



ANNUAL MEETING 2024

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-I with HIV	% Co-I with HIV	% Co-I with HIV who are cis male	% Co-I with HIV who are cis MSM
TB	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%
Mpox	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

SPRING TRANS HEALTH & WELLNESS SUMMIT

MARCH 29
9AM-5PM
LUNCH PROVIDED

UIC Forum 725 W. Roosevelt Rd Chicago IL, 60608

SPRING THAW 2024

LIFE IS WORK



CDPH Chicago Department of Public Health

Powered by The Chicago Department of Public Health Syndemic Infectious Disease Bureau

EVENT FOR WOMEN AGES 18 AND UP

QUEENS INITIATIVE PREPARED FOR THE ASSIGNMENT

Education and Information on topics of interest to women, including Sisters Succeeding with Balance, Healthy Sexual; Give and Get, Move Your Body, and Self-Care Matters.

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

CHICAGO BLACK GAY MEN'S CAUCUS PRESENTS:

LOVEFEST 2023: Health Summit and SLAM Saturday

11:00AM	Welcome and Introduction of Partners: Antonio King (CDPH Public Health Administrator/LGBTQ Health & Outreach Liaison) and Dr. Cynthia Tucker (AIDS Foundation Chicago)
11:15pm	Background and viewing of "How You Doin'?" documentary
12:00PM	Panel Discussion with Calla Rounds and Zaida Sanabria (Chicago Police Department), Rev. Don Abram (Pride in the Pews), Dr. Marcus Smith (The Family Institute), Derrick Little (Chicago Public Schools), Leslie Givens (LinkUp Chicago), and John Sykes, MSW, LCSW (AccordingToSykes).
12:45PM	Fireside Chat facilitated by panelist and co-facilitated by Black gay-identified community advocates.
1:15PM	Lunch
2:15PM	Keynote Address by Dr. Maurice Brownlee (Wellness Homes of Chicago)
3:00PM	Poetry Slam hosted by ButterFlySoul

CHICAGO BLACK GAY MEN'S CAUCUS

SAT & SUN AUGUST 19TH-20TH
DUSABLE MUSEUM | 740 E 56TH PLACE

Latiné/x Health Summit

Unity Strengthens Us
Organized by PROJECT VIDA

Save The Date
July 14, 2024
12:00-6:00PM
Joe's on Weed St
940 W Weed St, Chicago, IL 60642

A Health Summit for Gay, Bi, Same Gender Loving Men

SPONSORED BY Viiv Healthcare

SILVER SPONSOR: AFC

OUR PARTNERS: PYP, TEARS, VIDA, FORCE, Noveyxa Labs, ESPERANZA, CDPH, Sinai Chicago, ASIA, FORTO MICAL CULTURAL CENTER

FRI | 04.26.24 | 6-9P

THE PRE GAME

Prepping for a Safer, Kinkier Experience

An Inclusive, Nonjudgmental Space for Discussion

With the recent launch of "Don't Die High", the Chicago Department of Public Health and Chicago House continue supporting the awareness of Black gay men dying from overdosing and increase the use of Narcan and Fentanyl Testing strips.

Resource Tables | Sexual Health Screenings

Live Performance | Demonstration TO RSVP AND FOR MORE DETAILS

<https://bit.ly/49OpF6D>

This event is sponsored by Chicago House and CDPH

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.