



Centering Community Engagement in Syndemic Approaches – Chicago

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Overview

- Defining a syndemic
- Data / epi context
- Syndemic priorities
- Pathways to address syndemic priorities
- Examples of syndemic work



Defining syndemic

- Synergistically interacting epidemics / population-level clustering of social and health problems.
 - 2 or more diseases or health conditions cluster within a population.
 - Contextual and social factors create conditions for clustering, like those associated with SDoH.
 - Results in adverse disease interactions biological, social, or behavioral increasing health burden of the affected population.



Data / epi context – people matter

- In Chicago, cisgender males who engage in male-to-male sexual contact accounted for a plurality of new HIV diagnoses (56.5%), prevalent HIV cases (60.3%), and P&S cases (33.4%) in 2021, and 75% of mpox cases in 2022.
- National data suggest persons who inject drugs account for most new acute HCV diagnoses and a large proportion of HBV diagnoses.



Data / epi context — HIV co-infection, Chicago 2021

Syndemic ID	# of Cases	# Co-l with HIV	% Co-l with HIV	% Co-I with HIV who are cis male	% Co-I with HIV who are cis MSM
ТВ	97	4	4.1%	N/A	N/A
HCV (new)	960	60	6.3%	96.7%	68.3%
HCV (prevalent)	21,498	1,006	4.7%	77.7%	35.0%
Chlamydia	27,404	1,524	5.6%	93.1%	82.1%
Gonorrhea	13,451	1,671	12.4%	96.2%	83.7%
P&S Syphilis	794	239	30.1%	97.1%	84.5%
Мрох	1,116	488	43.7%	93.0%	78.0%

HIV/HBV co-infection data are not available. Research suggests 5-10% of PLWH are co-infected with HBV.

(https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/20158604)



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Chicago syndemic priorities – back to the definition

- What populations are experiencing clustering of two or more syndemic infectious diseases (SID) and/or other health conditions that lead to increased health burden and poor health outcomes?
 - What are the SID?
 - HIV, STI, mpox, HBV, HCV, and TB
 - What are the other health conditions?
 - Substance use, mental health, violence, chronic disease, and others
 - What contextual and social factors create conditions for clustering?
 - Employment / economic instability, housing instability, justice involvement, limited access to quality education and healthcare, social isolation / exclusion, immigration status, and others



Chicago syndemic priorities – populations

Populations:

- Cis gay, bi, and other same-gender-loving men with an emphasis on Black and Latino/é men
- Black and Latina/é women of transgender experience
- Persons who inject drugs
- Persons aging with HIV



Pathways to addressing syndemic priorities

- Data
- Partnerships
- Programs and services
- Communication



Examples – Population-Centered Health Homes



























Examples – Chicago Methamphetamine Task Force





Examples – Examples – SID provider conference

Syndemics: Intersecting
Challenges & Integrated
Solutions

Malcolm X College Chicago, IL June 27, 2024 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. CST

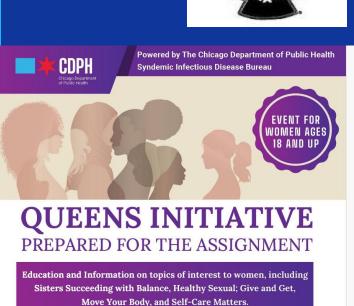




Examples – community health activations



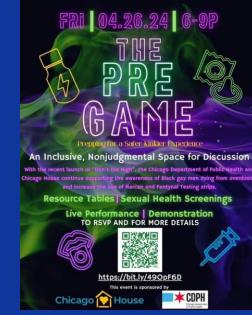




SATURDAY | APRIL 27 | 12:00PM-5:00PM









Closing

- Remember a syndemic includes more than just a couple SID. Consider other associated conditions and underlying factors that impact the lives of specific populations.
- Let your data (surveillance and other) be the guide to defining your local priorities.
- Work to understand and incorporate the contextual and social factors that create the conditions for a syndemic.
- If you can, be specific in defining syndemic priorities and remember, people first!
- Strive to incorporate syndemic approaches into existing programs and services when possible.
- Build/maintain partnerships and routinely communicate with partners to amplify syndemic work.