobehavioral Science Core

What we do:

- Facilitate partnerships
- Train and mentor investigators
- Design community-driven interventions

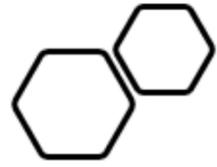
Co-Directors



Jamila K.
Stockman, PhD, MPH



Eileen V.
Pitpitan, PhD

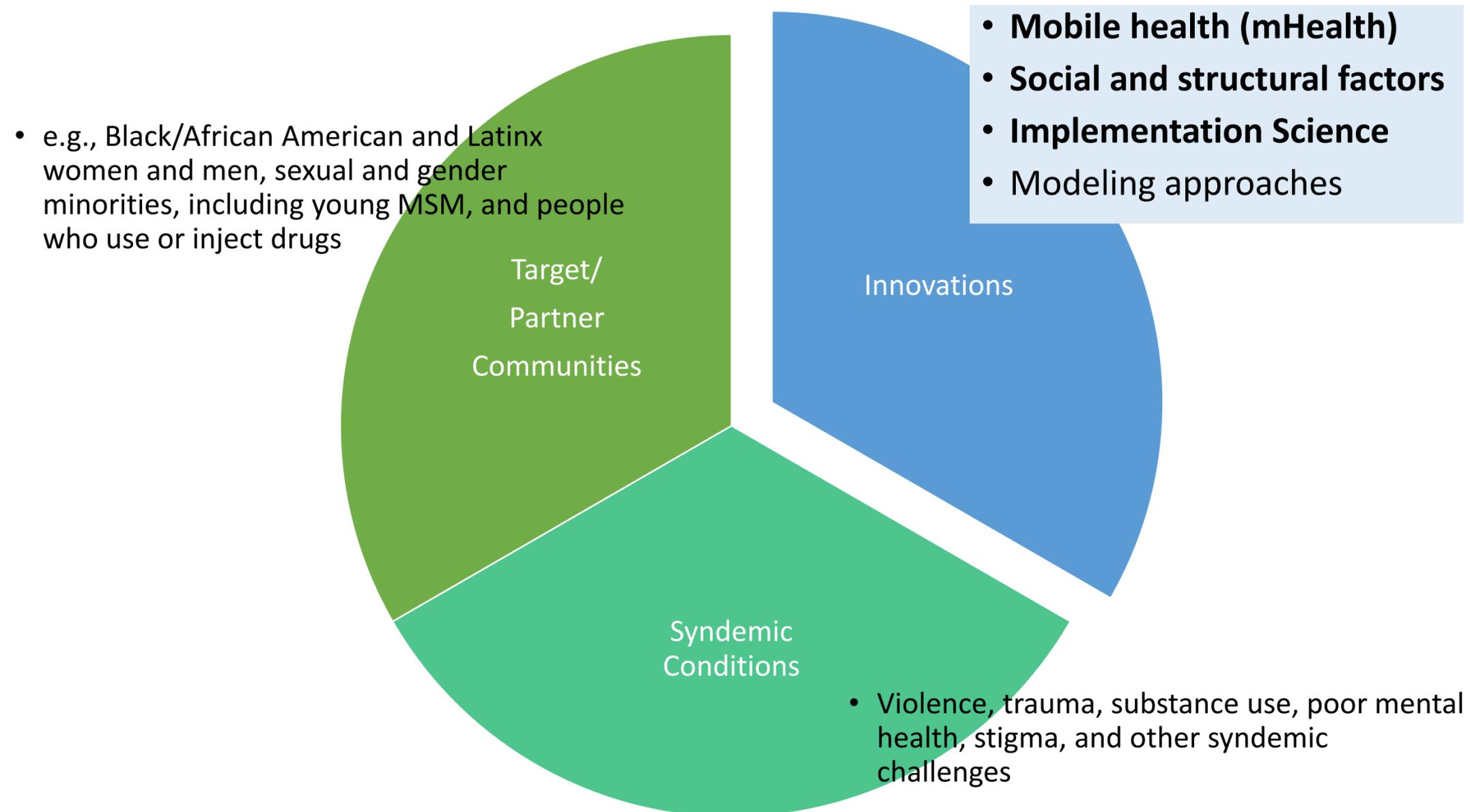


Community Advisory Board Guidance

Building bridges between members of the transgender/nonbinary and underrepresented racial and ethnic minority communities and researchers to advance the state of the science in HIV and promote key initiatives.



Research Highlights from SD CFAR



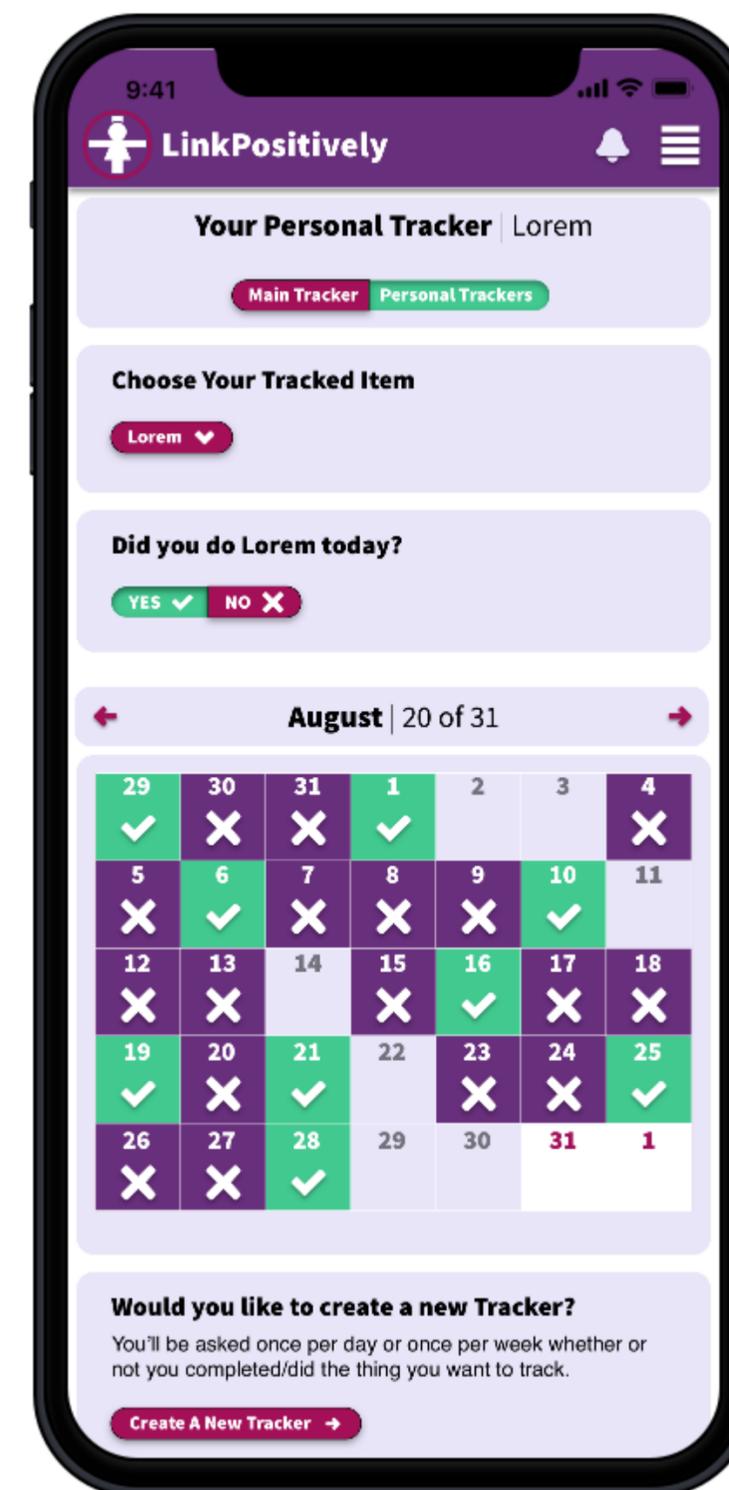
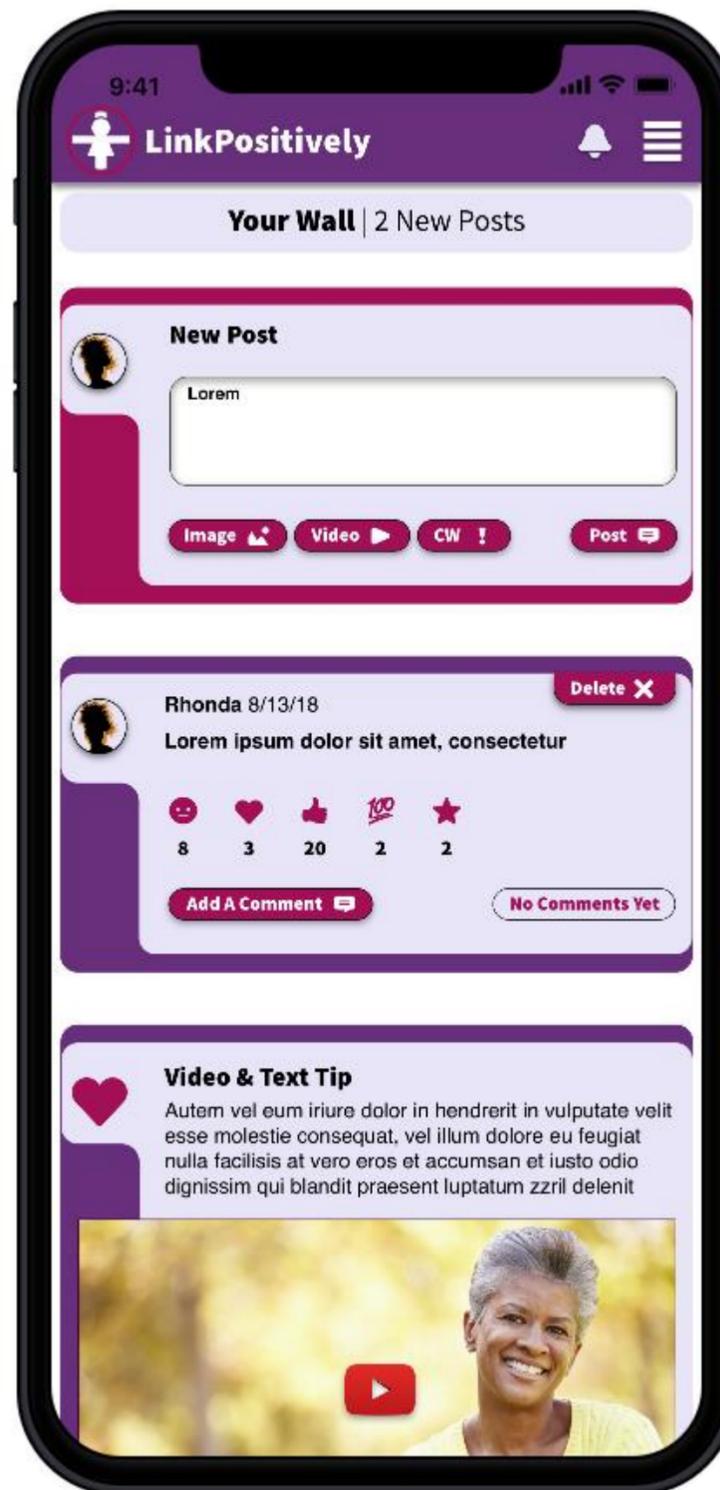


Jamila K. Stockman (UCSD) and colleagues

Goal: Improve Retention in Care, ART Adherence, and Mental Health Outcomes among Black women with a history of interpersonal violence

LinkPositively components:

- Peer navigation
- A private social network
- Tailored IPV, Mental Health, Substance Use, HIV & ART information
- In-app notifications
- Medication and mood self-monitoring
- Resource locator
- Gamification components that unlock features



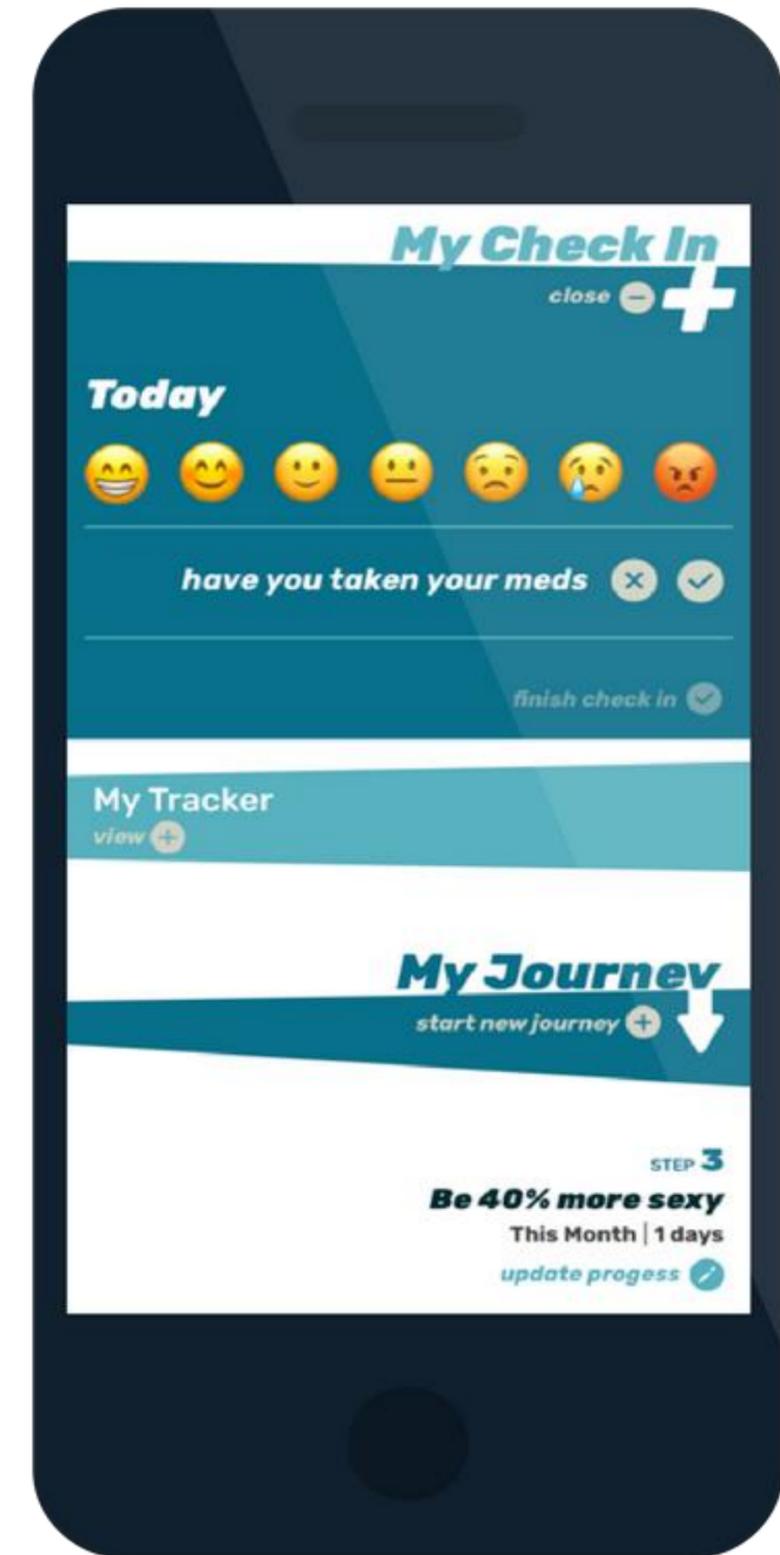
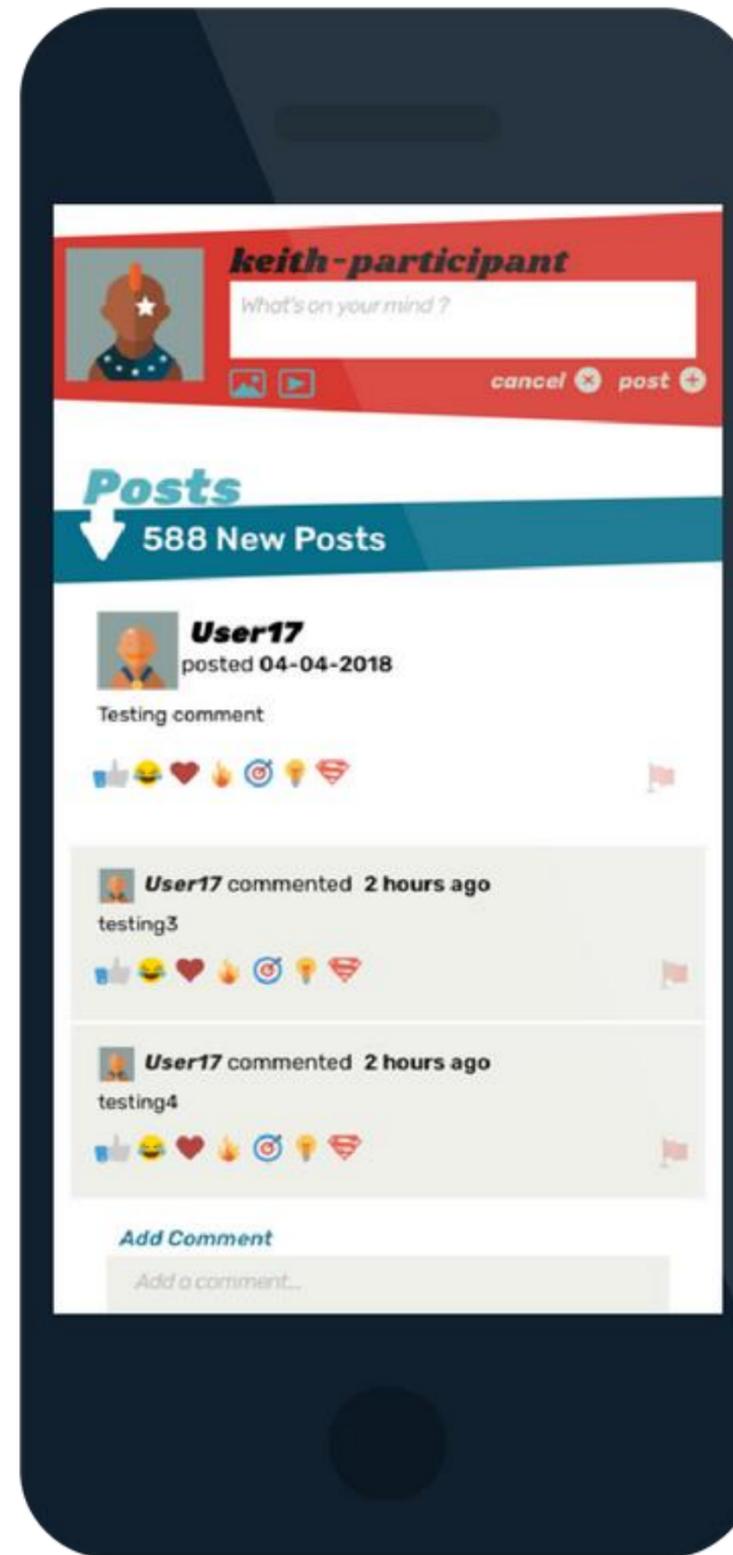


Keith Horvath (SDSU) and colleagues

Goal: Improve ART Adherence and VL among HIV+ youth

YouThrive components:

- A private social network
- Tailored HIV and ART adherence information
- Weekly engagement SMS
- In-app notifications
- Adherence and mood self-monitoring
- Goal setting
- Gamification components that unlock features





PATH: Peers plus mobile App for Treatment in HIV

Eileen Pitpitan (SDSU) and colleagues
Academic-community partnership with SYH

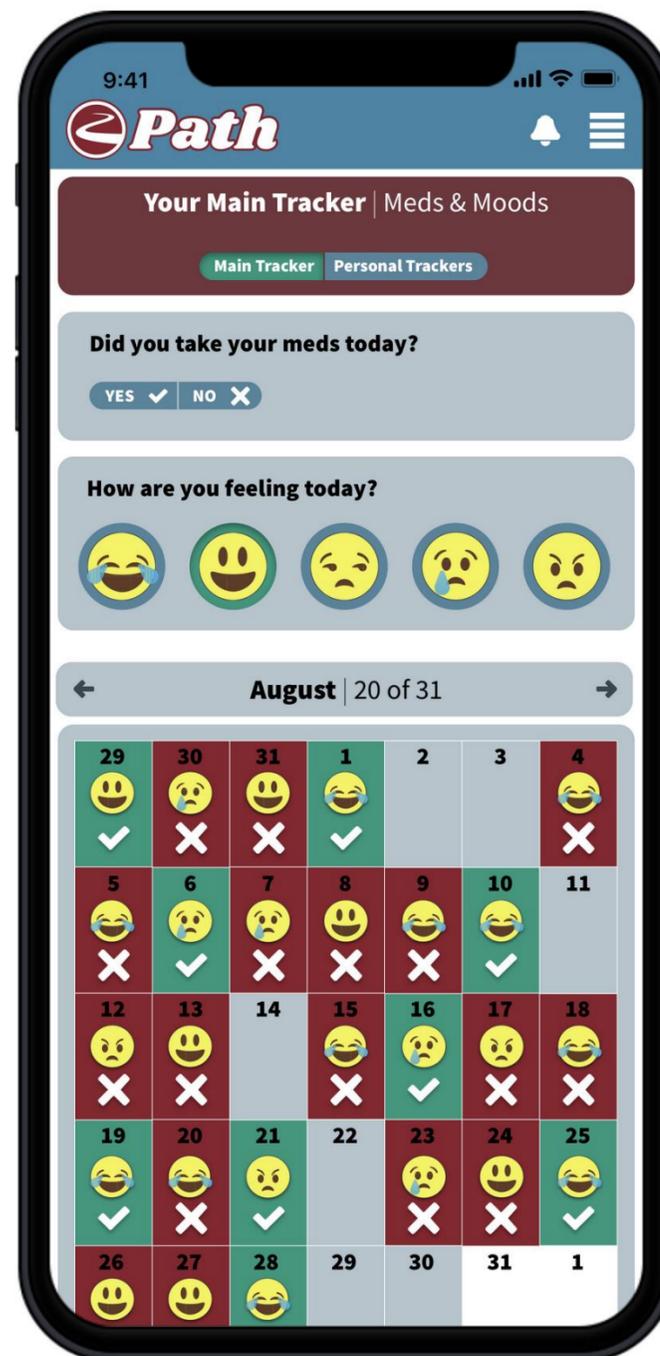
Goal: Promote sustained viral suppression among Hispanic and Black PLWH

PATH components for participants:

- English or Spanish option
- A private social network
- Tailored education and self-care tips
- Adherence and mood self-monitoring

PATH components for peer navigators:

- Tips to promote retention of training material
- Tailored self-care tips
- Dashboard to check progress across entire caseload





Laramie Smith (UCSD) and colleagues

Goal: Increase HIV testing and PrEP use among Latino MSM

- Latino MSM face intersectional stigma due to their ethnicity, sexuality, and gender (i.e., racism, homophobia, machismo)
- Uses a novel social network approach to measure intersectional stigma
 - Identity X Source X Mechanism

- Collaboration with The San Diego LGBT Center and San Ysidro Health

NEXUS
SAN YSIDRO HEALTH | UC San Diego Health | THE CENTER

ARE YOU:

- 18 years or older?
- Latino/Hispanic?
- A male who has sex with men?
- Interested in helping your community?

CONSIDER JOINING THE NEXUS STUDY!

NEXUS studies how different kinds of stigma affect our health

Participants will be compensated for their time

Scan the QR code for a pre-eligibility screening

NEXUS STUDY

For more information and to enroll, contact Ricardo Vazquez Jr. at (619) 368-8329



La Frontera

Steffanie Strathdee (UCSD) and colleagues

Goal: Examine HIV, HCV, and overdose in relation to drug market trends and drug tourism (SD to TJ)

HIV Incidence (Six-month incidence density)

- Overall: 9 incident cases
 - 6.898 (95% CI 2.391, 11.405)
- Drug tourists: 2 incident cases
 - 3.323 (95% CI 0.000, 7.928)
- SD non-drug tourists: 0 incident cases
- TJ non-drug tourists: 7 incident cases
 - 15.593 (95% 4.041, 27.144)

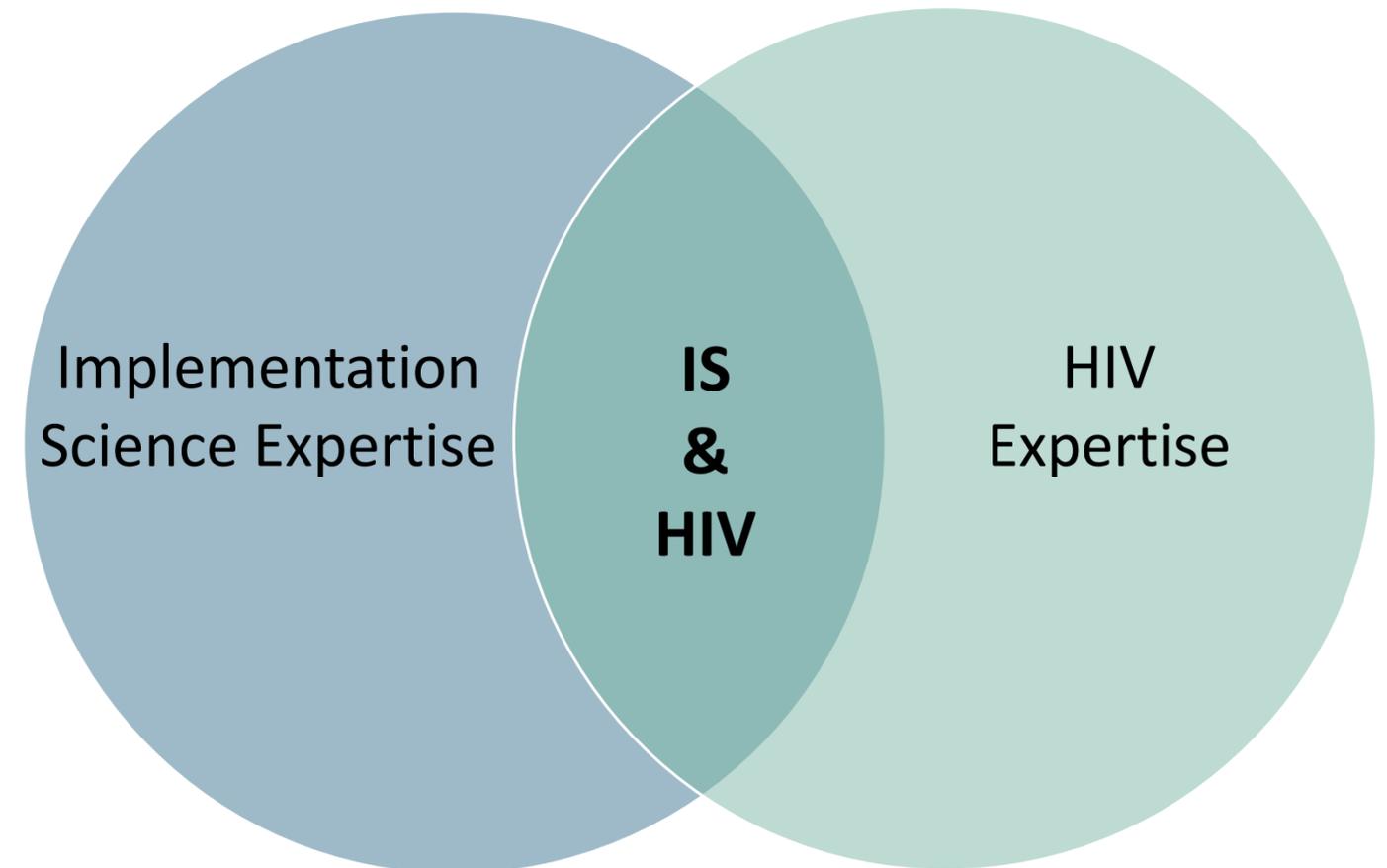


SD CFAR Implementation Science Hub

Co-Directors: Borsika Rabin & Nicole Stadnick
(UCSD Dissemination & Implementation Science Center)

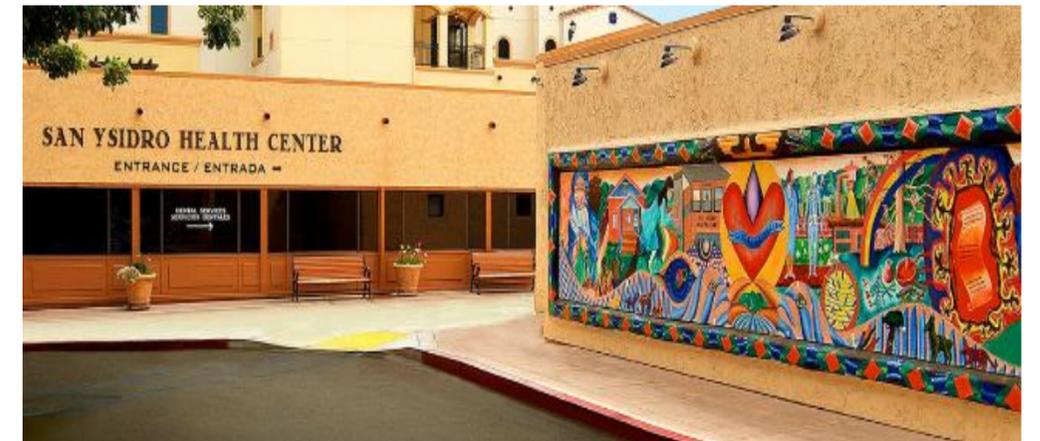
Aims:

- Consultation and technical assistance on EHE projects
- Facilitate translation of local knowledge to generalizable knowledge
- Evaluate the impact of the IS Hub on EHE and Hub outcomes
- Conduct a cross-Hub multisite pilot implementation research project



Implementation Science Approaches: SD CFAR and Ending the HIV Epidemic Initiative

- **Ending the HIV epidemic with transgender communities** (Drs. Laramie Smith and Jill Blumenthal and Dr. Sarah Rojas, **Family Health Centers of San Diego**)
- **Community engagement to prevent and treat HIV/AIDS among Latino men** (Dr. Kiyomi Tsuyuki, UCSD and Dr. Jeannette Aldous, **San Ysidro Health**)
- **A demonstration project of collaborative clinic-based data to care** (Dr. Maile Karris, UCSD, Dr. Sarah Rojas, **Family Health Centers of San Diego** and Dr. Jeannette Aldous, **San Ysidro Health**)





San Diego SUN: Supporting and Uplifting New and Diverse Scientists in HIV

Co-Directors: Eileen Pitpitan and Jamila Stockman

Goal: Strengthen the HIV research training pipeline for BIPOC scholars

- Funded by the CFAR Diversity, Equity, and Pipeline Initiative (CDEIPI) housed in the DC CFAR
- One-year mentored training and education program
- BIPOC predoctoral and postdoctoral fellows from SD CFAR member institutions (e.g., SDSU, UCSD)
- Leverages previous and ongoing successful programs



A Path Forward to Achieving HIV Health Equity

- Violence, trauma, substance use, poor mental health, stigma, and other syndemic challenges
- SD CFAR is committed to promoting health equity to end the HIV epidemic
- Address disparities in the HIV training pipeline
- Community-driven and responsive approaches



COMMUNITY STAKEHOLDER PERSPECTIVES



Terry Smith

Director of Sexual Health
and HIV Prevention
Services at APLA Health
in Los Angeles



Jeanette Aldous, MD

Clinical Director of
Infectious Disease at San
Ysidro Health in San
Diego



Khloe Rios-Wyatt

Founder, CEO, and
President at Alianza
Translatinx in Orange
County

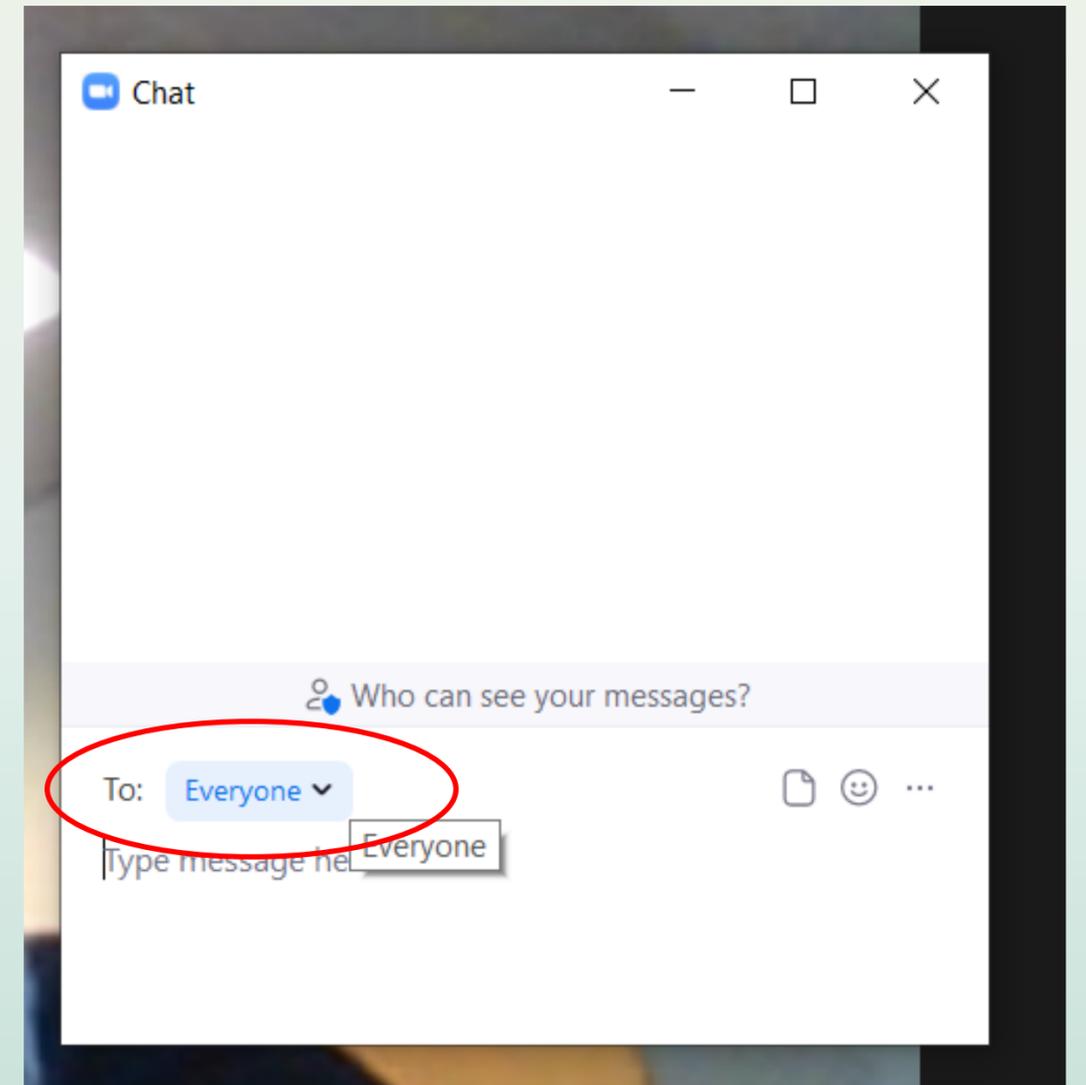
Call to Action: *Chat Waterfall*

Question:

What action do you plan to take in your own work to help address HIV inequities and syndemics over the next year?

Let's create a Chat Waterfall!

- Use the Zoom Chat feature and make sure your settings are set to “Everyone”
- Type your response to the question
- **Wait to hit send** until Dr. Jamila Stockman says “hit send”
- Watch all the responses come in through Chat like a waterfall!



THANK YOU!

For more information and resources, visit:

<https://chipts.ucla.edu/>

<https://cfar.ucsd.edu/>



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