

HIV PREVENTION in Puerto Rico

Since the late 1980s, CDC has partnered with state and local health departments to expand the impact and reach of its HIV prevention activities.

CDC awarded **\$9.3M** in FY2024 to health departments and community-based organizations in Puerto Rico for HIV prevention and care activities, including **\$2.4M** in *Ending the HIV Epidemic (EHE)* funding.

CDC collects and disseminates data on **6 key indicators**. Current data are available online at [AtlasPlus*](#) and on [HHS AHEAD†](#) for each jurisdiction.

16,800
people are
living with
HIV in
Puerto
Rico.

In Puerto Rico
between 2018 and 2022,
overall HIV incidence
decreased 39%,
preventing an estimated
380 new HIV infections
and **saving \$210.5M**
in lifetime medical
costs.

DIAGNOSE all people with HIV as early as possible

Knowledge of Status (2022)

Across the country,

87.2%

of people living with HIV **were aware of their status**, meaning approximately **12.8% were unaware** and are not getting the HIV care they need.



91.3%

of Puerto Ricans with HIV were **aware of their status**, meaning approximately **8.7% were unaware** and are not getting the HIV care they need.



Self-Testing

CDC is providing free HIV self-test kits to populations disproportionately affected by HIV. CDC and partners have sent out over **750,000** tests.

12,001

HIV tests were provided in
Puerto Rico with CDC funding.



How CDC Dollars Are Improving Diagnosis



- **Expanding** routine screening of people in health care settings, including emergency departments
- **Increasing** testing in non-clinical settings (e.g., jails, community serving organizations, street-based services)
- **Increasing** access to and use of HIV self-tests
- **Integrating** sexually transmitted infections (STI) and viral hepatitis screening into HIV testing services

* <https://www.cdc.gov/nchhstp/about/atlasplus.html>

† <https://ahead.hiv.gov/>



TREAT people with HIV rapidly and effectively to reach sustained viral suppression

Viral Suppression (2022)

65.1%

of people across the country, with diagnosed HIV, **were virally suppressed.**



When a person with HIV takes their medicine regularly, they become virally suppressed, allowing them to live a long and healthy life and have no risk of sexually transmitting HIV.

How CDC Dollars Are Improving Treatment



- **Expanding** access to rapid HIV treatment including long-acting injectables
- **Linking** people with HIV to care within one month to facilitate rapid access to HIV medicine
- **Integrating** HIV, STI, and hepatitis treatment to provide efficient and cost-effective care

PREVENT

new HIV transmissions by using proven interventions, including pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP)

PrEP



PrEP is a medicine that people at risk for HIV take to prevent getting HIV from sex or injection drug use.

Puerto Rico's CDC-funded HIV testing programs identified **1,516 persons who were eligible** for PrEP in 2022.

How CDC Dollars Are Improving Prevention



- **Expanding** access to PrEP through innovations such as long-acting injectable PrEP, Post-Exposure Prophylaxis, and focused provider education
- **Implementing** a whole-person approach to HIV prevention and care to help overcome barriers

RESPOND early to potential HIV clusters or outbreaks

Cutting-edge public health approaches turn HIV data into action by **identifying areas with rapid transmission and expanding resources** to maximize prevention and treatment efforts.

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clusters of HIV infections reported to CDC from 2022 through 2024.

How CDC Dollars Are Improving Response



- **Addressing** gaps in prevention and care contributing to rapid transmission
- **Engaging** communities and partners to respond to outbreaks