

The image features a central graphic with a black circle containing the word "Arizona" in white. To its right, the words "Syndemic" and "Strategies" are stacked on yellow and grey rectangular backgrounds respectively. The graphic is set against a background of a field with a path and a cloudy sky. A large yellow arc is on the left, and three diagonal lines (yellow, orange, black) are at the bottom right.

Arizona Syndemic Strategies

Outline...

BACKGROUND

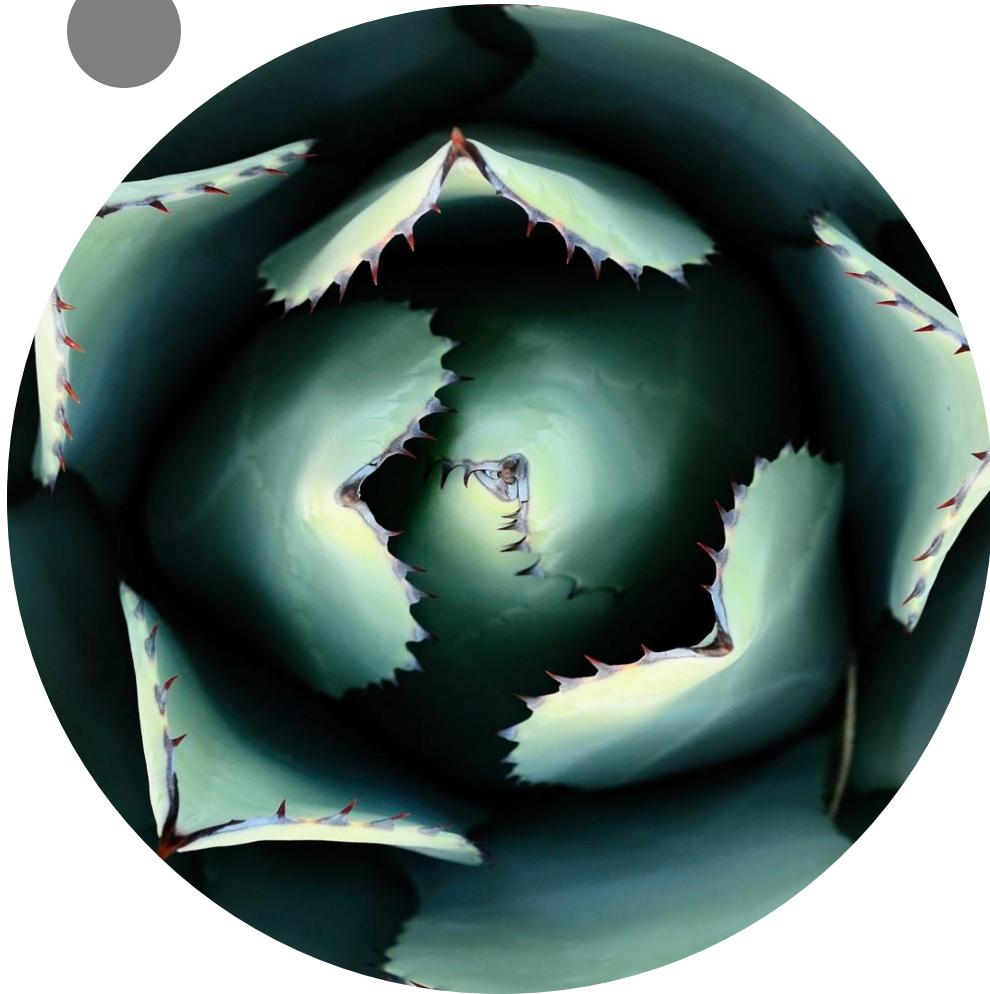
- Surveillance Data
- Agency Structure

SYNDEMIC PLANNING

- Process
- Themes and Priorities

IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS & NEXT STEPS

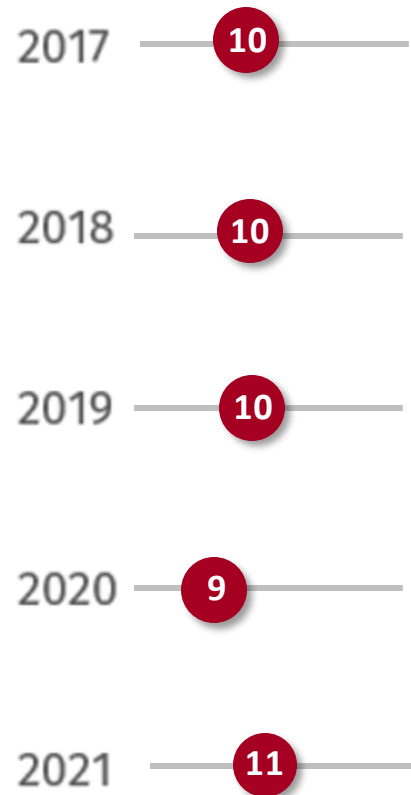
- Community Engagement
- Challenges



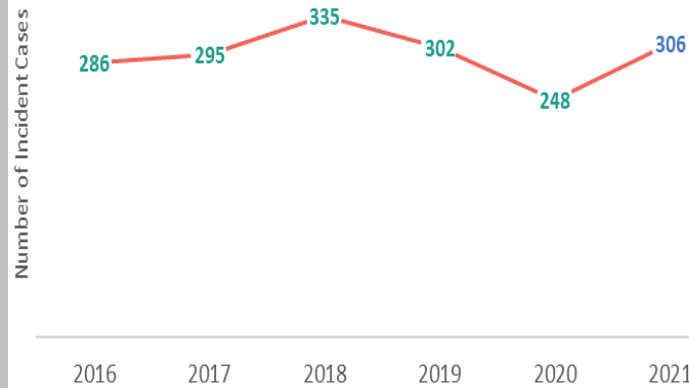
BACKGROUND

By the Numbers: HIV & HCV

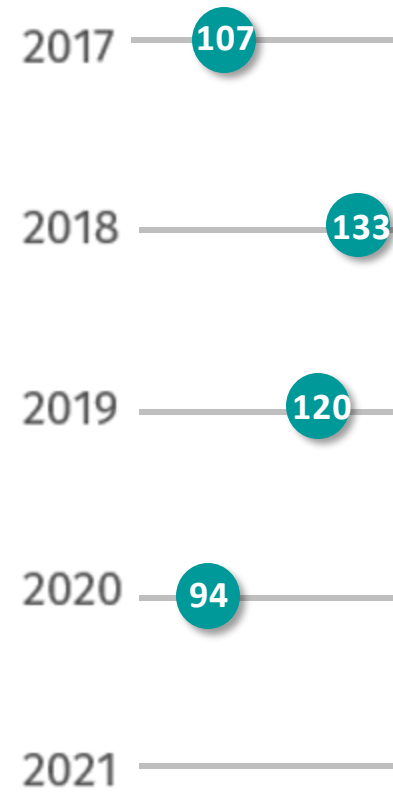
HIV



Comprising approximately 33% of new HIV diagnoses annually, MSM of color remain a priority population.



HCV

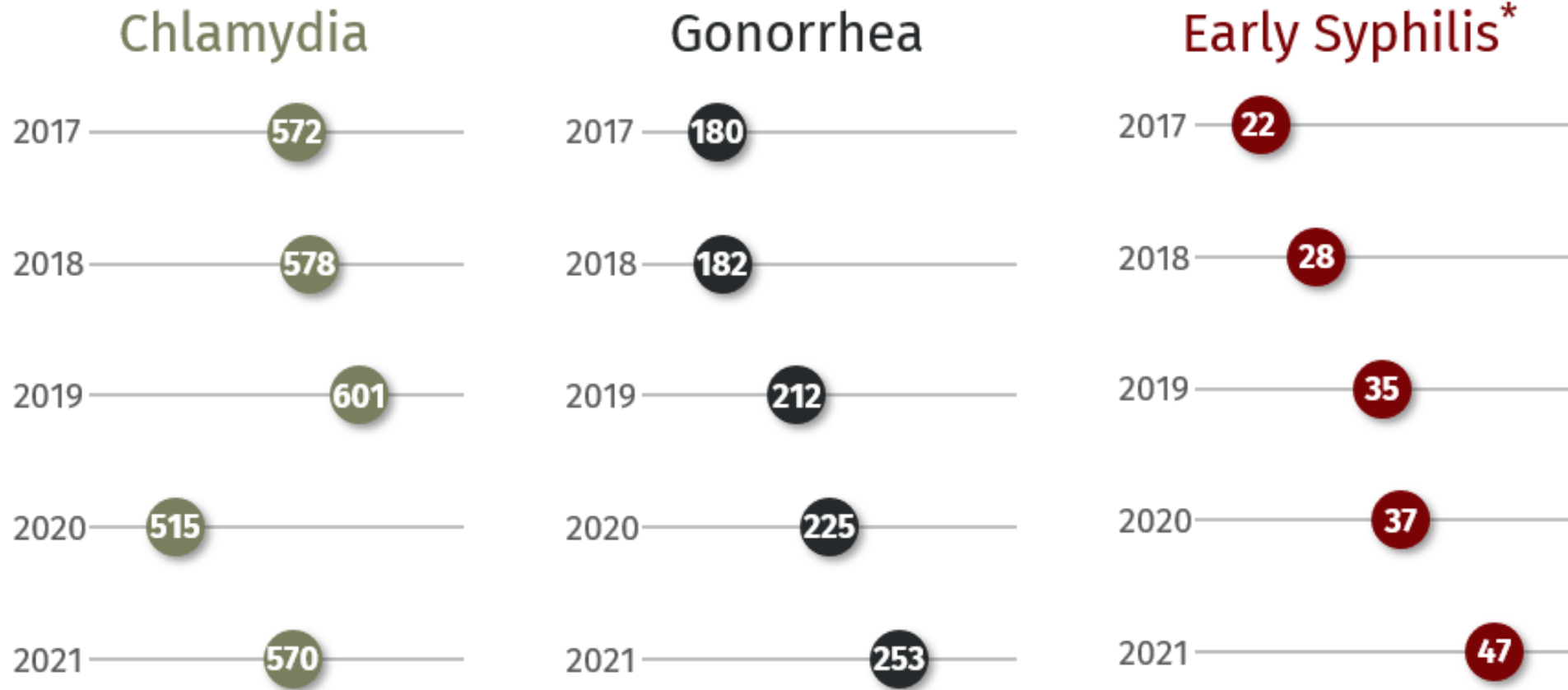


From 2017-2021:



Young Adults comprise a growing representation among new HCV reports received through Electronic Laboratory Reports.

By the Numbers: STI



*Early syphilis includes primary, secondary, and early latent syphilis.

ADHS

Health & Wellness
for All Arizonans!

*To promote, protect,
and improve the
health and wellness
of individuals and
communities in
Arizona.*





SYNDEMIC PLANNING

Integrated Plan Finalization

PREVENT

GOAL #1
Reduce new transmissions of HIV, STIs, and hep C

OBJECTIVE 3
Improve and expand sexual health prevention mechanisms

- Take a sex positive approach to improve how we talk about sex in our training, work, and education
- Improve and expand PEP awareness and use
 - Mobile vans
 - Male program
 - Foster
 - School focus
 - College
 - Correctional
 - Local
 - Community
- Maintain access to condoms, lubrication, and other barrier methods
- Provide and promote more education and awareness of U=U for HIV
- Emphasize preventative health in general, which will lead to improved sexual health
- Be innovative and timely in response to emerging sexual health trends
- g. Increase prevention strategies and evidence-based sexual health education at all levels and ages, and pursue collaborations with local organizations to ensure access to sexual health services and resources**

17 ARIZONA 2022-2026 HIV/STI/HEP C INTEGRATED PLAN

TREAT

GOAL #2
Keep all people with HIV in care, and cure all people diagnosed with STIs and hep C

OBJECTIVE 5
Increase the percentage of people with HIV who stay in care, and the percentage of people with STIs and hep C who get to cure

- Improve retention and adherence to care/treatment by addressing social and structural determinants of health that act as barriers to care/cure
- Increase access to treatment by making it more physically accessible
- Track and reduce disparities in who stays in care
- Improve referrals and follow up for behavioral health and mental health services
- Recognize the value of and need for support groups for people with HIV
- Incentivize people getting into and staying in care
- Increase availability of benefits and navigation services
- Promote and support HIV case management and care coordination services, especially for Ryan White clients

25 ARIZONA 2022-2026 HIV/STI/HEP C INTEGRATED PLAN

RESPOND

GOAL #1
Build capacity for CDR (cluster detection and response) and surveillance

OBJECTIVE 3
Improve and update surveillance systems and processes for HIV, STIs, and hep C

- Improve surveillance and epidemiology staff capacity
- Encourage and increase bi-directional communication of data
- Strive to provide and disseminate more real-time data for tracking plan progress
- Explore quality metrics for data to guide quality improvement efforts and equity efforts
- Strengthen public health system-level capacity and programming for hep C data and surveillance
- Pursue more syndemic data opportunities among HIV, STIs, hep C, and other conditions**

29 ARIZONA 2022-2026 HIV/STI/HEP C INTEGRATED PLAN

DIAGNOSE

GOAL #2
Decrease the percentage of people living with HIV, STIs, and hep C

OBJECTIVE 6
Improve HIV/STI partner services outreach

- Increase capacity building opportunities and support for entities providing partner services
- Educate more providers on what to do when their patients test positive, especially for HIV, in order to prepare patients for partner services
- Incentivize, educate, and support the original patient to provide information**
- Leverage lessons learned from COVID-19 contact tracing and case investigations
- Improve timeliness and quality of HIV/STI case investigations
- Increase status neutral messaging used during partner services activities
- Ensure access to expedited partner therapy (EPT)
- Conduct capacity building for the state hep C team to prepare for their own case investigations

14 ARIZONA 2022-2026 HIV/STI/HEP C INTEGRATED PLAN

STRATEGY A: EXAMPLES

- Housing instability or homelessness
- Food insecurity and nutrition
- Employment
- Poverty
- Substance use
- Behavioral health
- Mental health
- Transportation
- Financial literacy
- Health literacy
- Child care
- Reliance on smartphone and internet access

STRATEGY F: EXAMPLES

- Using STI diagnoses to prompt PrEP referrals
- Better understanding HIV and hep C co-infection
- Improving HIV testing among persons diagnosed with STIs
- Building capacity to better understand other conditions, such as substance use and behavioral health, with regards to HIV, STI, and hep C status
- Better use data to guide action, and to monitor and implement state and local plans

STRATEGY EXPLANATION

Due to HIV-related discrimination, LGBTQ+ communities with and impacted by HIV and STIs may have difficulty sharing HIV-related information with their providers during partner services activities. Building trust with providers and recipients of partner services is essential to the success of partner services and the outcomes of partner services.

ARIZONA 2022-2026 HIV/STI/HEP C INTEGRATED PLAN

VISION

End the epidemics of HIV, STIs and hepatitis C and reduce disparities by improving prevention and care.

PRIORITY POPULATIONS

- ✓ Gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men (MSM), especially of color
- ✓ Young persons (ages 13-34), especially of color
- ✓ Gender expansive persons
- ✓ People who use or have used substances

DIAGNOSE

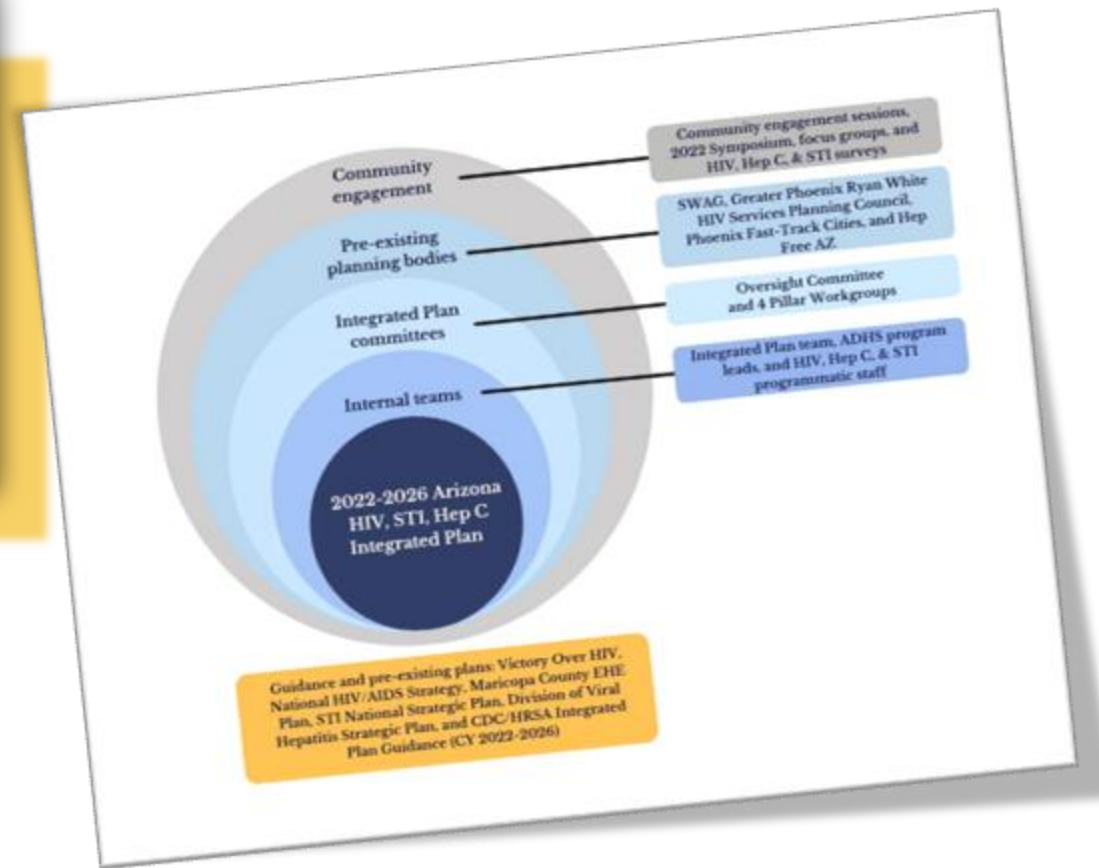
TREAT

RESPOND

PREVENT

KEY PARTNERS

- State health department
- County health departments
- Tribal health departments
- Syringe services programs (SSPs) and harm reduction organizations
- Pregnancy and child health partners
- Community-based organizations
- Medical providers, clinics, and FQHCs
- Academic institutions and partners
- Marketing partners
- Persons with lived experience or experiencing risk for HIV, STIs, or hep C
- Persons who use or have used dugs





IMPLEMENTATION

Key Components



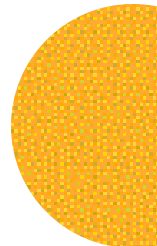
OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Group of HIV, STI and HCV stakeholders who met on a quarterly basis.



OFFICE RE-ORG

Changes within the Bureau to better support growing programs.



FORMATION OF ETE TEAM

The Ending the Epidemics (ETE) Team is one of the newest at ADHS.

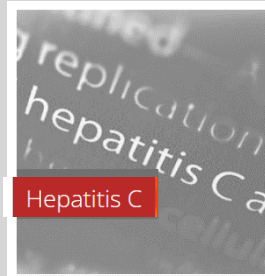
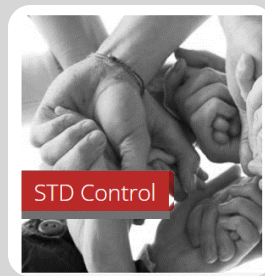
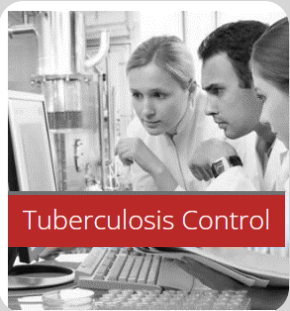


- OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

- *Represent the role/program/group and priorities*
- *Bring expertise to the table*
- *Help the plan to be cohesive while also comprehensive*
- *Support broad-sector agreement/concurrence with plan*
- *Provide high-level feedback*

Office Re-Organization

Office of Disease Integration and Services



Office of HIV and Hep C Services



Ending the Epidemics (ETE) Team

*ETE team provides overarching support for cross cutting initiatives in 3 categories, with the aim of **reducing internal duplication** and providing more **syndemic and integrated support** to subrecipient and contractor agencies:*



Community Engagement & Planning



Special Projects



Training & Workforce Development

Examples of Syndemic Work



What's Next?

- Officewide Strategic Planning
- Integrated Request for Grant Applications (RFGAs)
- Workforce Development and Training Opportunities
- Shared Infectious Disease Database





THANK YOU_

Arlis Jenkins

Hepatitis C Epidemiology Program Manager
Arizona Department of Health Services

Arlis.Jenkins@azdhs.gov

602-478-6791