






NOW

END THE EPIDEMICS

PREP ON THE GO! MOBILE PREVENTION SERVICES TO RESPOND TO EXPANDING HIV CLUSTERS IN SOUTH FLORIDA

	TARGET POPULATION	Black and Latino gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men (GBM)
	LOCATION	South Florida
	PROGRAM DESIGN	Mobile clinic vehicle that delivers HIV and sexually transmitted infections (STI) prevention services
	ESTIMATED COST	\$250,000 annually
	FUNDING SOURCE	Florida Department of Health (FDOH)

SUMMARY

In response to the limited access to pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) and STI prevention services for GBM in South Florida, University of Miami (UM) Miller School of Medicine in collaboration with the FDOH launched a mobile clinic vehicle called the Sylvester Gamechanger, which delivers HIV and STI prevention services. The Sylvester Gamechanger addresses the disproportionate impact that HIV and STI has on GBM and the lack of access to quality prevention resources and services by providing a vehicle that strives to meet the target audience where they are.



UM Sylvester Gamechanger mobile clinic



UM Rapid Access Wellness and PrEP Mobile Clinic Program staff—Susanne Doblecki-Lewis, Katie Klose, Brian Baez, Katherine King, Brahian Erazo, Blonsky Batalien, Jessica Morel, Gilianne Narcisse, and Stefani Butts

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In South Florida, Miami-Dade and Broward counties have among the highest incidence of new HIV diagnoses, disproportionate epidemics among Black and Latino GBM, and low rates of PrEP uptake relative to need compared to other locations. In February 2019, President Trump announced the Administration's goal to end the HIV epidemic in the United States (U.S.) within 10 years. In March 2019, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services launched Ending the HIV Epidemic (EHE): A Plan for America. The EHE initiative focuses on four key pillars that together can end the HIV epidemic in the U.S.: diagnose, treat, protect, and respond. Phase 1 of the EHE plan focuses on 57 jurisdictions (48 counties and seven rural states with the highest HIV incidence), including seven counties in Florida: Broward, Duval, Hillsborough, Miami-Dade, Orange, Palm Beach, and Pinellas.

CORE ACTIVITIES

In April 2018, the FDOH executed a contract with the University of Miami (UM) Miller School of Medicine to support the delivery of mobile prevention services, including HIV and STI screening, outreach and education and PrEP prescribing and laboratory monitoring. These services are delivered through the Sylvester Gamechanger, a mobile clinic vehicle operated through the UM Sylvester Cancer Center in collaboration with the Miami Center for AIDS Research (CFAR). The FDOH agreement also tasked UM with using molecular HIV surveillance data to guide the delivery of prevention services. In July 2019, this process was refined, data sharing processes were formalized, and feedback mechanisms were developed.

DATA

Preliminary project outcomes for the UM mobile prevention clinic from October 2018 to December 2019 are summarized in Table 1.

Table 1. UM Mobile Wellness Clinic Summary Data, October 2018–December 2019

CLIENTS	COUNT (N)	% OF TOTAL
Total Clients	550	100
HIV Rapid Test Completed	540	98.1
Tested HIV Positive	13	2.3
STI Testing without PrEP Services	100	18.1
Received STI Testing	392	71.2
Tested Positive for STI		
Chlamydia	31	6.2
Gonorrhea	32	6.4
Syphilis	44	8.8
Received STI Treatment at Clinic	41	7.1
Sought PrEP at Baseline	298	54.1
Received PrEP Prescription	287	51.1

Since the start of mobile PrEP services, 13 participants tested positive for HIV. Of those 13 participants, 12 participants were connected to HIV care within 48 hours through the Rapid Access Test and Treat Initiative. One participant, enrolled during a joint outreach initiative with the UM IDEA Exchange, did not attend their follow-up Test and Treat appointment. Multiple attempts to locate the participant were made by staff from both teams but they were unable to make contact with them. Additional attempts to engage the participant in HIV care will continue through the state's Data to Care efforts.

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FUNDING AND COST

The FDOH supports the project with state and federal funds for a combined total of \$250,000 annually.

In spring 2019, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) released a supplemental funding announcement for currently funded and eligible NIH CFARs and National Institutes of Mental Health HIV/AIDS Research Centers to support planning activities to address the EHE initiative. The Miami CFAR successfully applied for and received funding to develop a workflow for using HIV cluster data to inform community outreach and positioning of the mobile clinic; assess feasibility, timeframe, acceptability, and potential barriers to deploying the mobile clinic as a cluster-response tool; and develop phylogenetic modeling of clusters to support implementation research assessing the impact of mobile clinic deployment.

STRENGTHS

In recent months, the FDOH has supplied the mobile clinic with in-home HIV test kits to provide to clients and persons in clients' sexual and social risk networks who are unable or unwilling to come in for testing. Completion of this project will result in a formalized process for the deployment of mobile prevention services to address HIV cluster and risk network information to intervene and interrupt transmission. This project has the potential to be expanded in other geographic locations with active and growing HIV transmission clusters.

LIMITATIONS

PrEP and STI services are currently geographically concentrated and limited in hours of operation, and available clinics may be perceived as stigmatizing. Additional social and structural barriers may exist for persons identifying as racial/ethnic minorities, the uninsured/underinsured, and recent immigrants.

STAKEHOLDERS

Implementation partners for this project include a community-based organization (Prevention305); the FDOH Bureau of Communicable Diseases, HIV/AIDS Section; FDOH in Miami-Dade County; UM Miller School of Medicine; UM Sylvester Cancer Center; UM IDEA Exchange; Miami CFAR; and the University of Florida.

PROGRAM CONTACT

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