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**CONFERENCE ON**  
HIV CARE & TREATMENT

# Linkage to Care for Retention and Prevention in a Large Urban Care Setting

Tara Hixson M.Ed Linkage to Care Coordinator

EIS Primary Care Clinic and Denver Public Health

Denver Health and Hospital Authority

# Disclosures



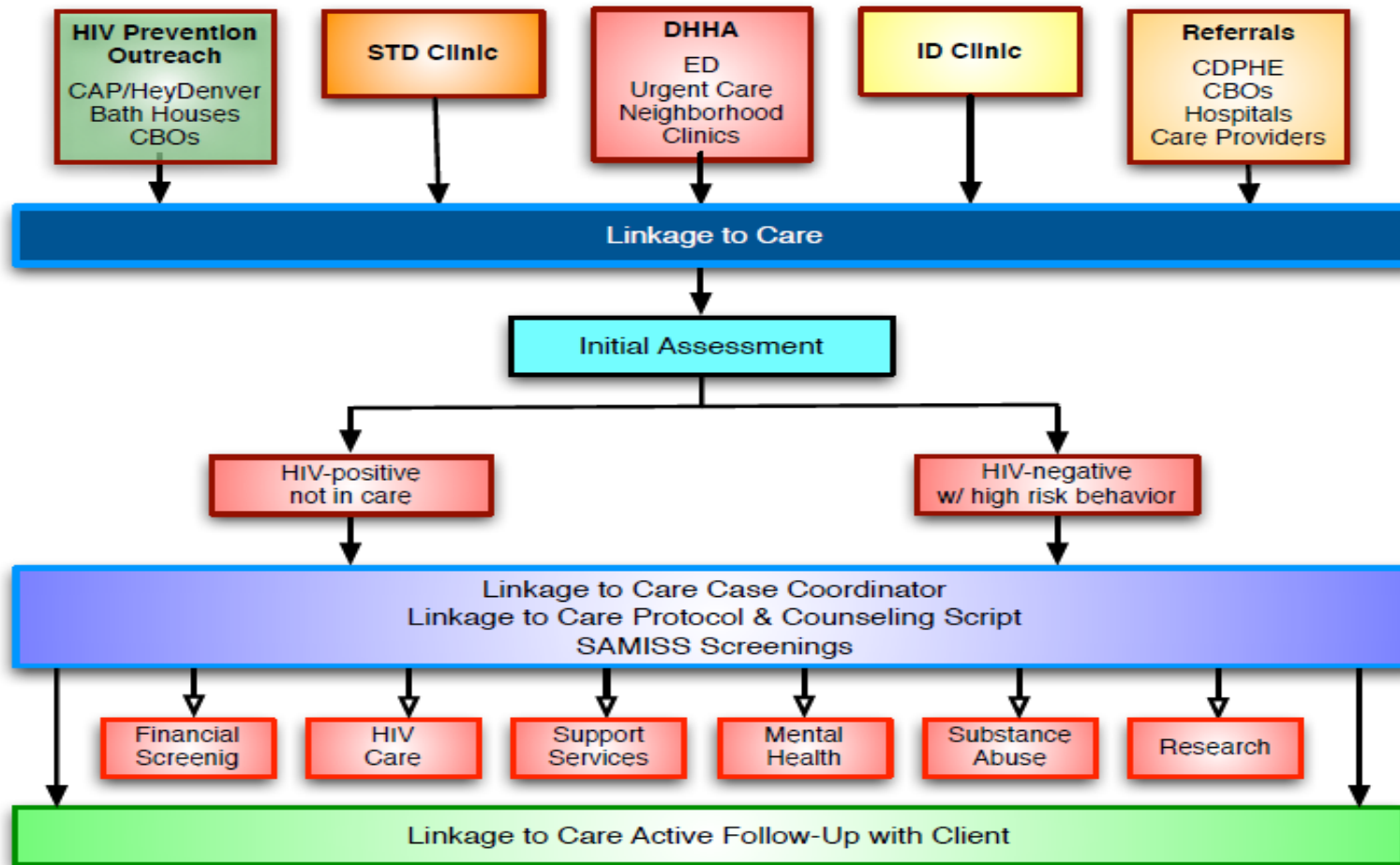
- Presenters have no financial interest to disclose

# Objectives



- Define the Linkage to Care Program at Denver Health/Denver Public Health
- Explain key changes made to the program to improve access to care and engagement for PLWH
- Describe program steps for LTC for PrEP and nPEP

# Linkage to Care Model



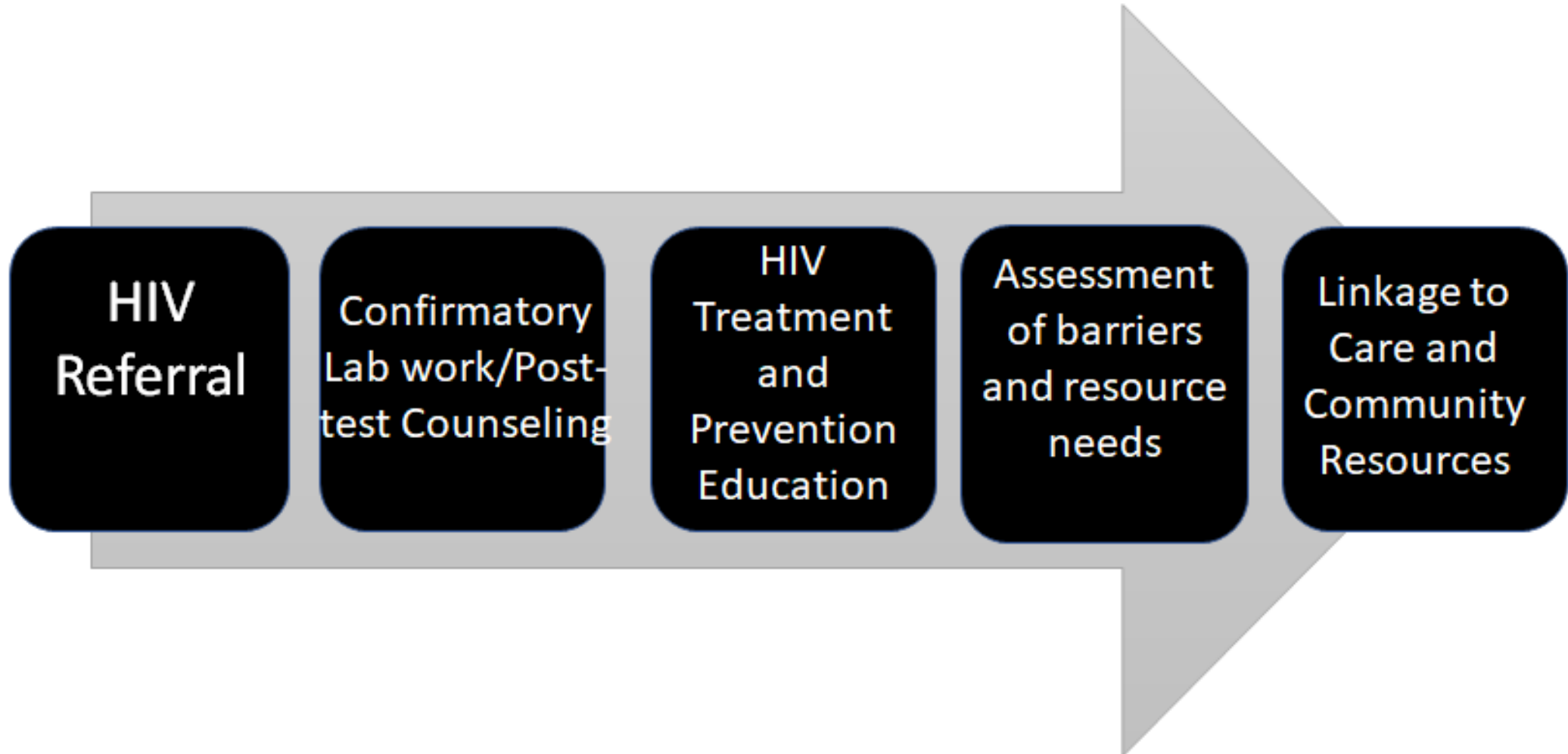
DENVER LINKAGE TO CARE PROTOCOL FLOW CHART

# Referring Partners



- Denver Metro Health Clinic
- Outreach Testing through Denver Public Health
- DHHA (Hospital, ER, Urgent Care, DPH Clinics and FQHCs)
- CBOs (Harm Reduction Action Center, Hey Denver ...)
- ASOs
- Bath Houses
- Planned Parenthood
- Metro Area Hospitals and ERs

# Linkage to Care Process

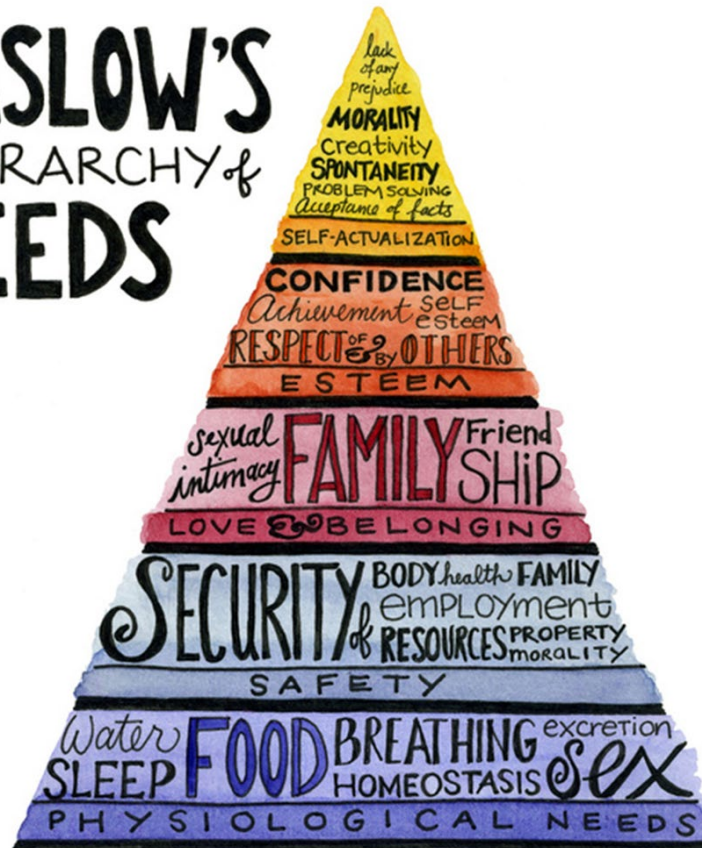


# Helping PWH overcome barriers to care



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## MASLOW'S HEIRARCHY of NEEDS





# Linkage to Care 2019



In 2019, 279 persons referred to LTC at Denver Public Health

–149 were re-identified PLWH

–130 were newly diagnosed persons

–Median Time to linkage for 2019 = 11 days (>90 days) 120 (< 90 days)

Delays in linkage: Insurance / SDAP Enrollment/ Lack of Stable Housing/  
Stigma/SUD/Mental Health



# LTC and 90/90/90

## Fast Track Cities Initiative to End the HIV Epidemic by 2030

### Metro Denver 2019

**87%**

Diagnosed

- Percent of Individuals Living with HIV Who Have Been Diagnosed and Are Aware of their Status

**84%**

In Care

- Percent of HIV-diagnosed Individuals Who are Engaged in Care

**91%**

Suppressed

- Percent of HIV-diagnosed Individuals Who Are Engaged in Care and Have Suppressed Viral Loads

### 2020 Targets

**90%**

Diagnosed

- Percent of Individuals Living with HIV Who Know their Status

**90%**

On ART

- Percent of HIV-diagnosed Individuals Who are on ART

**90%**

Suppressed

- Percent of Individuals Who Are on ART and Have Suppressed Viral Loads

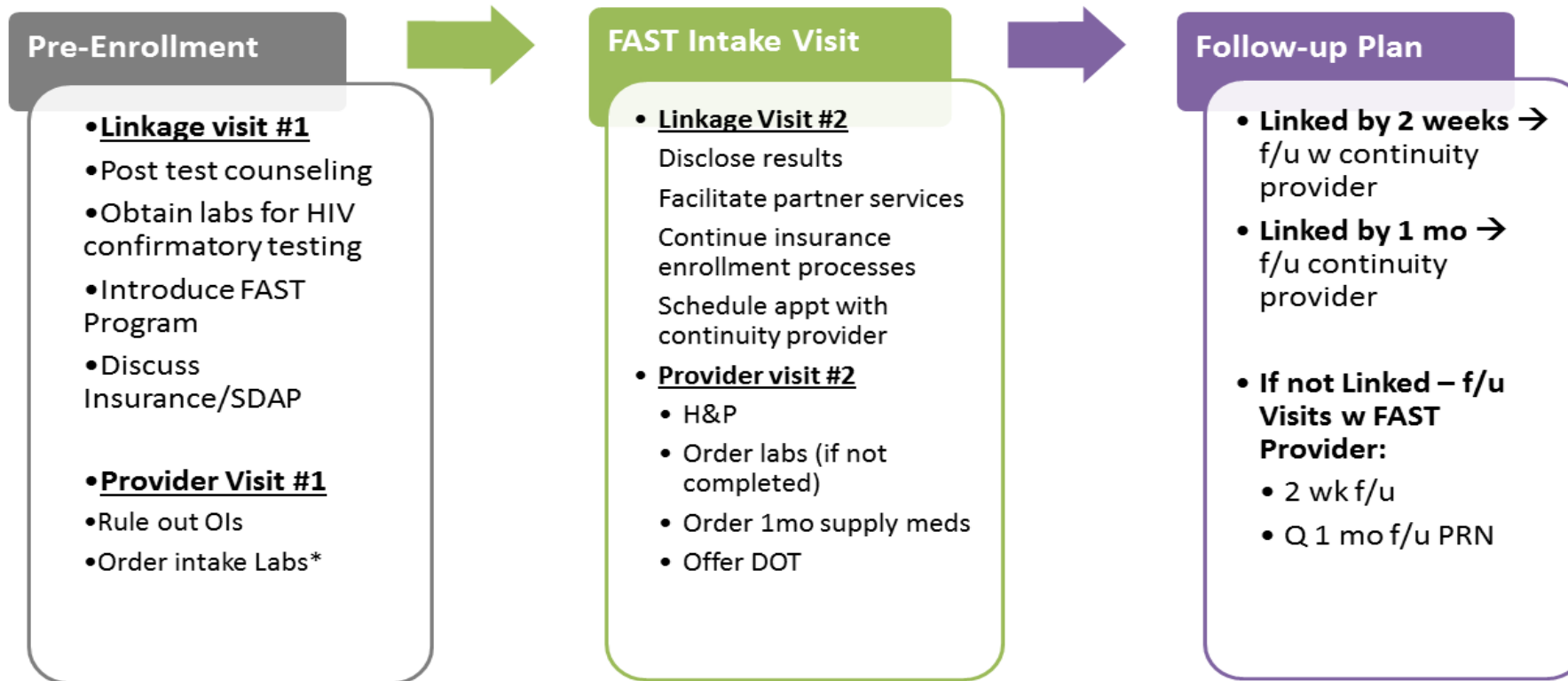
# Key Changes



- FAST Rapid ART
- Expedited Enrollment Services
- Co-located Health Access Insurance Navigation
- Specialized workflows for those with additional barriers
- COVID workflows

# FAST Rapid ART Pilot

## FAST Program Patient Flow



# FAST Numbers



We have enrolled 22 people into the FAST Pilot since starting in 2019

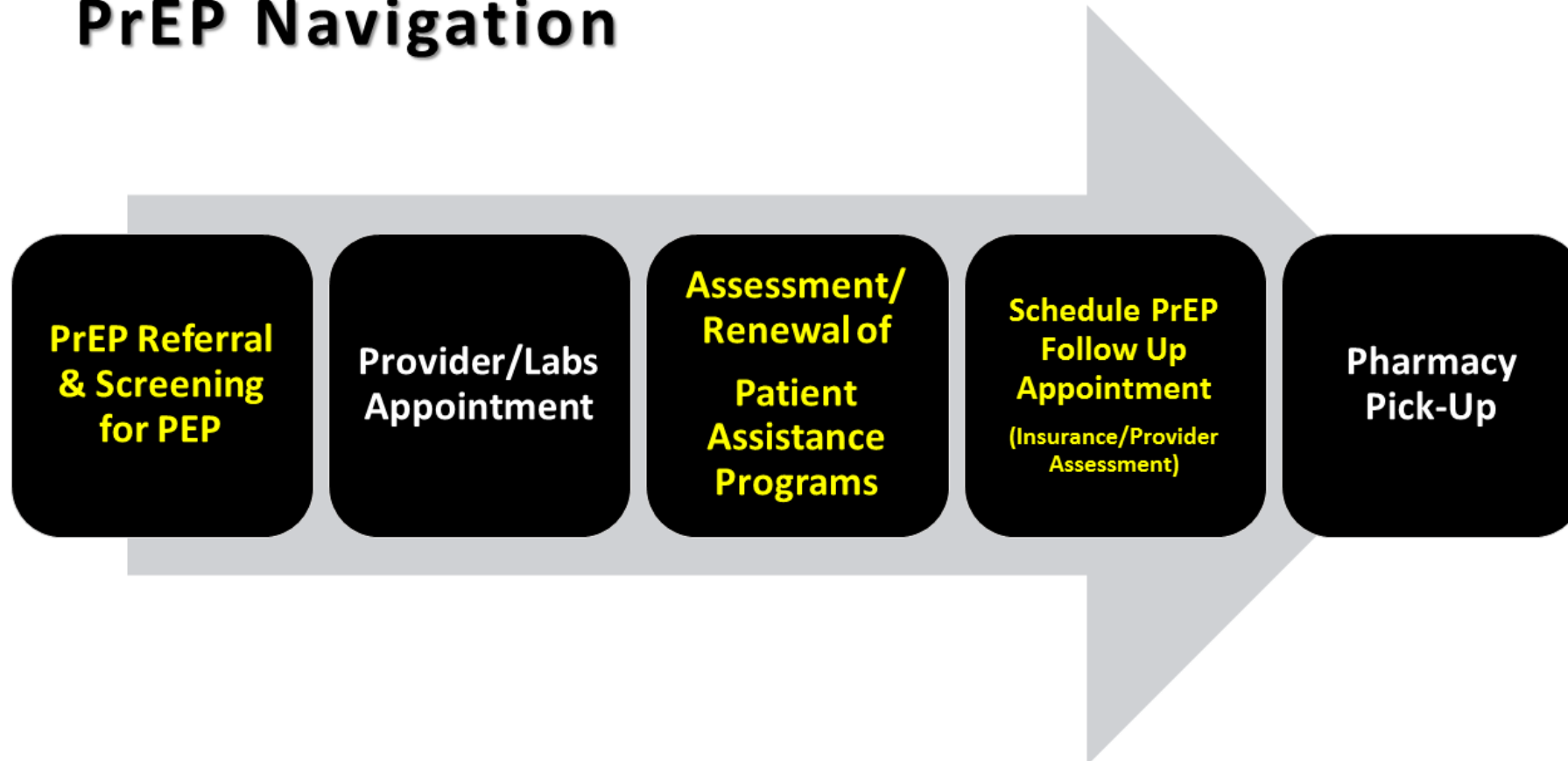
- 19 were uninsured
- 17 identified as Latinx
- 2 identified as Black
- Median time to ART start was 6 days
- Median time to linkage to continuity care 39 days
- ALL were virally suppressed at 2 week follow-up

# Denver Metro Clinic PrEP



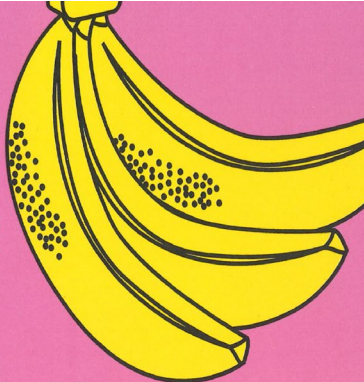
- 1,394 PrEP Starts since 2018
- 569 PrEP Starts 2019
- 231 PrEP Starts in 2020
- 367 TelePrEP visits since 3/17/2020

## PrEP Navigation






# PrEP Financial Assistance



**PrEP**  
 Thank you for trusting Denver Public Health with your PrEP needs. We honor your decision to be on PrEP and want to ensure that you understand what was done on your behalf for future reference.

**You were enrolled into:**

<p><b>PHIP:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PHIP is a program offered by the Colorado Department of Public Health &amp; Environment.</li> <li>• PHIP covers costs related to your PrEP medical visits which may include office visits, labs, testing, and treatment.</li> <li>• PHIP requires annual enrollment.</li> </ul> <p><a href="http://www.coenroll.com">www.coenroll.com</a></p>	<p><b>Gilead Advancing Access:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gilead Advancing Access covers the cost of Truvada and Descovy.</li> <li>• Application will need your PrEP provider's signature prior to submission.</li> <li>• Gilead Advancing Access requires annual enrollment.</li> </ul> <p><a href="http://www.gileadadvancingaccess.com">www.gileadadvancingaccess.com</a></p>	<p><b>Gilead Co-Pay Coupon Card:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Co-Pay card covers up to \$7,200 in co-pays per year with no monthly limit for Truvada and Descovy.</li> <li>• Once enrolled you no longer have to re-enroll. Make sure you keep your card with you.</li> </ul> <p><a href="http://www.gileadadvancingaccess.com">www.gileadadvancingaccess.com</a></p>
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All assistance programs require that you provide proof of income.  
 Proof of income was submitted during your enrollment visit by your PrEP Navigator.  
 You will need to submit your own proof of income for PHIP and/or Gilead yearly re-enrollments.

## Proof of Income Includes:

- Last two pay stubs from employer
- Letter from employer that includes employers contact info and dollar amount the employee is paid
- Award Letter (i.e. SSI, SSDI)
- PHIP Self Employment Worksheet (PHIP only)
- PHIP Statement of Support (PHIP only)


Submit all that applies



Call a PrEP Navigator with any questions:  
 303-602-3652

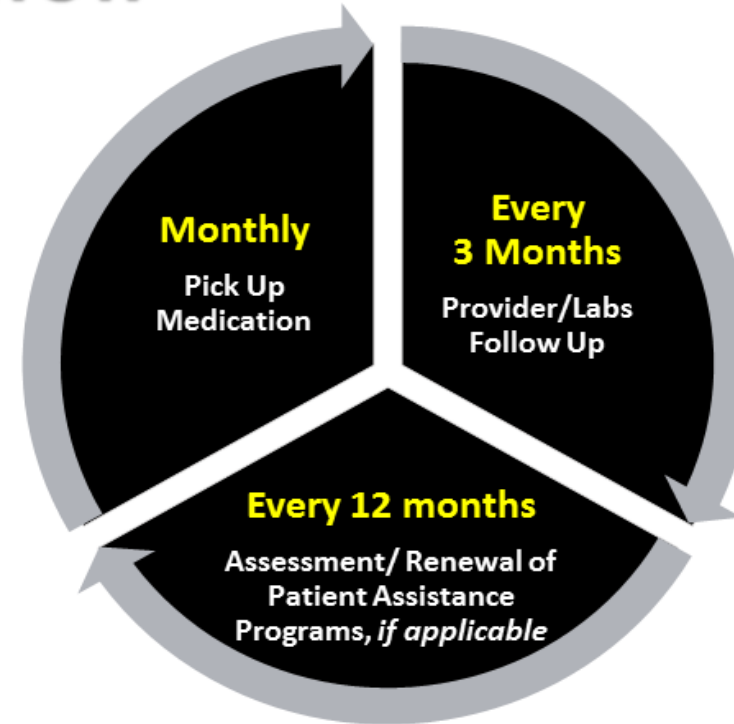
**PHIP**  
 Enrollment Dates: \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

**Gilead**  
 Enrollment Dates: \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_  
 ID: \_\_\_\_\_ Bin: \_\_\_\_\_  
 PCN: \_\_\_\_\_ Group: \_\_\_\_\_





## PrEP Retention



*What are some common barriers?*

*What retention data should be considered?*

# Opportunities



- Expansion of FAST (Rapid ART re-start for PWH and out of care)
- Walk-in model
- Co-located SW and BH Counseling in DMHC
- Increased collaboration with community partners
- Data and staffing resources to support PrEP Retention
  - Outpatient clinics
  - Patient Navigation

# Conclusions



- Specialized LTC support can help close gaps in care and retention, by reducing barriers to care for PLWH
- Building community trust and partnerships is key to a successful linkage program
- LTC programs and counselors are well suited to provide support for HIV Prevention as well as treatment
- QI should be built into your work

# Acknowledgements



- DHHA HIV Primary Care Clinic Team
- Denver Metro Health Clinic Team
- Nathan Gibson LTC
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- Oluyomi Obafemi MD
- Karen Wendel MD



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# Thank You for Your Time!

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