

# Syndemic Approaches in the Southwest: Arizona's Integrated Strategy

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# Introduction



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# Arizona Department of Health Services

The HIV and Hepatitis C Programs are responsible for the surveillance and prevention throughout the State of Arizona, including:

- Collection and analysis of epidemiological data.
- Case investigations & patient navigation.
- Co-facilitation of community advisory groups such as SWAG and Hep Free AZ.

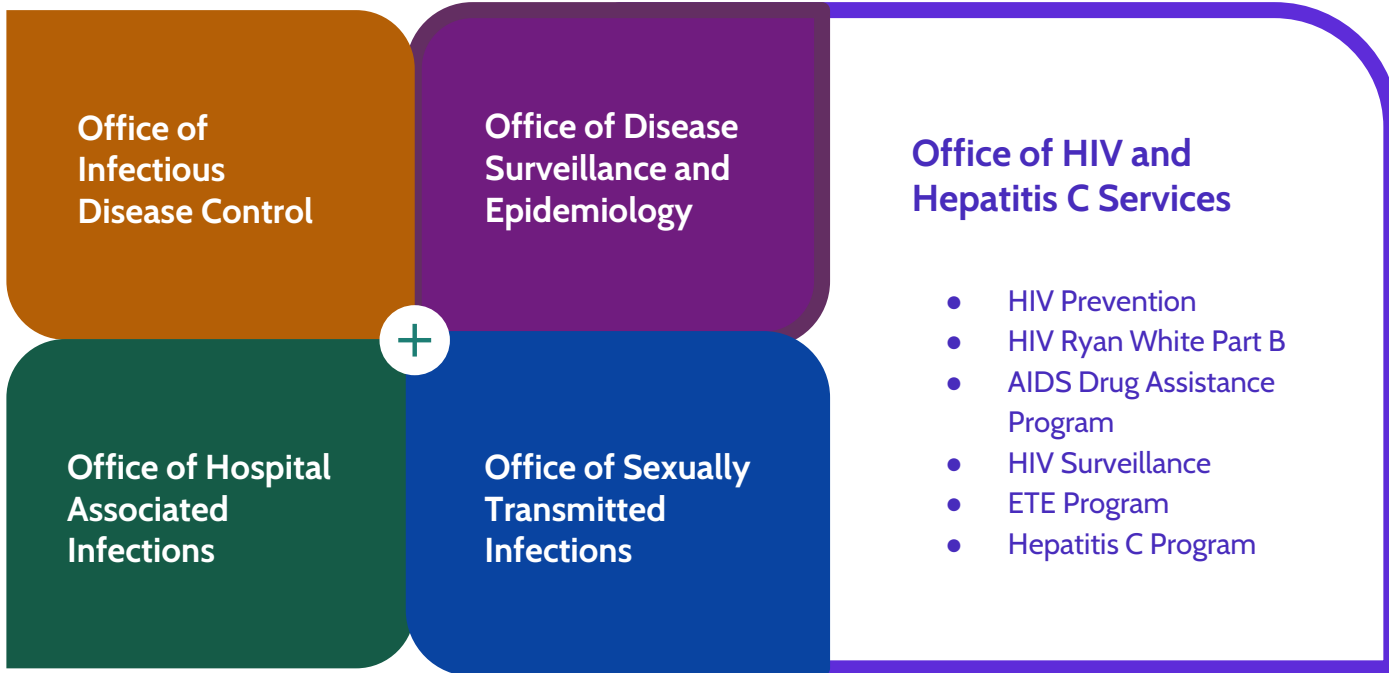


*Health and  
Wellness for  
all  
Arizonans!*



# Our agency at a glance...

## Bureau of Infectious Disease Services



# What are the needs around syndemic work?

# How we use a *syndemic approach*

Syndemic is a *synergistic epidemic*, or linked health care and/or social issue that interacts in such a way that compounds the impact on populations that are more greatly affected by key epidemics.

## What has data shown us?

- Intersections exist
- Many patients face gaps in care

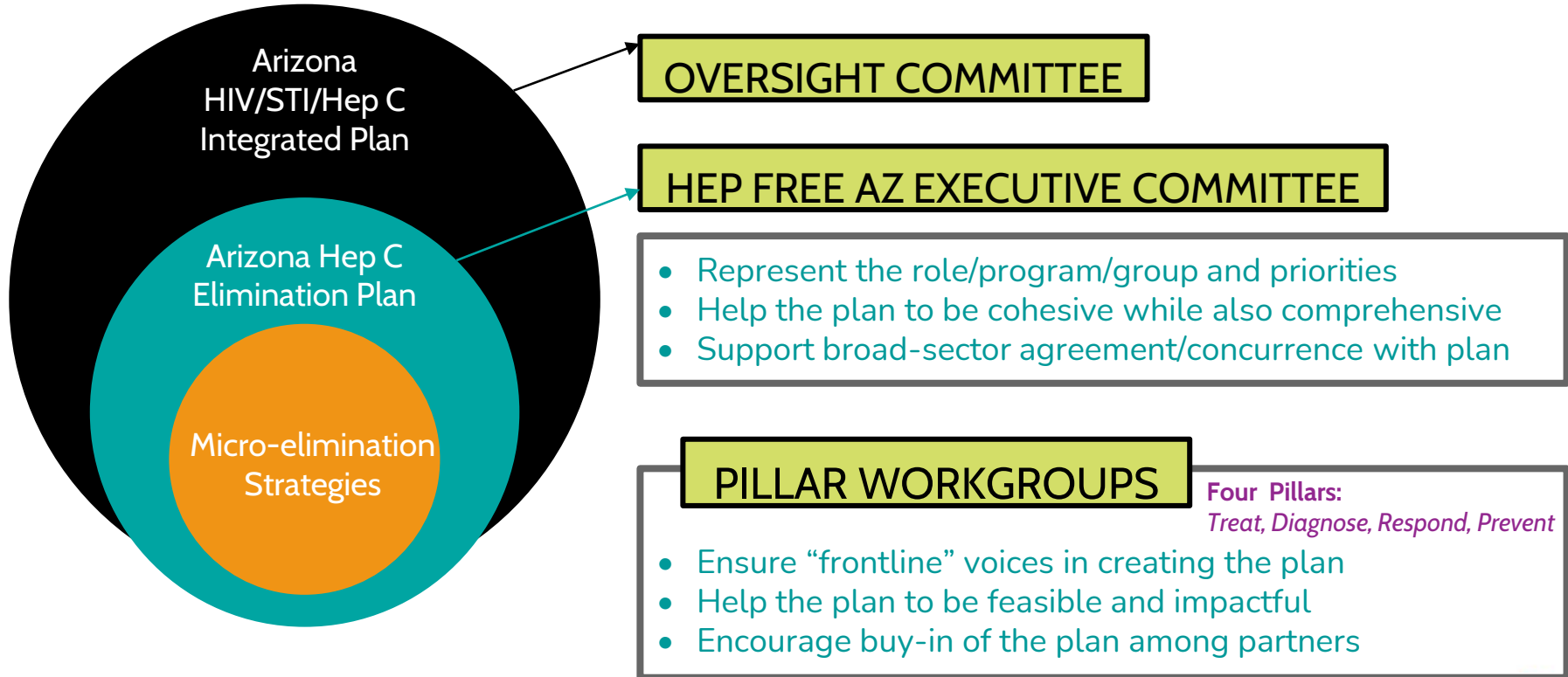
## What are our community partners demonstrating?

- Integration is happening!
- More groups are co-locating, or incorporating warm referrals
- There are opportunities to offer more support

# How are we integrating hep C, HIV, STI into elimination planning?

# Arizona 2022-2026 Integrated Planning

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





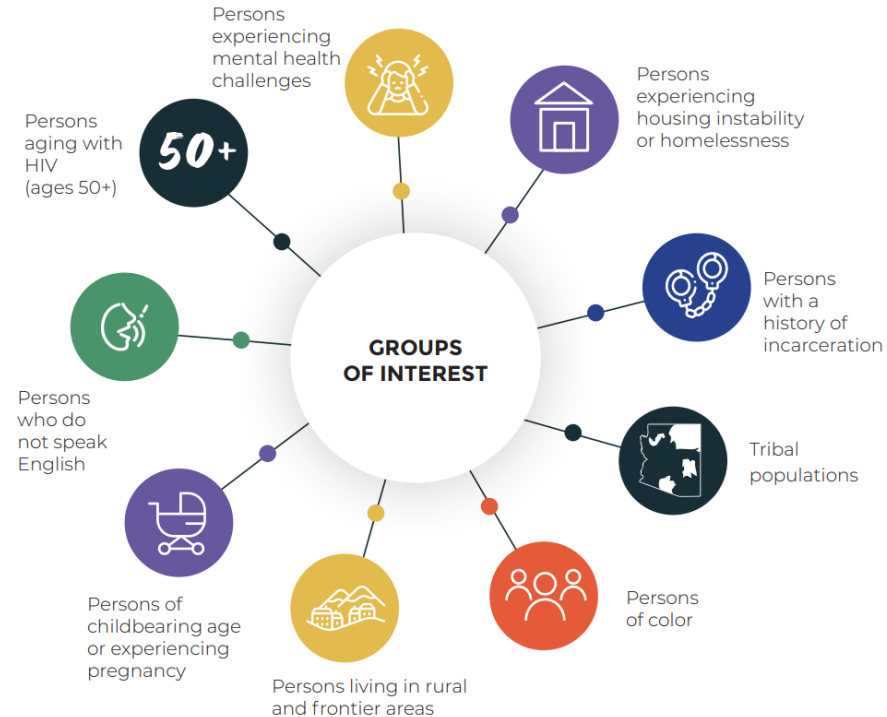
# Planning Process

- Two year process
- Dozens of focus groups
- Thousands of needs assessment surveys
- Four pillar workgroups with community members
- Hep Free AZ and SWAG (HIV Statewide Advisory Group) consensus

## Key Partners

- Health Departments
- Health care providers, clinics
- SSPs and Harm Reduction Orgs
- Academic Institutions
- Community Based Orgs
- People with Lived Experience

# Key Populations



# What does implementation look like?

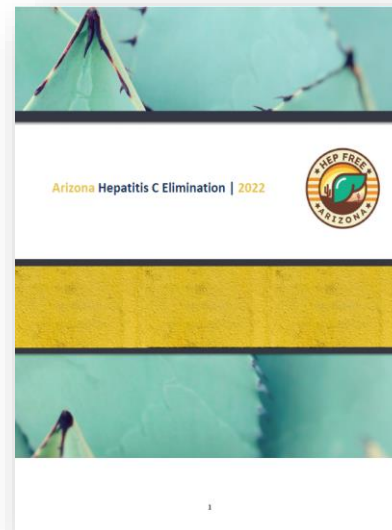
# Implementation & Monitoring

## Arizona 2022-2026 Integrated Plan



- An **Integrated Plan Implementation Committee**
- **Evaluation Survey:** Collecting information and feedback on the planning process.
- View the Plan: [HIVAZ.org](https://HIVAZ.org)

## 2022 Arizona Hepatitis C Elimination Plan



- Implementation by **Hep Free AZ Members**
- **Focuses on:** Micro-elimination strategies and showcasing work at local levels.
- View the Plan: [Hepatitisaz.org](https://Hepatitisaz.org)

# What has made things easier?



## Cross Program/Office Collaboration:

- Newly formed Ending the Epidemics Team
- Officewide Strategic Planning

## Providing Support & Training

- Academic Detailing
- Regular Trainings
- Integrated Symposium

## Integrated Projects

- Integrated Nonclinical Testing Program
- Outbreak Planning
- Statewide Surveillance System Enhancements

## Creating Funding Mechanisms

- Braided Funding (RFPs and RFGAs)
- 340b Programming

# What has made things more challenging?

## **Lack of Funding**

- Elimination Plan is just a piece of paper without true investment

## **Competing Interests**

## **Generating Buy-in and Trust**

## **Surveillance System Limitations**

## **Policy and Social Issues**

## **Silos / Lack of Collaboration**

- Opioid Response and Substance Use Prevention teams have been less involved
- Hep A and Hep B separate

# Questions?

## Division of Public Health Preparedness



ARIZONA DEPARTMENT  
OF HEALTH SERVICES

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# SYNDEMIC SEPTEMBER