

Employing Status-Neutral Approaches to End the HIV Epidemic

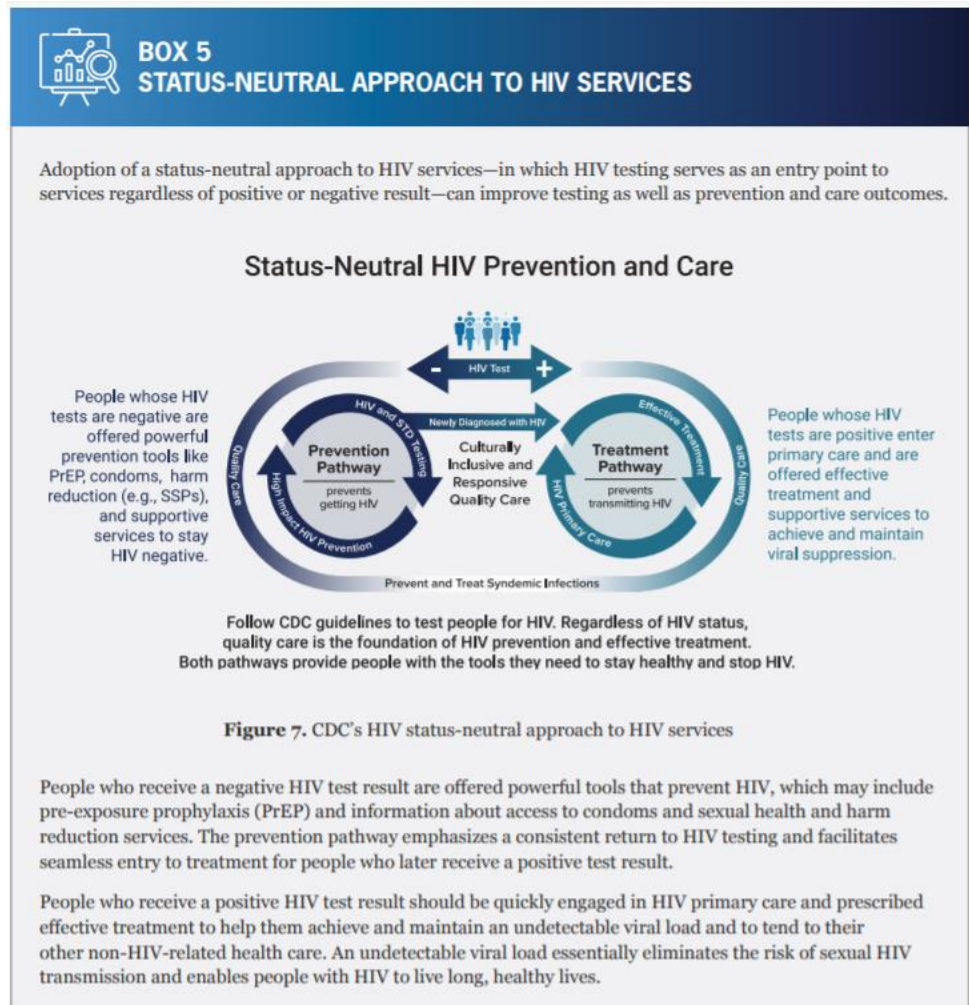
Webinar 1: Status-Neutral Approaches 101

December 14, 2021 | 2:00 – 3:30 PM



Status-Neutral Approach Guidance

- NHAS: Incorporate a status-neutral approach to HIV testing, offering linkage to prevention services for people who test negative and immediate linkage to HIV care and treatment for those who test positive.
- Integrated Plan Guidance: Implement innovative program models that integrate HIV prevention and care with other services and other service organizations as a means to address comorbid conditions and to promote a status neutral approach to care.



Agenda

❖ Introduction

- ❖ Maria E. Alvarez, MPA

Capacity Building and Technical Assistance Lead
CDC

❖ New York City Department of Mental Health and Hygiene

- ❖ Paul A. Santos, MPH, CHES

Sr. Capacity Building Assistance Specialist

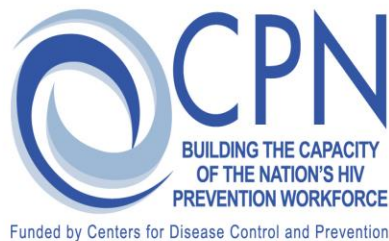
- ❖ Moya Brown-Lopez, MS, MCHES

Director of Capacity Building Assistance

❖ Q&A/Discussion

❖ Wrap Up





Status Neutral Approaches to to HIV Prevention & Care

December 14, 2021

Paul Santos & Moya Brown-Lopez
NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
(DOHMH)

NYC CBA – Who We Are

- Within the NYC DOHMH's Bureau of Hepatitis, HIV, and STI (BHHS)
- Providing national training and TA since 1988 through BHHS' Training and Technical Assistance unit (T-TAP) and CDC CBA since PS14-1403 (categories A & B – HDs and CBOs)
- Deliver CBA TA throughout the northeast U.S. region, including Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands



Today's Agenda

- Status Neutral HIV Care
- Applying a Status Neutral Lens in NYC
- Benefits & Lessons Learned



Status Neutral HIV Care

Overview



Funded by Centers for Disease Control and Prevention



The Status Neutral Approach

“If you do it right, the HIV status of someone is less important. What’s important is: How do you provide the service to the person to optimize their health.”

~ Dr. Demetre Daskalakis, CDC



The Status Neutral Approach

Providing...

- ✓ Care for the whole person with a “one-door” approach, meaning both treatment and prevention in the same place offered alongside other medical and supportive services.
- ✓ Comprehensive support and care to address the social determinants of health that create disparities, especially as they relate to HIV.
- ✓ Culturally affirming, inclusive, stigma-free, and responsive quality care.



Eliminating Stigma & Reducing Health Disparities

Ending the HIV Epidemic (EHE) – Most Impacted Populations



*Latinx Gay, Bisexual
and other Men who
have Sex with Men*



*Black Gay, Bisexual
and other Men who
have Sex with Men*



*White Gay, Bisexual
and other Men who
have Sex with Men*

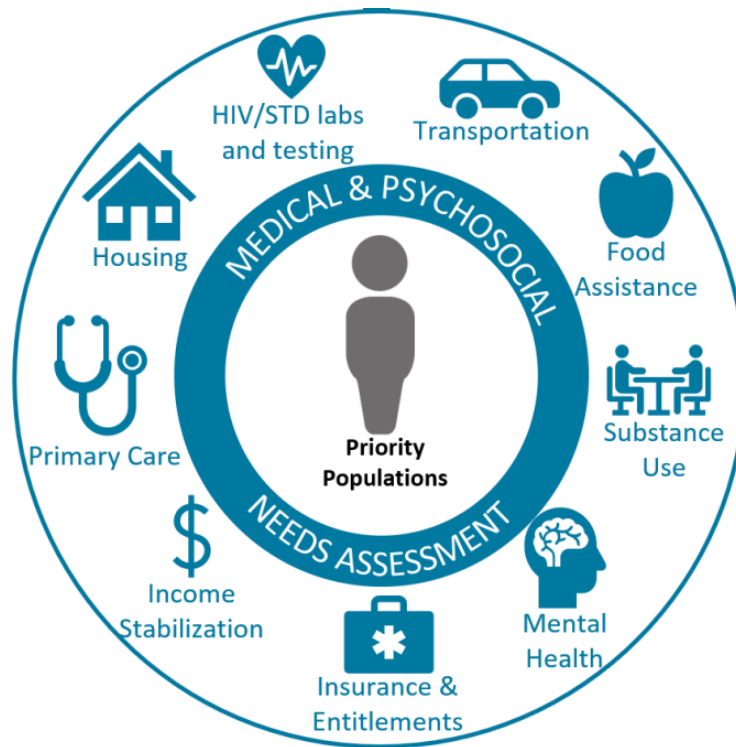


Black Women



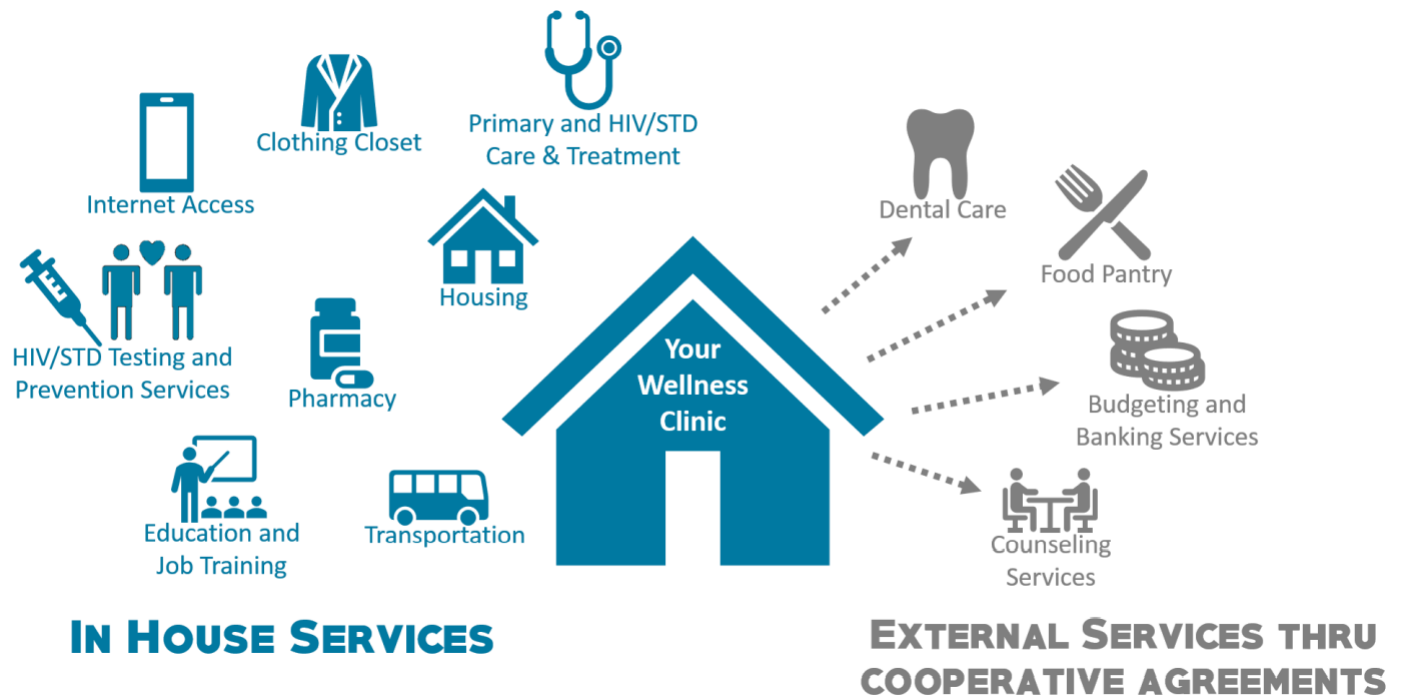
*Transgender Women
(particularly Black and
Latinx transgender
women)*

Status Neutral at the Individual Level

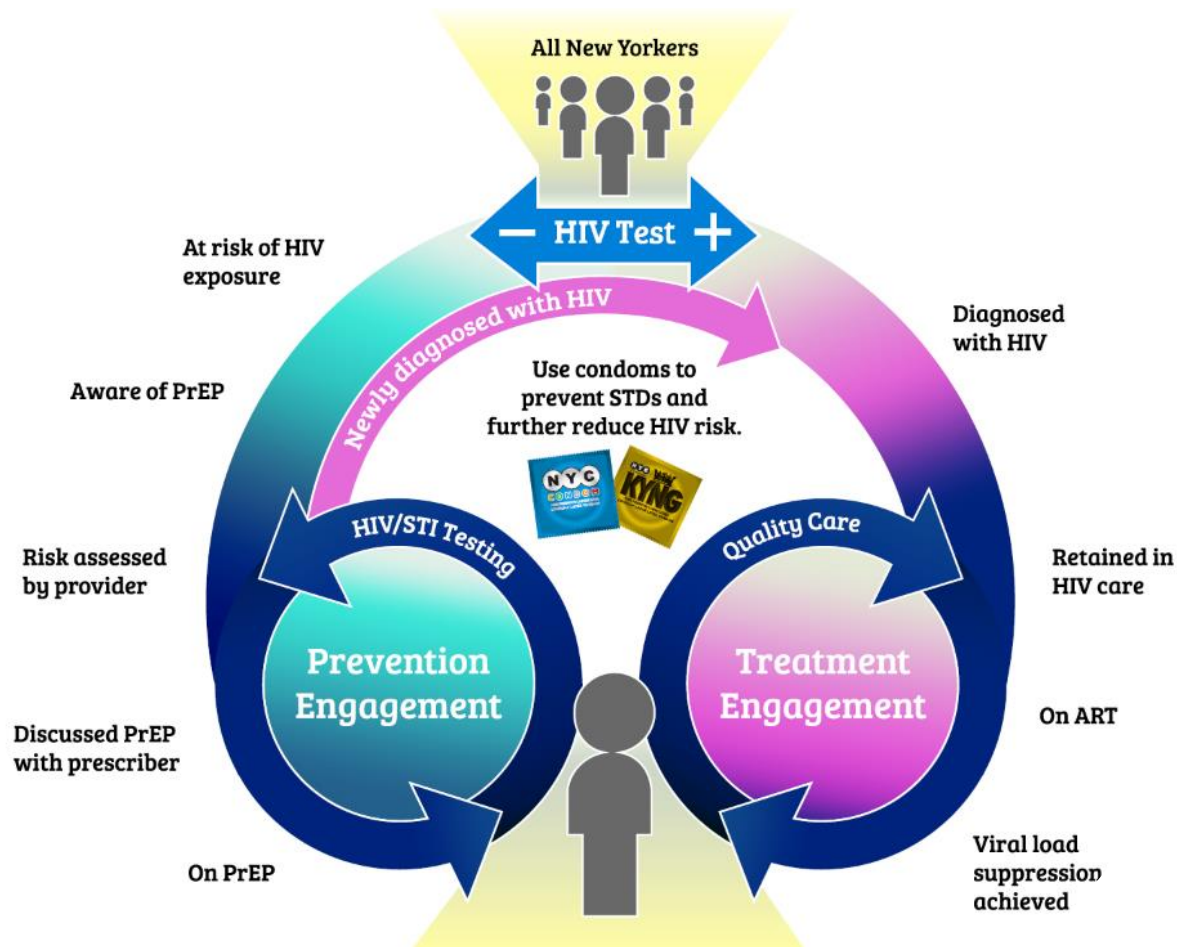


A Status Neutral Approach. Achieving Together to End the HIV Epidemic. Texas Status Neutral White Paper. 2021.

Status Neutral at the Community Level



A Status Neutral Approach. Achieving Together to End the HIV Epidemic. Texas Status Neutral White Paper. 2021.



NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. 2021. [hiv-status-neutral-prevention-and-treatment-cycle](https://www.nyc.gov/hiv-status-neutral-prevention-and-treatment-cycle) (nyc.gov).

Applying a Status Neutral Lens

Establishing Culturally Affirming Care in New York City



Applying a Status Neutral Lens

NYC DOHMH's Experience

1. Applied a status neutral lens to social marketing
2. Rebranded City STD clinics into Sexual Health Clinics
3. Enhanced Ryan White-funded medical case management program



Applying a Status Neutral Lens to Social Marketing

The image displays three social marketing posters for HIV prevention, each featuring a different couple and a specific message. The first poster, 'WE STAY SURE', shows an older couple and emphasizes 'HIV TREATMENT = PREVENTION'. The second poster, 'WE PLAY SURE', shows a younger couple and emphasizes 'PrEP + HIV TREATMENT + CONDOMS'. The third poster, 'WE STAY SURE', shows a couple and emphasizes 'HIV TREATMENT = PREVENTION'. All posters include the hashtag #PLAYSURE and the NYC Department of Health logo.

WE STAY SURE
HIV TREATMENT = PREVENTION
#PLAYSURE

BE SURE, PLAY SURE, STAY SURE.
If you're HIV positive, starting and staying on treatment can keep your viral load undetectable. Treatment keeps you healthy and makes it nearly impossible to pass HIV to your partner. Condoms offer additional protection against HIV and other STIs.
STAY SURE: Call 311 or visit nyc.gov/health to learn more about services that can help you get and stay on treatment.

WE PLAY SURE
PrEP + HIV TREATMENT + CONDOMS
#PLAYSURE

BE SURE, PLAY SURE, STAY SURE.
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Applying a Status Neutral Lens to Social Marketing

WE STAY SURE
DAILY PrEP + CONDOMS

#PLAYSURE

BE SURE, PLAY SURE, STAY SURE.
If you're HIV negative, PrEP is a daily pill that protects you from HIV. Condoms offer additional protection against HIV and other STIs.

STAY SURE: Call 311 or visit nyc.gov/health to design the right HIV and STI prevention combination for you.

NYC NEW YORK CITY

I PLAY SURE
PrEP + CONDOMS

#PLAYSURE

BE HIV-POSITIVE SURE.
If you're HIV positive, PrEP is a daily pill that protects you from HIV. Condoms offer additional protection against HIV and other STIs.

STAY SURE: Call 311 or visit nyc.gov/health to design the right HIV and STI prevention combination for you.

NYC NEW YORK CITY

WE STAY SURE
DAILY PrEP + CONDOMS

#PLAYSURE

BE SURE, PLAY SURE, STAY SURE.
If you're HIV negative, PrEP is a daily pill that protects you from HIV. Condoms offer additional protection against HIV and other STIs.

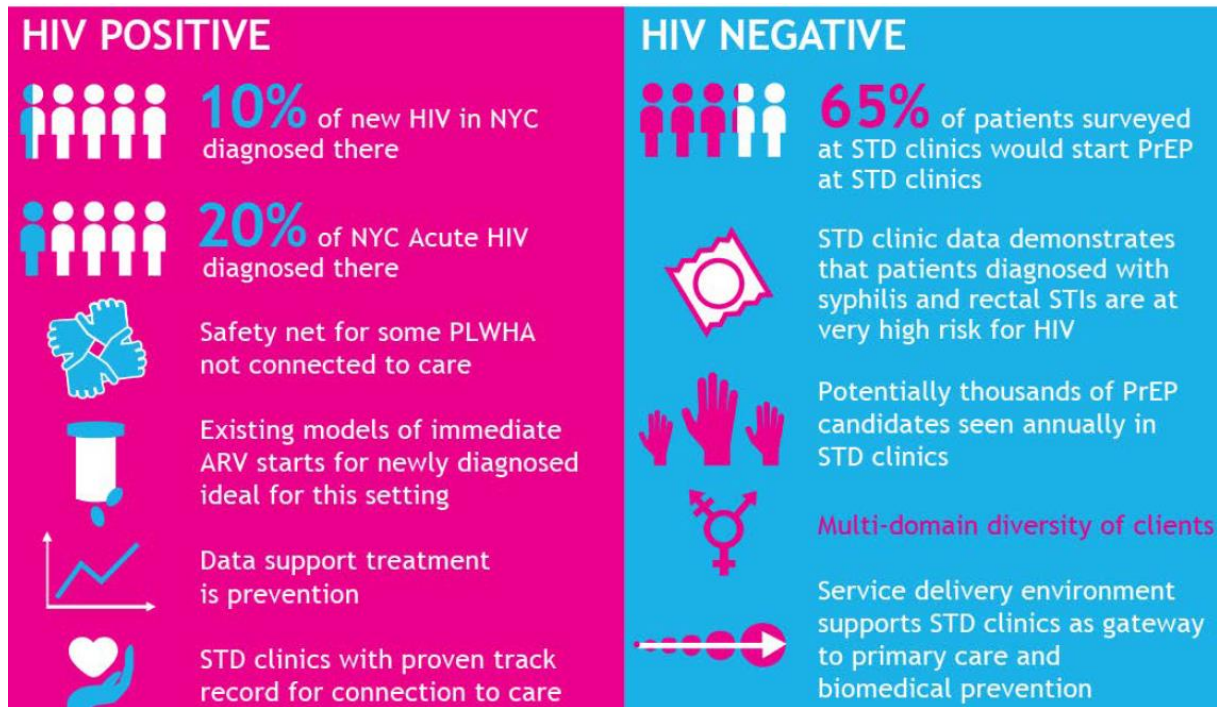
STAY SURE: Call 311 or visit nyc.gov/health to design the right HIV and STI prevention combination for you.

NYC NEW YORK CITY

Rebranding STD Clinics into Sexual Health Clinics



Why Focus on the Sexual Health Clinics?



NYC Sexual Health Clinics *then...*

- STI screening and treatment with limited eligibility for screening-only visits
- Routine medical provider exams
- Emergency contraception
- HIV testing (rapid and acute)
- Linkage to care for HIV diagnosis
- 3-day PEP starter packs with referral
- PrEP referrals



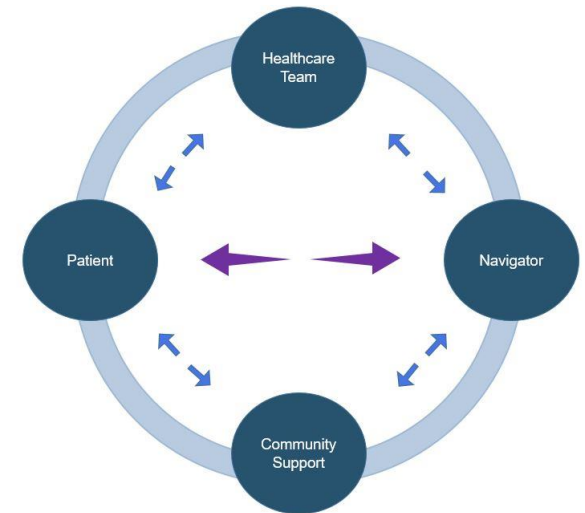
NYC Sexual Health Clinics *now...*

- ✓ Universal access to screening
- ✓ Oral and self-collected anal GC/CT NAAT
- ✓ Full PEP services
- ✓ JumpstART/immediate ART
- ✓ PrEP initiation
- ✓ Rapid trichomonas antigen testing
- ✓ HPV vaccines
- ✓ Mental health counseling/
substance use
- ✓ Quickstart contraception and
referral



Patient Navigation in Sexual Health Clinics

- Based on the community health worker model
- Helps clients or patients “navigate” an increasingly complex healthcare system
- Incorporates motivational interviewing
- Assists with insurance & benefits, plans for medication adherence
- Addresses barriers to linkage to care, specifically linkage to HIV preventive and treatment care services



Integrating a New Workforce

- Referrals were made by DIS staff to link patients in sexual health clinics to ongoing care; active or passive referral based on service
- Program staff agreed that new positions were required to implement patient navigation
- Trained physicians and nurse practitioners were required to provide initial HIV treatment services in addition to STI treatment, PEP, and PrEP
- Nurses enhanced the triage process to identify candidates for new HIV prevention and care services



Status Neutral Services in City Sexual Health Clinics

HIV Testing Services

PEP

**Immediate
PrEP
Initiation**

JumpstART
Immediate HIV
treatment

**STI Screening and Treatment, Condoms, Partner Services, Emergency Contraception,
Crisis Counseling, and Substance Use Services**

Enhancing Ryan White-funded Medical Case Management

RWHAP MEDICAL CASE MANAGEMENT

HIV+



Address HIV Healthcare disparities by facilitating access to care and other services



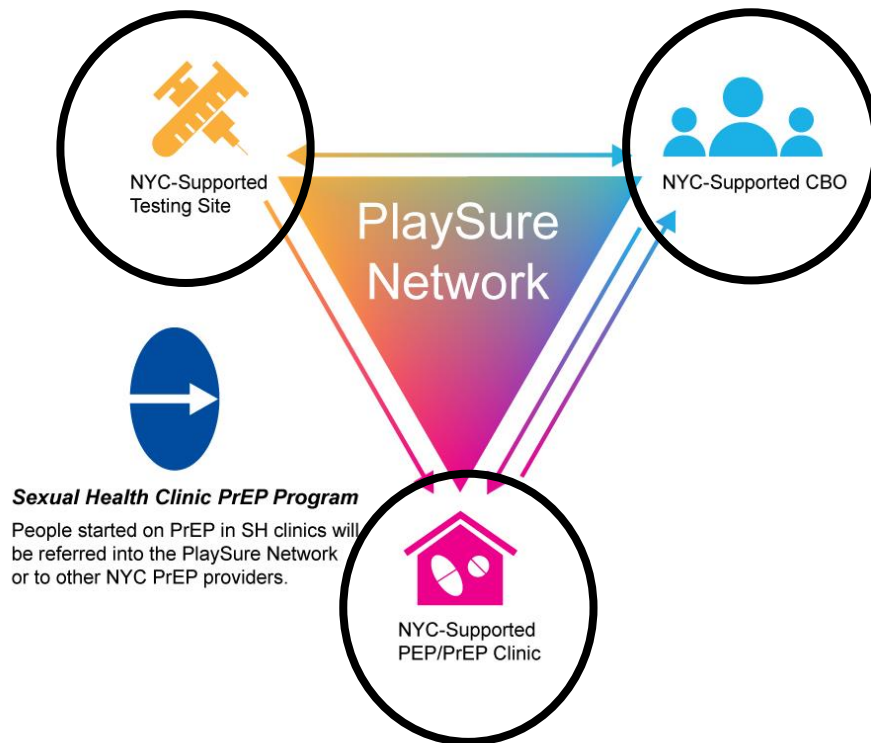
Leads orientation, **assessment** and **care planning**
Verifies program eligibility
Coordinates with medical providers
Facilitates **case conferences**

**CARE
COORDINATOR**

Provides **health education**
Provides mDOT and **accompaniment** to appointments
Provides **navigation** and **support** to clients
Provides **appointment reminders** and follow-up
Provides **linkages** to needed services
Leads client **engagement** and **re-engagement** in service elements
Participates in **planning** and **assessment** activities

NAVIGATOR

Expanding Beyond NYC Sexual Health Clinics



<https://www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/providers/resources/playsure-network.page>

Benefits & Lessons Learned



Funded by Centers for Disease Control and Prevention



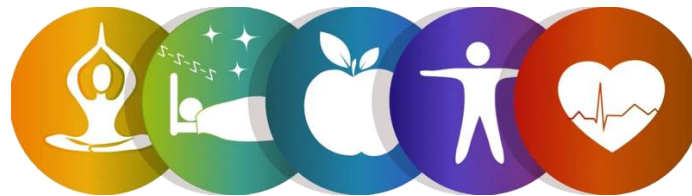
Benefits of Status Neutral Approach

- Reduce institutionalized stigma for people with HIV (PWH)
- Create efficiencies – improve resource utilization
- Gain insights from parallel service delivery
- Become more people-focused – embrace the person; service delivery is secondary



Benefits of People-Focused Approach

- Culturally affirming care
- Support self-esteem by normalizing conversations and strategies to optimize health
- Focus on sexual health and pleasure – harm reduction
- Respect the individual and their autonomy



Challenges

- Consistent messaging and a paradigm shift for providers
- Identifying and securing resources necessary for integration of navigation into Sexual Health Clinics
- Ensuring that priority populations (e.g. men who have sex with men and transgender women of color) have equitable access to navigation
- Ensuring linkage to ongoing HIV prevention and/or treatment services
- Funding streams that ensure access to services don't have specific requirements and require status neutral navigation



Successes

- Integration of new navigation and medical provider workforce embracing a status neutral approach
- Broadened scope of services from Sexual Health Clinics
- Shifting RFPs for funded CBOs and clinical sites to center their care with a status neutral approach
- Reduced HIV and STI stigma
- Setting the standard for culturally affirming, inclusive, stigma-free, and responsive quality care in NYC



Lessons Learned

- Full integration requires a thorough, deliberate approach
- Robust collaboration is needed (internal/external)
- Messaging and programming have to align



Thank You!

CBA

NYC Capacity Building Assistance Project

**NYC Capacity Building
Assistance Project**

NYCCBA@health.nyc.gov



Q&A/Discussion



Discussion

- What plans does your jurisdiction have for implementing status-neutral approaches or what activities have been implemented?
- What challenges has your jurisdiction faced or foresee facing in implementing status-neutral approaches?



Contact Information

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To Learn More or Request CDC CBA/TA services on this content area
and other TA needs:

<https://www.cdc.gov/hiv/programresources/capacitybuilding/>

