

NEWS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Public Health Works to Reduce New HIV Infections in Los Angeles County

LOS ANGELES – The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) announced this week its new plan that identifies goals and strategies to reduce new HIV infections in the state while ensuring that persons living with HIV receive appropriate care. The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (Public Health) applauds these commitments to address the impact of HIV disease statewide, and will continue to enhance its local efforts to dramatically reduce new HIV infections in Los Angeles County.

“Public Health oversees one of the most aggressive and productive HIV case-finding, linkage, retention and treatment programs in the country,” said Jeffrey Gunzenhauser, MD, MPH, Interim Health Officer for Los Angeles County. “Through a broad range of evolving initiatives, Public Health ensures that tens of thousands of residents are diagnosed as early in their course of HIV infection as possible, that they are promptly linked to medical care and treatment, and that they are retained in care. Retention in care coupled with adherence to treatment not only helps achieve sustained viral suppression among persons living with HIV, but also reduces the likelihood of HIV transmission.”

There are nearly 60,000 people living with HIV/AIDS in Los Angeles County. There are an estimated 1,800 new HIV infections each year, down from the peak of more than 6,000 infections per year seen in the 1990s.

Public Health, through its Division of HIV and STD Programs (DHSP), supports efforts aimed at reducing new HIV infections, increasing access to care, and reducing disparities. Expanded biomedical prevention utilization (including pre-exposure prophylaxis, or PrEP), increased testing, and robust linkage and retention activities, among others, can help achieve these goals. Public Health has already implemented and is currently expanding its Medical Care Coordination Initiative designed to retain

clients in care and the Linkage and Re-Engagement Program to ensure that persons who have fallen out of care are promptly reconnected to their medical home.

Public Health and DHSP look forward to continuing work with CDPH, the California Office of AIDS, the Los Angeles County Commission on HIV, community-based organizations, and other local HIV stakeholders to do everything possible to bring an end to the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

For more information on Public Health's Division of HIV and STD Programs, please visit <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/dhsp/index.htm>.

About Los Angeles County Department of Public Health

The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health is committed to protecting and improving the health of the nearly 10 million residents of Los Angeles County. Through a variety of programs, community partnerships and services, Public Health oversees environmental health, disease control, and community and family health. Public Health comprises nearly 4,000 employees and has an annual budget exceeding \$900 million. To learn more about the Department of Public Health and the work we do, please visit PublicHealth.LACounty.gov.

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