

CDR Success Stories

Georgia Responds to Five HIV Molecular Clusters

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THE “WHAT”

What happened?

The Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH) HIV molecular cluster detection program identified five HIV molecular clusters primarily centered among Hispanic and Latinos that reported male-to-male sexual contact. These clusters involved at least eight counties and displayed continued growth despite high rates of viral suppression among cluster members, highlighting the need to strengthen public health activities aimed at enhancing HIV testing and linking individuals to care.

THE “SO WHAT”

What was the impact?

Georgia DPH and priority jurisdictions (Fulton, Cobb, Gwinnett and DeKalb Counties) implemented a cluster detection and response team, which meets monthly and collaborates on response activities. They also partnered with CDC to leverage informatics tools in responding to clusters, including dashboards and machine learning algorithms, which helped with natural language processing tools to expedite the way responses are conducted.

Recently, DPH partnered with two community-based organizations that serve Hispanic and Latino communities – _Latino Linq and Latino Community Fund Georgia – _to implement a bilingual-bicultural navigator program that helps individuals from Hispanic and Latino communities access sexual health services across Metro-Atlanta.

“THE NOW WHAT”

What are the longer-term outcomes?

DPH is working to establish a cross-jurisdictional cluster detection contact tracer and HIV linkage coordinator that collaborates with the state and local health departments interviewing and linking cluster members and their partners to needed medical and social services. They will be developing community-informed cluster detection and response (CDR) best practices by partnering with ThriveSS, Latino Linq and Lady BurgAndy, community-based organizations serving minorities with or at risk of acquiring HIV.

More information about this initiative here: [link to MMWR](https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/72/wr/mm7210a3.htm)
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