

Peer Linkage and Re-engagement for Women of Color Living With HIV

DISSEMINATION OF
EVIDENCE-
INFORMED
INTERVENTIONS



The Peer Linkage and Re-engagement intervention is designed to utilize peers (people with HIV who have a shared experience and community membership) to increase linkage and retention in HIV primary care among cis and transgender women of color.

Find more intervention materials, including implementation and training manuals, on Target HIV: <https://targethiv.org/deii/deii-peer-linkage>



THE CHALLENGE

In the United States, women of color are disproportionately affected by HIV, comprising about one in five of new diagnoses.¹ Black/African American transgender women are among the most affected with an estimated HIV prevalence of 44%.² This tailored intervention to engage women of color with HIV in care is essential to reach the goal of Ending the HIV Epidemic.



FOCUS POPULATION

Cis or transgender Women of Color (WoC) with HIV who are 18 years or older, newly diagnosed in the past 12 months, or out of care for 6 or more months.



THE MODEL

This short-term intervention uses peers to work intensively with eligible women to achieve the following milestones within six months to one year:

- Attend two medical care visits with a primary care provider;
- Complete one lab visit; and
- Attend at least two visits with a case manager.

Peers also worked with clients to address unmet needs such as housing, employment, food security, and transportation.



DEMONSTRATION SITES

- AIDS Care Group, Chester, PA
- Howard Brown Health, Chicago, IL
- Meharry Medical College, Nashville, TN



IMPACTS

Over the course of this project, a total of 196 cis and transgender women were served in the intervention from 2016-2019:

- 95.5% of clients were linked to HIV primary care in 90 days.
- 73.3% were retained in care defined as 2 medical appointments at least 90 days apart in 12 months.
- 81.1% achieved viral suppression at 12 months.

¹Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. HIV Surveillance Report, 2017; vol. 29. <http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/library/reports/hiv-surveillance.html>. Published November 2018. Accessed 9-24-2019.

²Jeffrey S. Becasen, Christa L. Denard, Mary M. Mullins, Darrel H. Higa, Theresa Ann Sipe, "Estimating the Prevalence of HIV and Sexual Behaviors Among the US Transgender Population: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis, 2006–2017", *American Journal of Public Health* 109, no. 1 (January 1, 2019): pp. e1-e8.