

# **Florida's Response to Hepatitis C and HIV Outbreaks and Clusters**

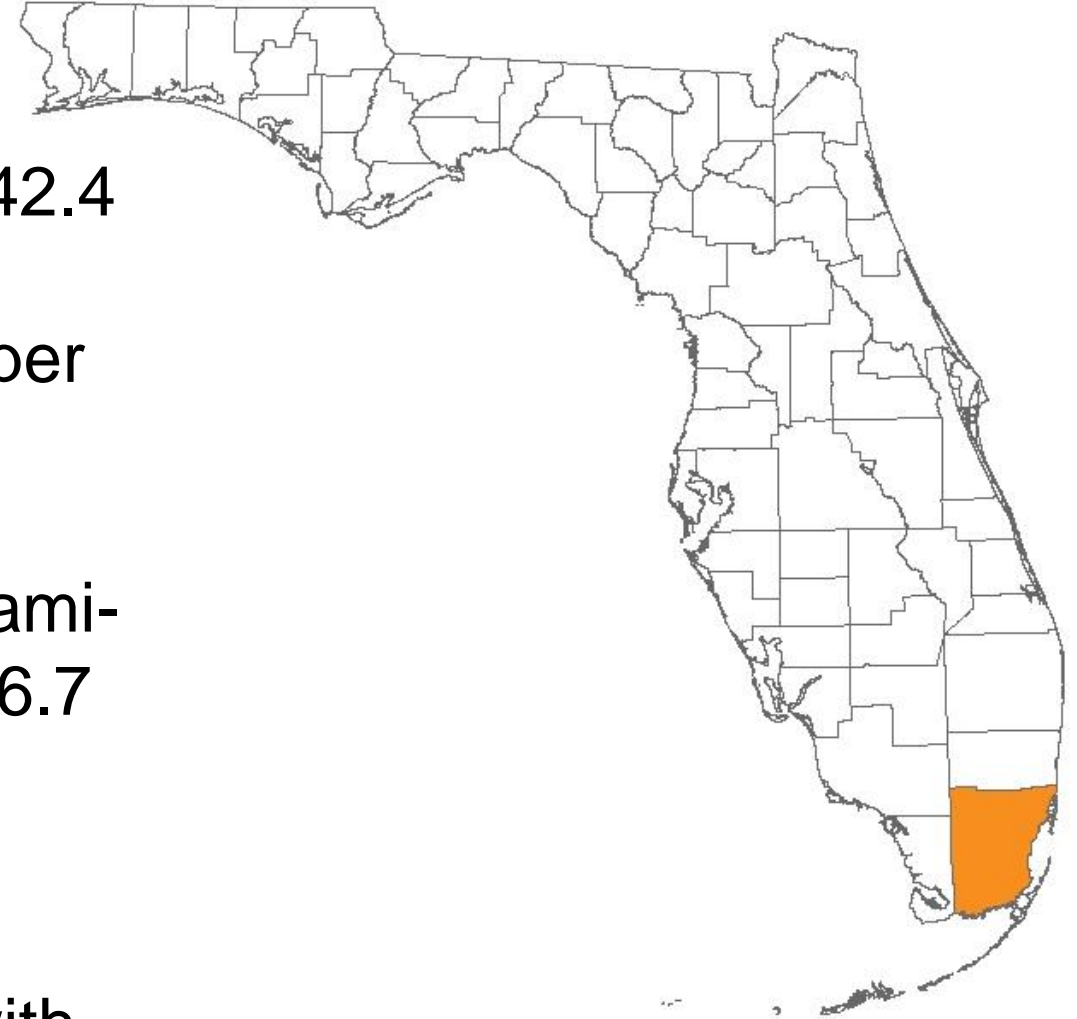
**Hepatitis Virtual Learning Collaborative  
February 9, 2022**



**Emma C. Spencer PhD, MPH  
Chief, Bureau of Communicable Diseases  
Florida Department of Health**

# Miami-Dade County, Florida

- Estimated population is 2,864,600<sup>1</sup>
- Highest rates of new HIV diagnoses (42.4 per 100,000) for any metropolitan statistical area in United States (13.2 per 100,000)<sup>2</sup>
- Rate of acute Hepatitis C (HCV) in Miami-Dade 1.6 per 100,000 (chronic HCV 46.7 per 100,000) in 2019
- At the time of the investigation Miami-Dade was the only county in Florida with a legal Syringe Services Program (SSP)



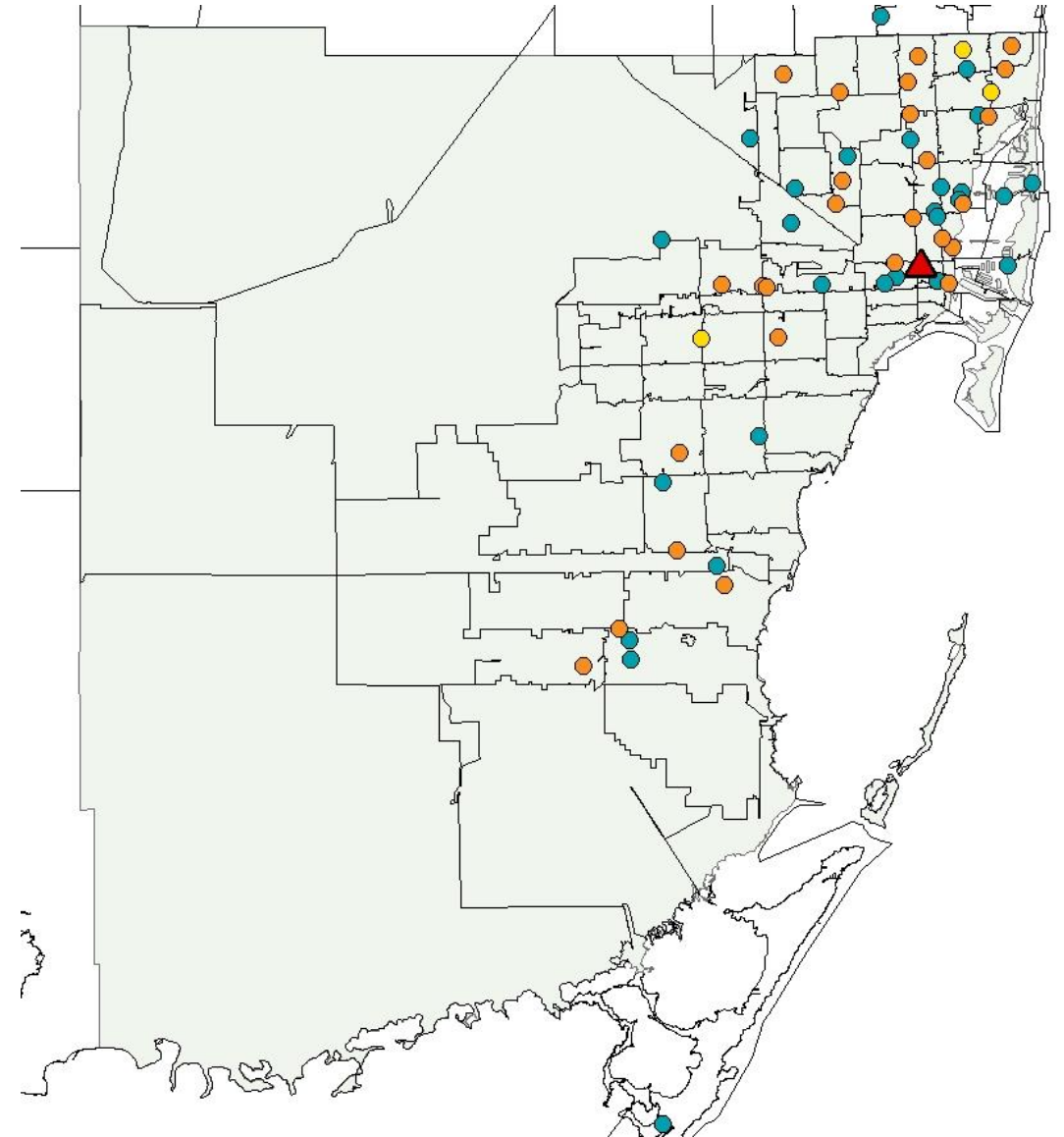
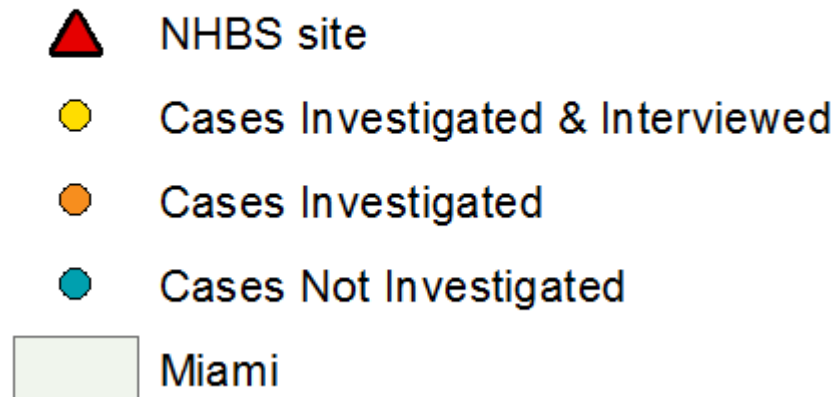
<sup>1</sup>[https://www.flhealthcharts.gov/FLQUERY\\_New/Population/Count](https://www.flhealthcharts.gov/FLQUERY_New/Population/Count)

<sup>2</sup>Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2019). HIV Surveillance Report, 2020; vol. 32.

# Acute Hepatitis C Cases in Miami-Dade, 2018<sup>1</sup>

- 63 acute cases reported in 2018
- 34 (54%) investigated
- 3 (9%) interviewed

## Legend



# NHBS-IDU5 Sample 2018

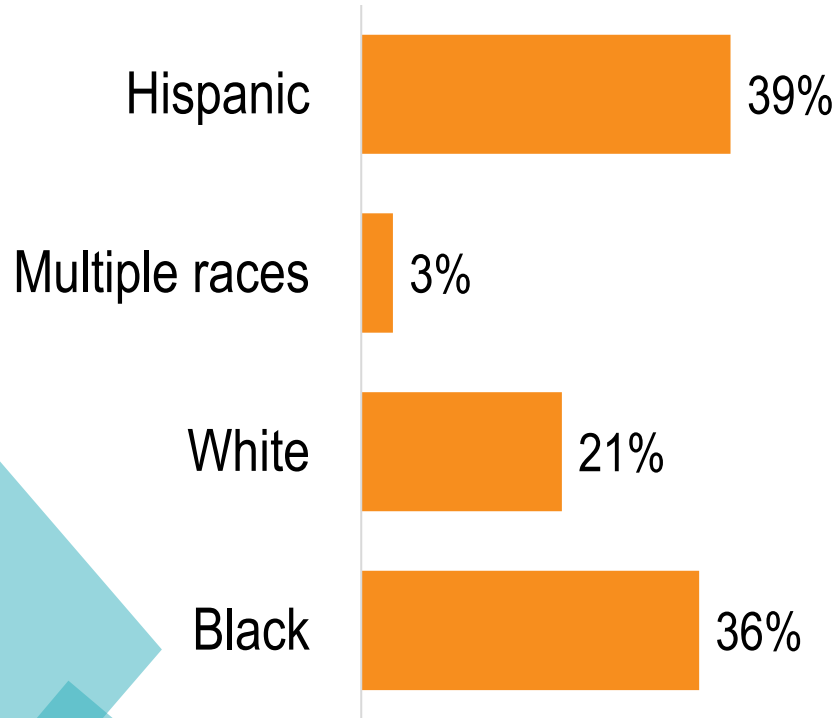
- Started sampling eligible PWID in Miami-Dade County August 15 through December 15, 2018
- 57% overall with reactive Hepatitis C (HCV) (includes acute)
- Acute non-reactive rapid HCV test, positive RNA NAT
- 18% positivity rate for acute HCV (n=89)



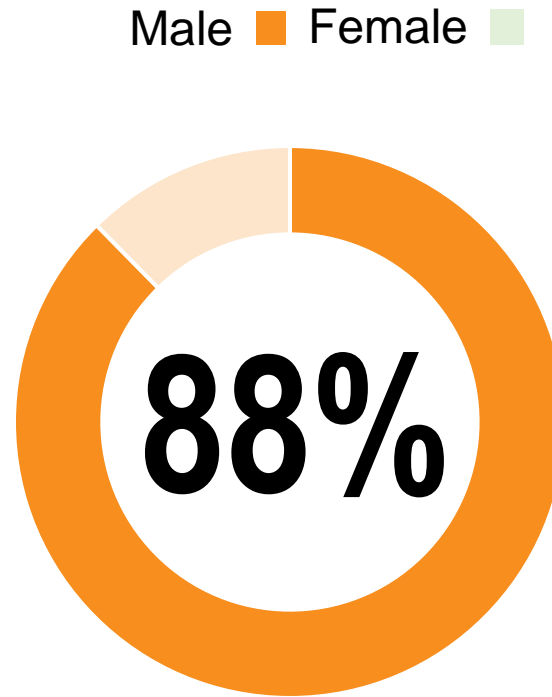
# NHBS-IDU5 Acute HCV

**506** individuals participated with a confirmatory HCV result, **89** determined HCV acute, **9 of the acute HCV cases** had a reactive HIV result

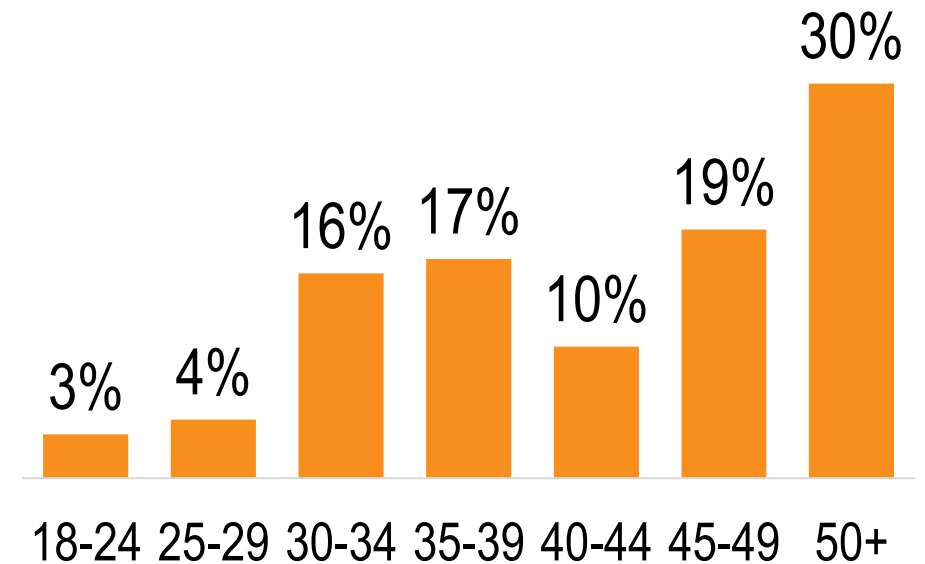
Race/Ethnicity



Gender



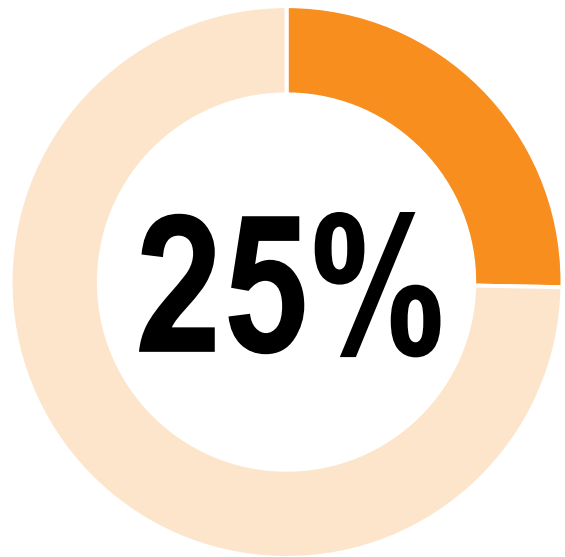
Age at time of interview



# NHBS-IDU5 Acute HCV Needle Exchange Use

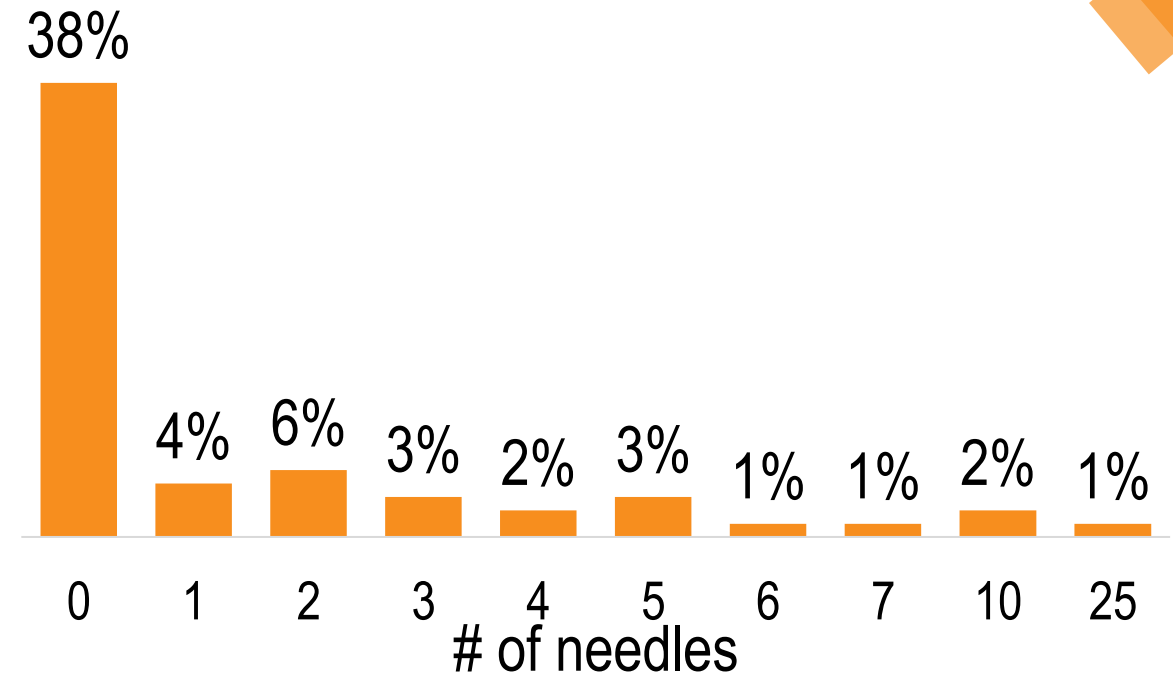
## Participated in SSP

Yes ■ No ■

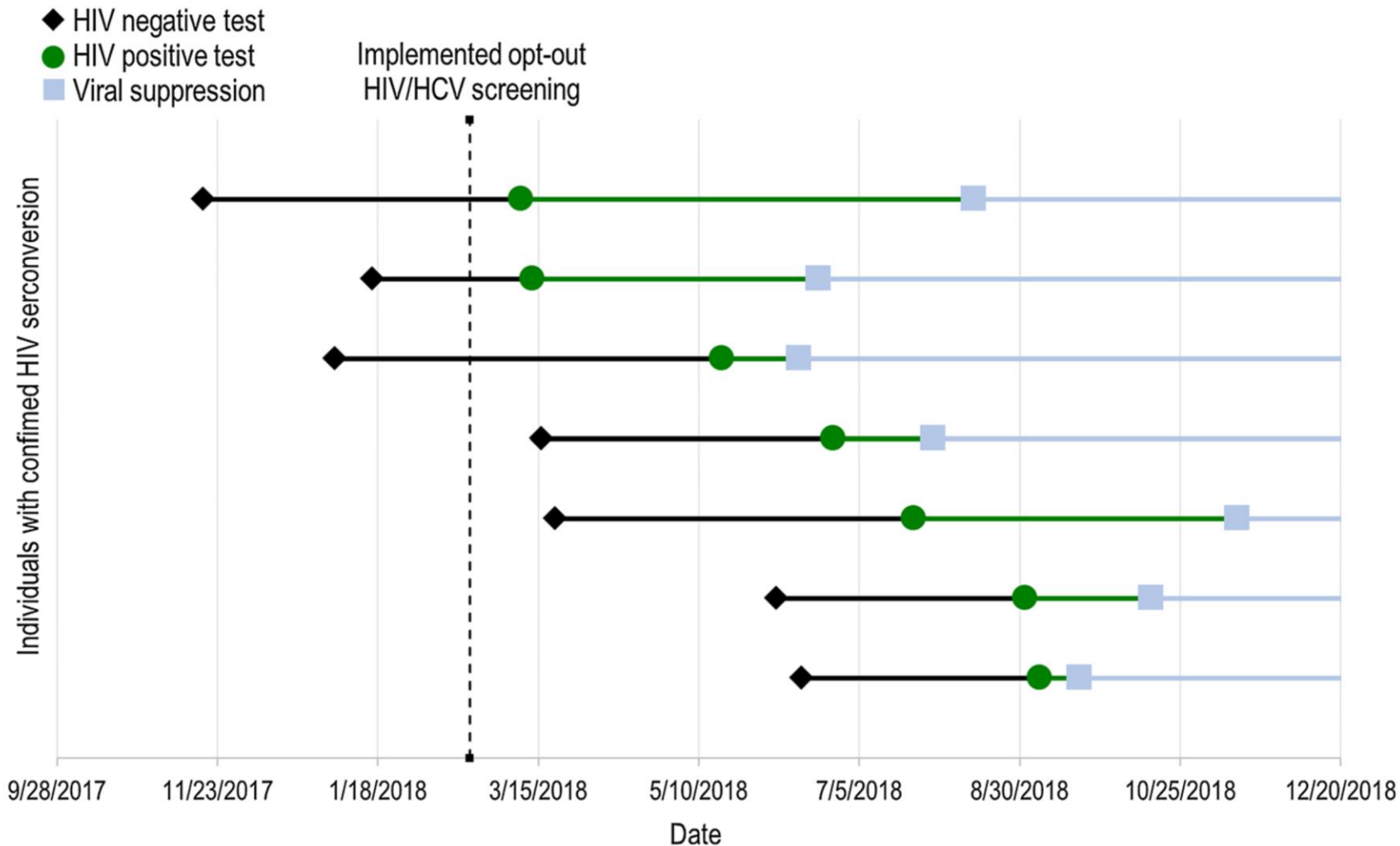


Compared to 53% of non-acute HCV participants

## Used Needle After Another Person by Number of People Shared



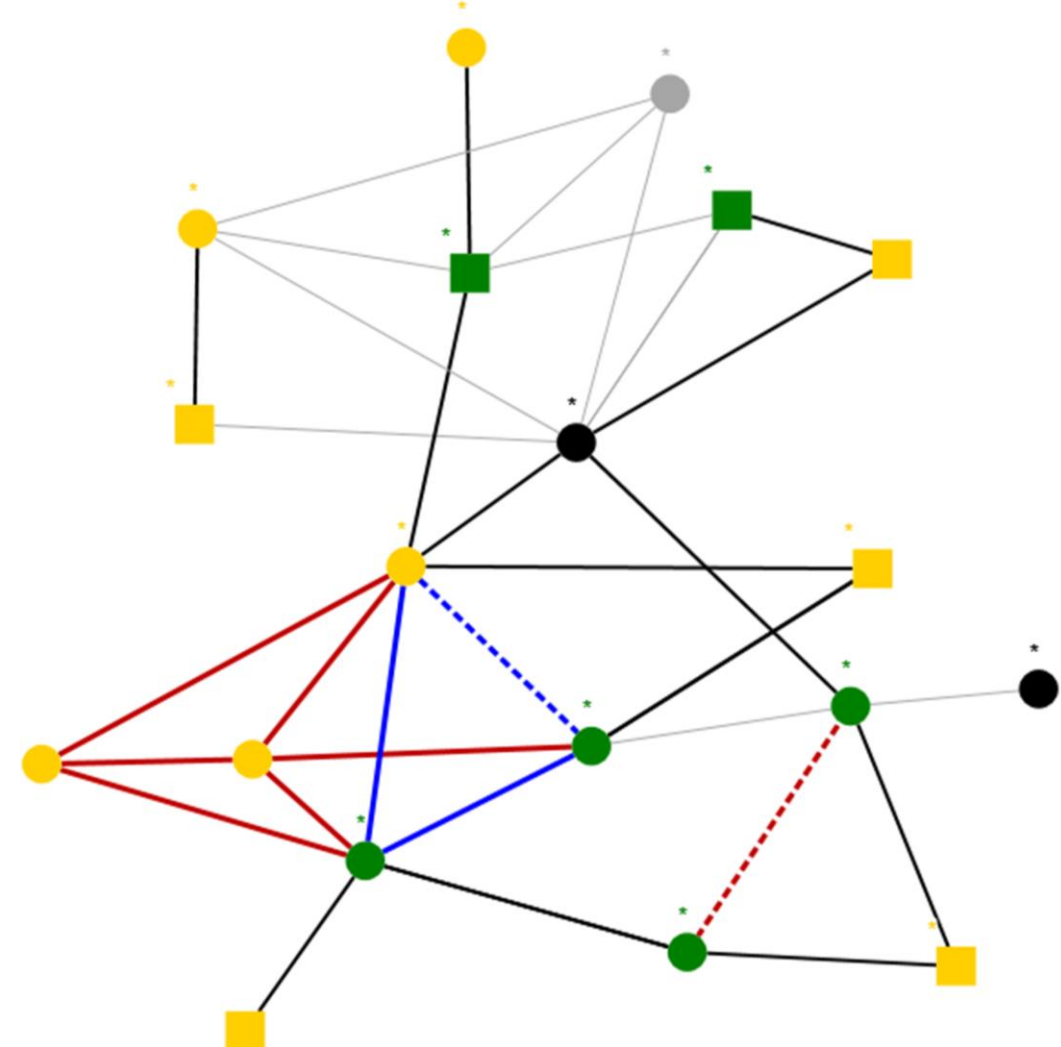
# Time-series of individuals with confirmed HIV seroconversion, Miami, Florida, 2018





# Primary epidemiologic and molecular network of confirmed HIV seroconversions

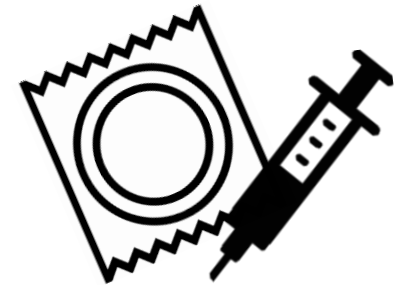
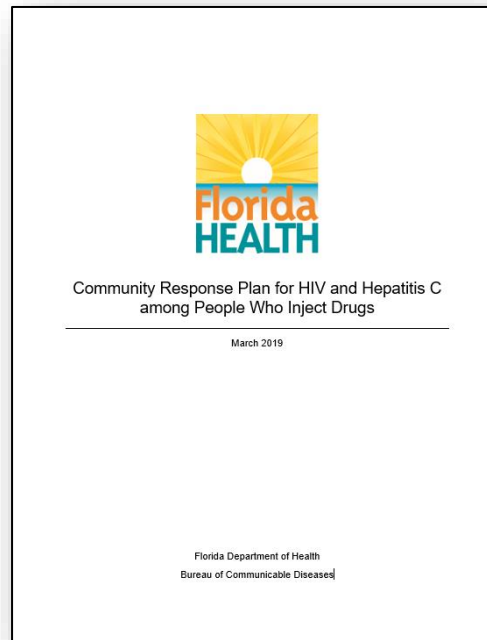
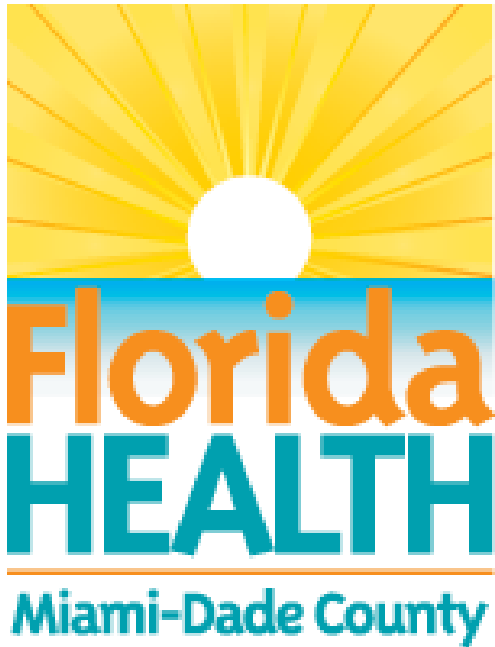
- Confirmed HIV Seroconversion
- Previous Positive HIV Status
- Negative HIV Status
- Unknown HIV Status
- No HIV Genotype
- \* IDEA Participant
- Epidemiological Link
- Social Link
- Molecular Link at 0.5% Genetic Distance
- - Epidemiological Link and Molecular Link at 0.5% Genetic Distance
- Molecular Link at 1.5% Genetic Distance
- - Epidemiological Link and Molecular Link at 1.5% Genetic Distance





# Response to Increase in Acute HCV

- Organized local leadership in Miami-Dade
- Developed a comprehensive written “outbreak” response plan for HCV and HIV focus on PWID
- Mobilized community stakeholders including only SSP in the county

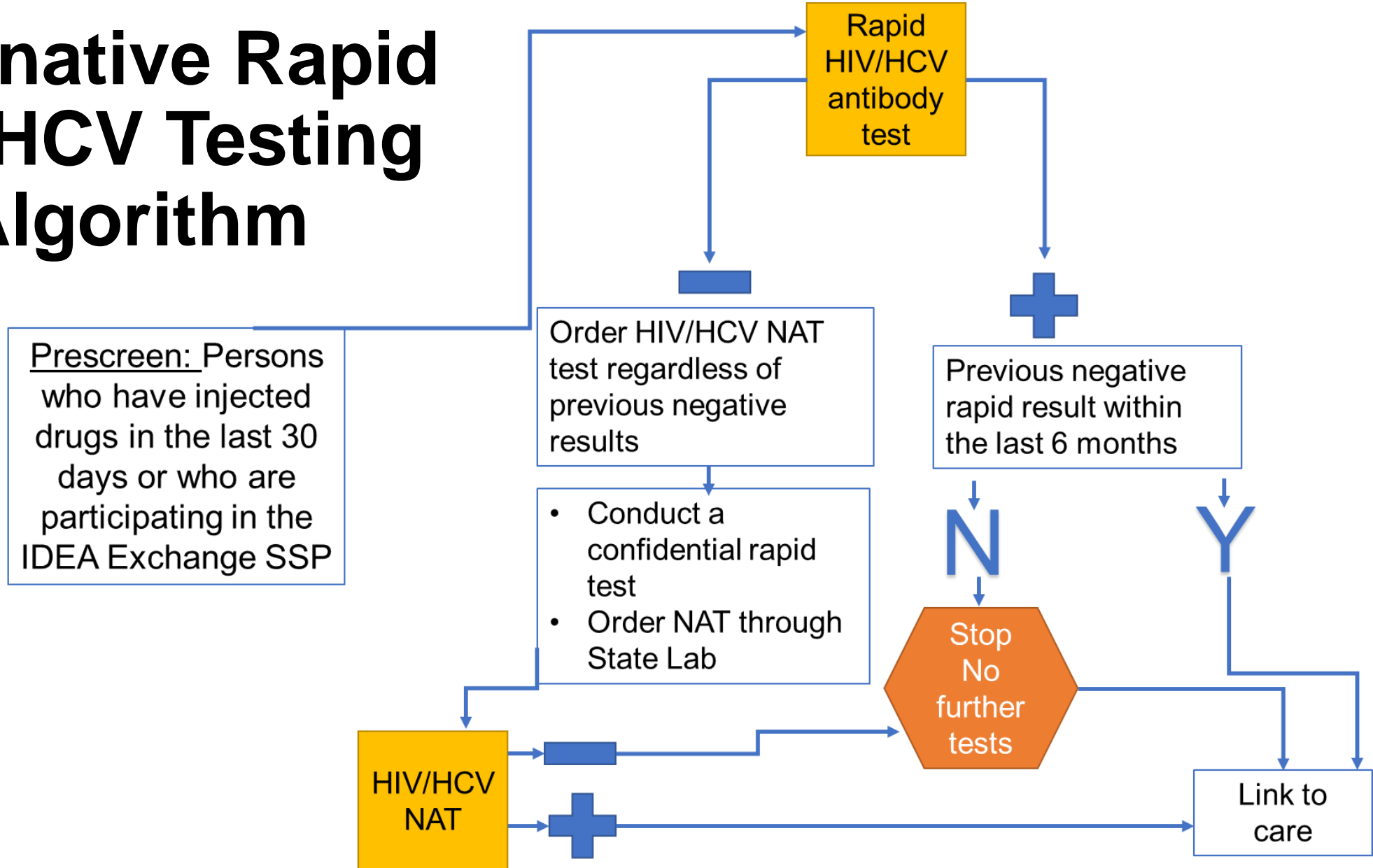


# Response to Increase in Acute HCV

- Leveraged Department and local resources for testing and treatment referrals
- Ramped up outreach and testing events
- Improved focus on surveillance local investigations
- Developed alternative testing algorithm to identify acute HCV



# Alternative Rapid HIV/HCV Testing Algorithm



# HIV Risk Network Among PWID, Miami-Dade, Florida, 2018


AIDS and Behavior

<https://doi.org/10.1007/s10461-019-02680-9>

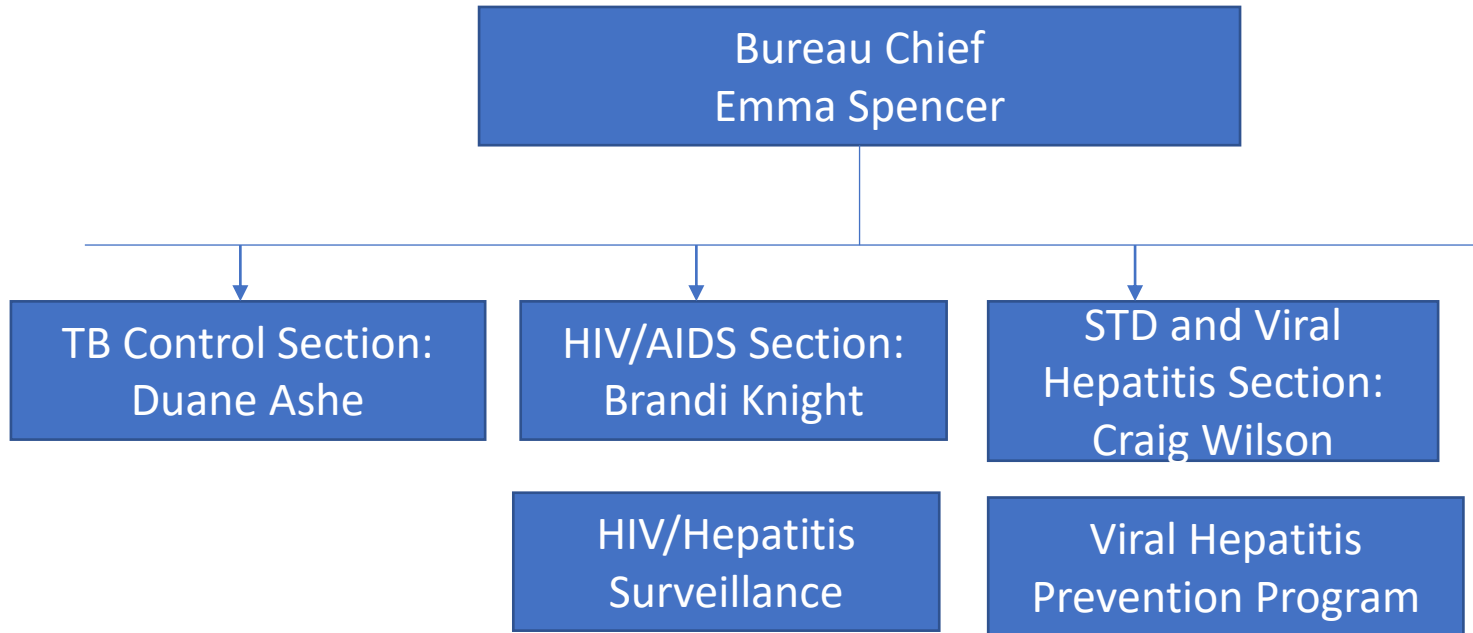
ORIGINAL PAPER



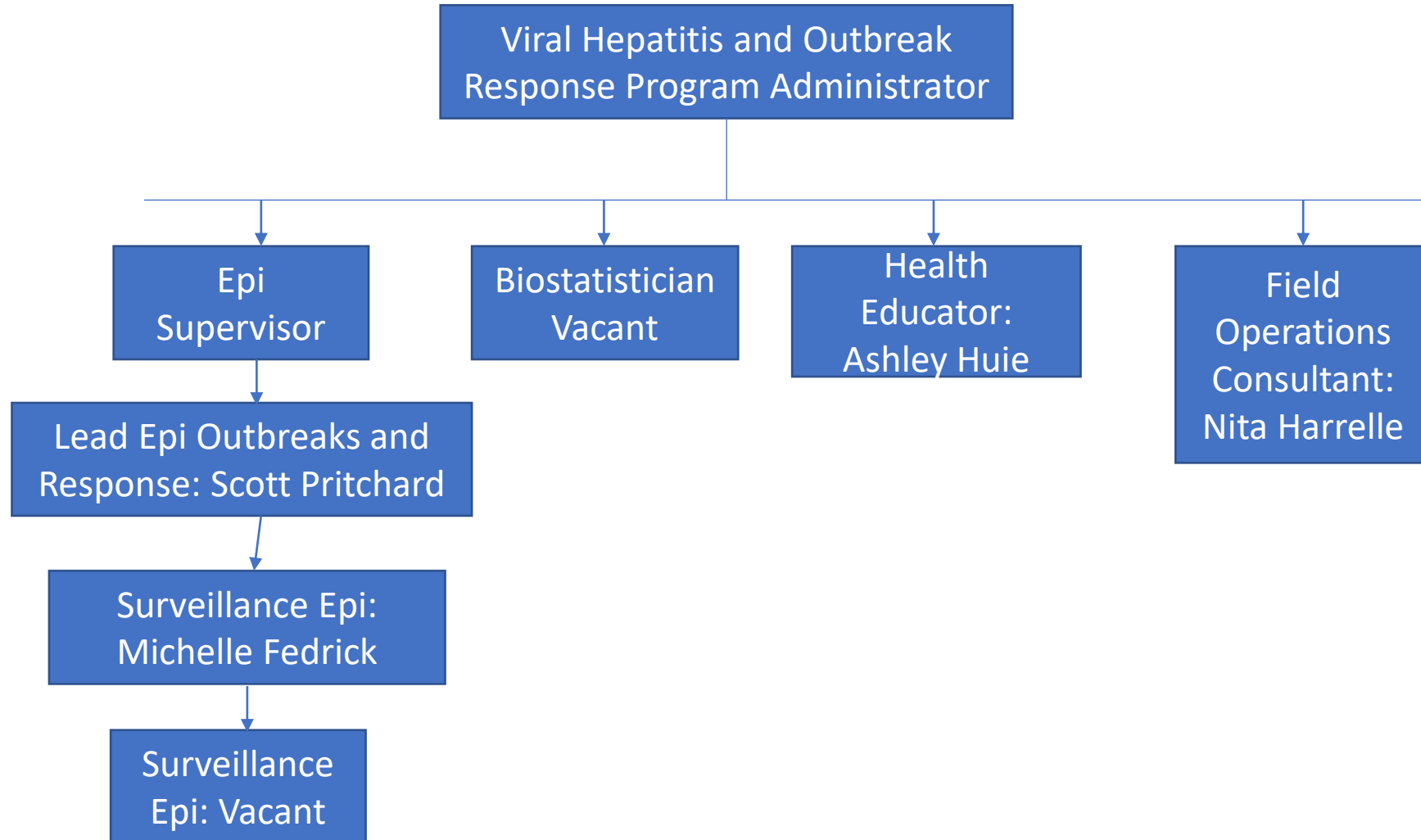
## Rapid Identification and Investigation of an HIV Risk Network Among People Who Inject Drugs –Miami, FL, 2018

Hansel Tookes<sup>1</sup>  · Tyler S. Bartholomew<sup>1</sup> · Shana Geary<sup>2</sup> · James Matthias<sup>3,2</sup> · Karalee Poschman<sup>4,2</sup> · Carina Blackmore<sup>2</sup> · Celeste Philip<sup>2</sup> · Edward Suarez<sup>1</sup> · David W. Forrest<sup>1</sup> · Allan E. Rodriguez<sup>1</sup> · Michael A. Kolber<sup>1</sup> · Felicia Knaul<sup>1</sup> · Leah Colucci<sup>1</sup> · Emma Spencer<sup>2</sup>

# Previous Bureau of Communicable Disease Organization



# New Bureau Section



exchange program\*

ordinance for syringe exchange

greement\*\*

atutes, county commissions must

ns by way of a county ordinance

ment with the Florida Department

entity to operate the program.

er of agreement with the

ndinance.

[d-services/idea/](#)

- \*Per section 381.0038(4), Florida Statutes, county commissions must authorize syringe exchange programs by way of a county ordinance and must enter into a letter of agreement with the Florida Department of Health prior to contracting with an entity to operate the program.

[www.floridahealth.gov/programs-and-services/idea/](http://www.floridahealth.gov/programs-and-services/idea/)



# Acknowledgements



**David Forrest**  
**Gabriel Cardenas**  
**Monica Faraldo**



**Dr. Reynald Jean**  
**Kira Villamizar**  
**Dr. Yesenia Villalta**



**Dr. Hansel Tookes**  
**Dr. Tyler Bartholomew**



# Thank you!

## Discussion & Questions



### Contact Information

Emma Spencer, PhD, MPH  
Bureau Chief, Communicable Diseases  
[Emma.Spencer@flhealth.gov](mailto:Emma.Spencer@flhealth.gov)