

This newsletter is organized to align the updates with Strategies from the ***Laying a Foundation for Getting to Zero: California's Integrated HIV Surveillance, Prevention, and Care Plan*** (Integrated Plan). The [Integrated Plan](#) is available on the Office of AIDS' (OA) website at www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DOA/CDPH%20Document%20Library/IP_2016_Final.pdf.

In This Issue:

- Strategy A • Strategy K • Strategy M
- Strategy G • Strategy L • Strategy N
- Strategy J

Staff Highlight:

OA is pleased to announce that Christine Kibui has been awarded the UCSF School of Medicine STAR Achievement Award, in recognition of her exemplary contributions and demonstrated commitment to the Chancellor's priorities and these UCSF's PRIDE values: Professionalism, Respect, Integrity, Diversity, and Excellence.



Christine has worked at OA for six years and has spent the last three years as the coordinator for the Ryan White Part B Clinical Quality Management (CQM) program. In her role, Christine consistently challenges us to strengthen our CQM program to improve the health and well-being of Californians living with HIV. She has taken our CQM program from an unfocused, anemic grant requirement to a robust and productive part of the overall Ryan White Program. She is charting exciting new territory for the Ryan White Program, such as improving three-site testing of gonorrhea and chlamydia among people living with HIV and improving viral load suppression in young adults living with HIV. She has accomplished this through her sustained leadership, creativity, and tenacity.

Strategy A: Improve Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) Utilization

- A poster called, "[Prepping Providers for Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis \(PrEP\) Implementation: Findings from California Office of AIDS' \(OA\) Local Site Evaluation of Project PrIDE PrEP Training Activities.](#)" presented at the National HIV Prevention Conference on Wednesday, March 20, 2019, is now accessible online at https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DOA/CDPH%20Document%20Library/PreppingProvidersPrEP_Poster_ADA.pdf.
- Two PrEP resources for clinicians are on the Office of AIDS Website:

- » A Dear Colleague Letter describing [how all health care providers can prescribe PrEP and manage their patients on PrEP](https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DOA/CDPH%20Document%20Library/OA_Dear%20Colleague%20Letter_PrEP_approved%20for%20Website%20Jan2019.pdf) at https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DOA/CDPH%20Document%20Library/OA_Dear%20Colleague%20Letter_PrEP_approved%20for%20Website%20Jan2019.pdf; and
- » A [Clinical Quick Guide to PrEP](https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DOA/CDPH%20Document%20Library/CA%20HIV%20PrEP%20quick%20guide%20-PAETC-CDPH-3.2019%20(002).pdf) at [https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DOA/CDPH%20Document%20Library/CA%20HIV%20PrEP%20quick%20guide%20-PAETC-CDPH-3.2019%20\(002\).pdf](https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DOA/CDPH%20Document%20Library/CA%20HIV%20PrEP%20quick%20guide%20-PAETC-CDPH-3.2019%20(002).pdf).
- [Information on how to access PrEP for low income and uninsured individuals](https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DOA/Pages/OAadap.aspx#) can also be found on the OA Website at <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DOA/Pages/OAadap.aspx#> using the “Looking for HIV Prevention Services” link on the left column of the home page, and selecting the “PrEP Assistance Program (PrEP-AP)” selection in the drop down menu.

PrEP Assistance Program (PrEP-AP):

The National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors (NASTAD) highlighted the California PrEP-AP in their success story series, which recognizes programs that have demonstrated innovation, vision, and commitment to better meet the needs of people living with and at risk for HIV and hepatitis infection. NASTAD recognized the PrEP-AP as an illustration of how health departments can utilize existing infrastructures and integrative approaches to leverage access to PrEP assistance. [A link to the success story](https://www.nastad.org/sites/default/files/HD_Success_Stories/successstories_april2019_030819.pdf) can be found at https://www.nastad.org/sites/default/files/HD_Success_Stories/successstories_april2019_030819.pdf.

As of April 12, there are 152 PrEP-AP enrollment sites covering 66 clinics that currently make up the PrEP-AP Provider Network. New to the network this month is a clinic at Valley Community Healthcare in Los Angeles County

and two clinics at AltaMed Medical Group in Los Angeles and Orange Counties. As of April 25, there are 1,661 clients enrolled in the PrEP-AP.

Strategy G: Improve Availability of HIV Care

OA submitted the Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS Program (HOPWA) Annual Plan to the State Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) in January 2019. The annual plan is HCD’s application for Housing and Urban Development’s (HUD) Community Planning and Development funds and describes the intended use of federal funds administered by the State for various housing programs, including HOPWA. HCD will solicit public comment for the annual plan from May 22 through June 20, 2019. Two public hearings will also be conducted on June 3, 2019, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. in Sacramento, and June 7, 2019, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. in El Centro.

A public notice with the draft annual plan and information about the [public comment opportunity and public hearings](#) will be available (closer to the public comment period) on the HCD website at www.hcd.ca.gov/policy-research/plans-reports/index.shtml.

Strategy J: Increase Rates of Insurance/Benefits Coverage for PLWH or on PrEP

Access, Adherence, and Navigation Program:

The objectives of the Access, Adherence, and Navigation Program are to 1) increase the number of ADAP clients enrolled in comprehensive health coverage and 2) achieve and maintain viral load suppression among ADAP clients. Designated individuals, known as Access and Adherence Navigators, conduct outreach to ADAP clients who are not enrolled in health coverage and ADAP clients who are not virally suppressed at nine ADAP enrollment sites, located in Long Beach, Los Angeles, Sacramento, and San Diego.

Diagram 1:

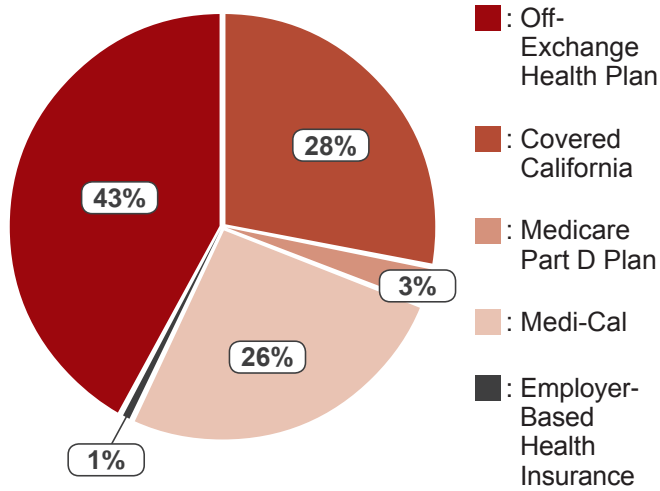
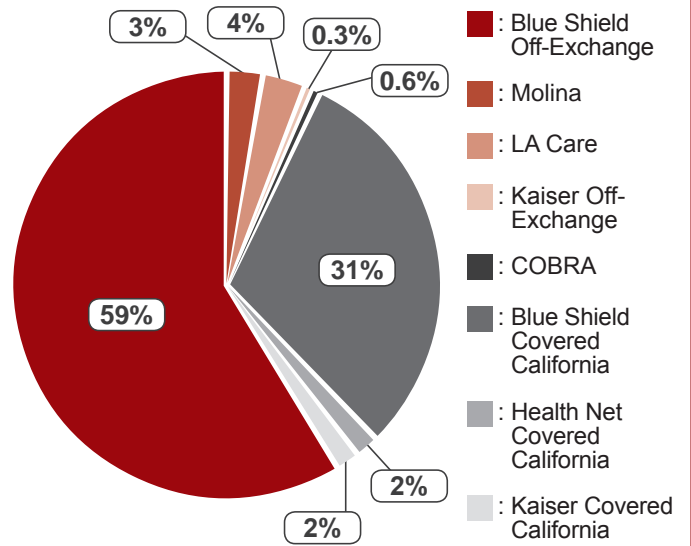


Diagram 2:



As of March 1, 487 ADAP clients have been transitioned to health coverage and 347 clients have been transitioned into one of ADAP’s Insurance Assistance Programs via the Access, Adherence, and Navigation Program.

sites, provides a breakdown of client health plan enrollment for clients enrolled in ADAP’s Office of AIDS Health Insurance Premium Payment (OA-HIPP) Program.

Diagram 1, containing aggregate data for all nine Access, Adherence, and Navigation Program sites, provides a breakdown of client health coverage enrollment.

Insurance Assistance Programs:

As of April 25, the number of ADAP clients enrolled in each respective ADAP Insurance Assistance Program are shown in the chart below.

Diagram 2, containing aggregate data for all nine Access, Adherence, and Navigation Program

ADAP Insurance Assistance Program	Number of Clients Enrolled	Percentage Change from March
Employer Based Health Insurance Premium Payment (EB-HIPP) Program	486	+8%
Office of AIDS Health Insurance Premium Payment (OA-HIPP) Program	4,655	+0.3%
Medicare Part D Premium Payment (MDPP) Program	1,686	+0.8%
Total	6,827	+0.9%

Strategy K: Increase and Improve HIV Prevention and Support Services for People Who Use Drugs

OA released new [guidelines for conducting a community readiness assessment](#) for jurisdictions planning to implement syringe access and other harm reduction services at https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DOA/CDPH%20Document%20Library/18-1802StratKAssess_FINAL.pdf. These guidelines do not represent new requirements, but are offered as TA for jurisdictions interested in encouraging non-prescription syringe sales in pharmacies, establishing new or expanding syringe services programs, or conducting a baseline community readiness assessment to establish harm reduction services. For more information and additional assistance from OA, contact Carol Crump at carol.crump@cdph.ca.gov.

CDPH has authorized Siskiyou County Public Health to provide syringe access services in Yreka and Tulelake, the latest in a network of nearly 50 programs around the state promoting health and safety for people who use drugs. Project director Jessica Skillen may be reached at (530) 841-2121 or jskillen@co.siskiyou.ca.us. Until May 24, CDPH is also taking [public comment for a proposed syringe services program](#) by Harm Reduction Coalition of Santa Cruz at https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DOA/Pages/OA_prev_secpapp.aspx.

In partnership with Harm Reduction Coalition, OA is offering a new learning collaborative to support organizations interested in starting harm reduction services. The project kicks off with a webinar on May 24 from 2:00 to 3:30. Contact Matt Curtis at matt.curtis@cdph.ca.gov for more information.

Harm Reduction Coalition also released three new online, self-directed trainings on *Foundations of Harm Reduction*, *Engaging People Who Use Drugs*, and *Overdose*

Prevention and Response. These online modules provide an excellent baseline training for new staff, or staff new to harm reduction. Contact Jenna Haywood at haywood@harmreduction.org for information on how to access the trainings, which are free to California-based groups.

Strategy L: Increase General HIV Education and Awareness and Reduce Stigma around HIV, Sexual Orientation, and Gender Identity


An internal working group has been formed to develop a fact sheet and other resources to promote Undetectable equals Untransmittable (U=U) information. After initial drafts are created the CPG and others will be utilized to review the material prior to finalization.

Strategy M: Improve Usability of Collected Data

OA has released a new fact sheet presenting data from over 600 people who inject drugs (PWID) who participated in an interview and HIV testing as part of the 2015 National HIV Behavioral Surveillance (NHBS) in San Diego, CA. NHBS is a project that performs HIV-testing and interviews about health behaviors among groups of people who are especially vulnerable to getting HIV. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) funds NHBS at more than 20 sites across the U.S. and in 2015 CDPH OA carried out behavioral surveillance in San Diego with assistance from the Chicano Federation. The fact sheet, titled "[HIV Infection, Prevention, and Health Behaviors among People Who Inject Drugs \(PWID\) in San Diego, CA,](#)" is available at <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DOA/CDPH%20Document%20Library/NHBS%202015%20PWID%20Fact%20Sheet.pdf>.

Strategy N: Enhance Collaborations and Community Involvement

The 2017 California HIV Surveillance Report is out, and the Integrated Plan 2017 Progress



Report will be released shortly. All objectives are making progress, but not has much as will be necessary to reach the 2021 goals. Given that 2017 was the first year of the plan, much formative work was still occurring and it is expected that progress will accelerate with each year of the grant.

On May 29-31, 2019, OA will host a California Planning Group (CPG) meeting in Sacramento, California. This meeting will provide CPG

members an opportunity to share updates, exchange ideas and conduct CPG business. An opportunity for public comment is scheduled for Thursday, May 30th at 1:00PM. [Additional information about this meeting](#) is posted on the OA website at https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DOA/Pages/OA_CPG.aspx.

For questions regarding this newsletter, please contact angelique.skinner@cdph.ca.gov.
