

# Get Loud, New Orleans!

## A Plan to End the HIV Epidemic in Orleans Parish

**Orleans Parish** is part of a **bold** nationwide plan aiming to end the HIV epidemic in the United States by 2030.

### Diagnose

Ensuring widespread access to convenient and affordable HIV testing opportunities and testing education is an essential component of Ending the Epidemic (EHE) in Orleans Parish.\*

#### STRENGTHS:

- Low uninsured rates (average 10% uninsured as of 2019)
- Enhanced community-based screening opportunities
- Home-based testing (HBT)

#### CHALLENGES:

- Stigma & Education - Generalized stigma around testing and possibility of receiving a positive diagnosis
- Location & accessibility for testing
- Opt-out testing is not yet available in all Orleans Parish healthcare settings, emergency rooms, out-patient clinics, and urgent care centers.

#### NEEDS:

- Resources dedicated to educating Orleans Parish residents about the importance of routine testing to reduce stigma surrounding knowing your HIV status
- Updated policies at all facilities to include routine HIV screenings as an essential part of everyone's healthcare
- Provider toolkit to include Undetectable = Untransmittable (U=U) and Pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) education, local Linkage to HIV Care resources, guided scripts for opt-out testing and talking with newly diagnosed PLWH
- Increased HBT opportunities



### Treat

Ensuring out-of-care and newly diagnosed PLWH are linked to continuous treatment and quality HIV care and services is an essential part of EHE and championing comprehensive health among PLWH in Orleans Parish.\*

#### STRENGTHS:

- Statewide Medicaid expansion eligibility leading to widespread insurance coverage for everyone, including PLWH, to have access to medications and most medical care visit expenses coverage
- Louisiana Health Access Program's (LA HAP) introduction of 90-day refills for uninsured individuals
- Specialized programs for gender-affirming care, intimate partner violence (IPV), and HIV counseling and testing within Orleans Justice Center (OJC)
- New Centralized Linkage to Care system

#### CHALLENGES:

- Disparities related to housing, financial support, LGBTQIA+ discrimination, institutional racism, etc.
- Limited support for youth, homeless, people who inject drugs (PWID), Black gay and bisexual men (GBM), Black women, and aging PLWH

#### NEEDS:

- Incentivized, patient-centered, and behavioral healthcare appropriate for all PLWH inclusive of race, age and gender identity within all HIV care facilities and spaces
- Real time Data-to-Care reporting and a coordinated system of care for rapid and ongoing intake of anti-retroviral treatment (ART)

Locally, the CDC estimates over 900 (18%) People Living with HIV (PLWH) are unaware of their status.



#### GOAL:

Ensure 90% of people living in Orleans Parish know their status by 2025.

**GOAL:** Ensure initial care appointments are routinely scheduled within 72 hours or less for at least 90% of newly diagnosed persons by 2025.

**GOAL:** Enhance access to all supportive services to improve health outcomes, ensure comprehensive care, and support optimal treatment and adherence.

**GOAL:** Ensure all PLWH have access to a constant, sustained supply of ART by 2025.

\*\*See full document for additional goals.

\*To read the full Ending the Epidemic Orleans Parish Plan, please visit:

[www.getloudlouisiana.org](http://www.getloudlouisiana.org)



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### Prevent

*Improving PrEP access and uptake, U=U education, harm reduction strategies, comprehensive sex education, media messaging, and supportive services for all Parish residents is a needed EHE element.\**



#### STRENGTHS:

- Syringe Service Programs (SSP) and needle exchange sites - harm reduction methods for PWID
- U=U messaging is an effective and integral part of prevention.
- Access to PrEP at all but one Ryan White-funded federally qualified health center (FQHC)



#### CHALLENGES:

- PrEP Uptake - Priority populations experience disparities in PrEP uptake. However, local data is limited regarding PrEP uptake based on race/ethnicity and gender.
- A history of unethical and problematic medical practices among LGBTQIA+ and black, indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC) communities has caused priority populations to mistrust the system and avoid preventive health care.
- Lack of universal comprehensive sex education



#### NEEDS:

- Enhanced supportive services for all Orleans Parish residents and coordination across systems to address the needs of all PLWH adequately and equitably to encourage viral suppression
- Improved U=U marketing to educate providers on U=U validity and dispel misconceptions
- Equitable approach to address disparities in PrEP uptake among priority populations



**GOAL:** Increase HIV awareness and reduce stigma within and outside healthcare settings.

**GOAL:** Increase usage of preventive and harm reduction tools.

**GOAL:** Enhance access to all supportive services to promote improved health outcomes and ensure comprehensive care as preventive measures for Orleans Parish residents.

**Community members prioritize patient consent, education, understanding, and support in all surveillance and outbreak response efforts. These efforts must also promote the modernization of Louisiana HIV laws, and emphasize a collaborative effort to meet the needs of PLWH to ultimately End the Epidemic in Orleans Parish.**

### Respond

*Increasing community dialogue and education to implement effective molecular surveillance and cluster detection as well as strengthen stakeholder collaboration to create a response to a potential HIV outbreak or cluster detection are crucial pieces of EHE in Orleans Parish.\**



#### STRENGTHS:



- Community members and organizations are involved in all response efforts
- Close collaboration between Fast-Track Cities Steering Committee (FTC SC), STD/HIV/HCV Program's (SHHP) surveillance team, and the Office of Health Policy and AIDS Funding (OHP)

#### CHALLENGES:



- Siloed efforts across parish-wide systems for planning and implementation of potential outbreak response
- Community concerns regarding legal and medical mistrust and lack of patient-centered healthcare access

#### NEEDS:



- Coordinated responses to planning and implementation in health and service settings
- Addressing all factors contributing to poor health outcomes
- Incentivize for meaningful input from the community and PLWH

**GOAL:** Enhance Orleans Parish's partnerships and surveillance to improve response to potential HIV outbreaks.

**GOAL:** Enhance community and provider awareness of molecular surveillance in Orleans Parish.

**GOAL:** Eradicate the criminalization of HIV.

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