



Connecticut HIV Planning Consortium



ACRONYMS and DEFINITIONS

AA: African American

ACA: Affordable Care Act (“Obamacare”)

ACO: Accountable Care Organization. A healthcare organization characterized by a payment and care delivery model that seeks to tie provider reimbursements to quality metrics and reductions in the total cost of care for an assigned population of patients.

ACT: AIDS Connecticut. A statewide coalition of organizations that provide services to people living with HIV/AIDS in Connecticut.

AD: Associates Degree

ADAP: AIDS Drug Assistance Program. ADAPs provide HIV-related prescription drugs to low-income people with HIV/AIDS who have limited or no prescription drug coverage. ADAPs receive funding under Ryan White Part B. Connecticut’s ADAP is called CADAP.

AETC: AIDS Education and Training Center. The training arm of the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program. A national network of leading HIV experts who provide locally based, tailored education, clinical consultation and technical assistance to healthcare professionals and healthcare organizations to integrate high quality, comprehensive care for those living with or affected by HIV. Yale University School of Medicine is the New England regional partner of the AETC.

AHEC: Area Health Education Center. The Connecticut AHEC Network works throughout Connecticut to improve access to basic health care by linking local community groups with the resources of the University of Connecticut Health Center and other health professions training programs.

AIDS: Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome

AIDS LIFE: The AIDS Legislative Initiative and Funding Effort Campaign is Connecticut's only statewide group that focuses solely on all of the policy-related issues impacting people living with and at high risk for HIV/AIDS.

AJC: American Job Center (or One Stop Career Center). Career centers that provide a full range of assistance to jobseekers. Connecticut has a network of 19 AJCs.

ALICE: Asset Limited Income Constrained Employed. A way of defining and understanding the struggles of households that earn above the Federal Poverty Level, but not enough to afford a bare-bones household budget.

APNH: A Place to Nourish your Health (formerly known as AIDS Project New Haven). An AIDS Service Organization that serves the New Haven area.

APRN: Advanced Practice Registered Nurse

ART: Antiretroviral Therapy. Medications that treat HIV. The drugs do not kill or cure the virus, but when taken in combination they can prevent the growth of the virus.

ASO: AIDS Service Organization. A community-based organization that provides support for people living with HIV and AIDS.

BRFSS: Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System. A telephone survey that tracks health risks in the United States. It is administered and supported by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and conducted by state health departments.

BA: Bachelor of Arts degree

Bi: Bisexual

BS: Bachelor of Science degree

CADAP: Connecticut AIDS Drug Assistance Program. A pharmaceutical assistance program that pays for HIV/AIDS medications and other drugs that may prevent the serious deterioration of health in persons living with HIV and AIDS. The Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH) administers this program.

CADC: Certified Alcohol and Drug Counselor

CAN: Coordinated Access Network. Providers of service to people experiencing homelessness are coordinating their efforts to end homelessness in communities across Connecticut by developing Coordinated Access Networks.

CBO: Community Based Organization. An organization that is representative of a community or a significant segment of a community, and is engaged in meeting human, educational, environmental, or public safety community needs.

CCAR: The Connecticut Community for Addiction Recovery organizes the recovery community to put a face on recovery and provide recovery support services; promotes recovery from alcohol and other drug addiction through advocacy, education and service; and is a global leader in quality recovery coach training.

CCMC: Connecticut Children's Medical Center (now known as "Connecticut Children's")

CD4 count: A lab test that measures the number of CD4 T lymphocytes (CD4 cells) in a sample of your blood. In people with HIV, it is the most important laboratory indicator of how well your immune system is working and the strongest predictor of HIV progression.

CDC: US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The federal agency responsible for monitoring, planning and implementing public health activities for the US.

CHC: Community Health Center. Network of health centers funded by HRSA to provide family-oriented primary and preventive health care services for people living in rural and urban medically underserved communities.

CHCACT: The Community Health Centers Association of Connecticut is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to strengthening and supporting the clinical and administrative operations of community health centers across Connecticut. CHCACT offers advocacy, program administration and training and technical assistance services to member health centers.

CHPC: Connecticut HIV Planning Consortium. The combined care and prevention HIV planning body in Connecticut.

CIPA: Connecticut Insurance Premium Assistance Program. A health insurance assistance program funded through the Connecticut AIDS Drug Assistance Program (CADAP) for individuals living with HIV/AIDS who are CADAP eligible.

CIRA: Center for Interdisciplinary Research on AIDS of Yale University. New England's only National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) funded AIDS research center.

CLI: Community Level Interventions seek to change attitudes, norms, and values of an entire community or priority population as well as social and environmental context of risk behaviors of the priority population or community.

CMS: Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) that administers Medicare, Medicaid, the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), and parts of the Affordable Care Act (ACA).

COVID-19: An acute respiratory illness in humans caused by a coronavirus, capable of producing severe symptoms and in some cases death, especially in older people and those with underlying health conditions. It was originally identified in China in 2019 and became a pandemic in 2020.

CQI: Continuous Quality Improvement.

CRCS: Comprehensive Risk Counseling Services. An intensive, individual level, client-centered risk reduction intervention for people at high risk for HIV infection or transmission. Previously known as Prevention Case Management.

CSAP: Center for Substance Abuse Prevention. A SAMHSA center with a mission to improve behavioral health through evidence-based prevention approaches.

CSAT: Center for Substance Abuse Treatment. A SAMHSA center that promotes community-based substance abuse treatment and recovery services for individuals and families in every community by providing national leadership to improve access, reduce barriers, and promote high quality, effective treatment and recovery services.

CT: Connecticut

CTL: Counseling, Testing, and Linkage.

CYFAN: Children, Youth and Family AIDS Network of Connecticut. A statewide provider network supported by CHCACT for medical care, family-centered case management services and outreach.

DTC: Data to Care initiative is an HIV prevention concept to identify HIV positive individuals who could benefit from public health intervention using lab data as a proxy for a care visit and helping to identify the length of time someone has been out of care.

DAC: Data and Assessment Committee of the CHPC

DCF: Connecticut Department of Children and Families

DDS: Connecticut Department of Developmental Services

DHAP: Division of HIV/AIDS Prevention. CDC division charged with the mission of preventing HIV infection and reducing the incidence of HIV-related illness and death.

DIS: Disease Intervention Specialist. DIS personnel conduct voluntary interviews with patients to obtain the names and contact information of their sexual partner(s) and then use that information to contact a patient's sexual partner(s) and inform them of their potential exposure to an STD or HIV.

DMHAS: Connecticut Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services

DOC: Connecticut Department of Correction

DOH: Connecticut Department of Housing

DOT: Connecticut Department of Transportation

DPH or CTDPH: Connecticut Department of Public Health

DSS: Connecticut Department of Social Services

DUH: Drug User Health is a scope of services that underlines a harm reduction philosophy that emphasizes "meeting drug users where they are" by providing services, harm reduction activities and support that addresses drug users' structural and social barriers.

Dx: Diagnosis

E2C: A data collection platform used by the Connecticut Department of Public Health.

EBI: Effective Behavioral Interventions. Programs and activities that have been scientifically proven to be effective in HIV prevention.

ED: Emergency Department

eHARS: Enhanced HIV/AIDS Reporting System. A browser-based application provided by the CDC to collect, manage and report HIV/AIDS cases surveillance data to CDC.

EHR: Electronic Health Record

EIHA (Pronounced ee-ha): Early Identification of Individuals with HIV/AIDS

EIS: Early Intervention Services. Activities designed to identify individuals who are HIV+ and get them into care as quickly as possible.

EMA: Eligible Metropolitan Area. Under the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Treatment Modernization Act, metropolitan areas with a cumulative total of more than 2000 cases of AIDS during the most recent 5-year period and a population of 50,000 or more.

EMR: Electronic Medical Record

EPI: Epidemiology, Epidemiological. The study of incidence, distribution, and control of diseases in a population.

ERLI: Early Referral & Linkage Initiative protocol promotes collaboration and culturally competent, psychologically and developmentally appropriate, and linguistically specific client referrals by HIV/OTL staff and HIV Medical Case Managers.

ETHE: Ending the HIV Epidemic. A federal initiative that aims to reduce new HIV infections in the U.S. by 90% by 2030.

ETI: The Expanded Testing Initiative relies on community health centers, emergency departments, and outpatient clinics to conduct expanded and integrated opt-out HIV screening or routine testing.

FDA: Food and Drug Administration

FPL: Federal Poverty Level. The set minimum amount of gross income that a family needs for food, clothing, transportation, shelter and other necessities. FPL varies according to family size. A family's FPL determines their eligibility for certain programs, such as ADAP.

FQHC: Federally Qualified Health Centers must serve an underserved area or population, offer a sliding fee scale, provide comprehensive services, have an ongoing quality assurance program, and have a governing board of directors.

FTM: Female to Male (transgender)

GC: Gonorrhea

G57: 57 jurisdictions in the nation funded by the federal government to develop Ending the HIV Epidemic plans.

G2Z: Getting to Zero. The G2Z goal is for all people living with HIV (PLWH) to be diagnosed, receive medical care, and achieve viral suppression through HIV medication.

GBAPP: Greater Bridgeport Area Prevention Program. An AIDS Service Organization that serves the Bridgeport area.

HAART: Highly Active Anti-Retroviral Therapy

HAB: HIV/AIDS Bureau. The federal Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) HIV/AIDS Bureau.

HANK: HIV-AIDS Networked Knowledgebase used to support the Data-to-Care initiative and consolidate and organize data from siloed data systems into a user-friendly person view.

HAV: Hepatitis A Virus

HBV: Hepatitis B Virus

HCSS: Health Care and Support Services. The branch of the Connecticut Dept. of Public Health's AIDS & Chronic Diseases Section which is responsible for Part B of the Modernization Act.

HCV or HEP C: Hepatitis C Virus

HHC: Hartford HealthCare system

HHS: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

HIP: High Impact Prevention strategies

HIPAA: Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act

HIV: Human Immunodeficiency Virus

HOPWA: Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS Program to devise long-term comprehensive strategies for meeting housing needs of persons living with HIV/AIDS.

HPV: Human papillomavirus is a viral infection that is passed between people through skin-to-skin contact.

HSV: Herpes Simplex Virus

HRA of New Britain: Human Resources Agency of New Britain.

HRSA: Health Resources and Services Administration. The Federal agency concerned with programs involving expanding access to comprehensive, quality health care.

HTFD: Hartford

HYHIL: Hartford Youth HIV Identification and Linkage Consortium

HUSKY: Healthcare for Uninsured Kids and Youth

Hx: History

ID: Infectious disease

IDU: Injection drug user, Intravenous drug user

InCHIP: Institute for Collaboration on Health, Intervention, and Policy. A multidisciplinary research institute at the University of Connecticut dedicated to the creation and dissemination of new scientific knowledge and theoretical frameworks in the areas of health behavior and health behavior change.

IV: Intravenous

LCS: Latino Community Services. An AIDS Service Organization that serves the Hartford area.

LEA: Local Education Agency

LGBT(Q): Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (Questioning)

LPC: Local Prevention Councils are coalitions funded by the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services to promote substance use prevention and health promotion at the local level.

MA: Master of Arts degree

MAC: Membership and Awareness Committee of the CHPC.

MAI: The Minority AIDS Initiative is a national initiative to provide resources to reduce the spread of HIV/AIDS and improve health outcomes for PLWH/A within communities of color.

MAP: The statewide Medication Adherence Program helps PLWH adhere to their medication regimens.

MAT: Medication Assisted Treatment

MCM: The Statewide Medical Case Management programs assist PLWH with income levels of 300% FPL or less to enter and remain in medical care through bio-psychosocial assessments, individualized care plans, advocacy, and referrals for core and support services including health insurance.

MD: Medical Doctor

MIS: Management Information System

MOA: Memorandum of Agreement

MOU: Memorandum of Understanding

MS: Master of Science degree

MSM: Men who Have Sex with Men. Includes men who identify as Gay and those who do not.

MTF: Male to Female (transgender)

MSW: Masters of Social Work

NAP Team: Needs Assessment Projects Team, a sub-group of the CHPC Data and Assessment Committee.

NAPWA: National Association of People With AIDS

NASTAD: National Association of State and Territorial AIDS Directors. A non-profit national association of state health department HIV/AIDS program directors.

NCHHSTP: National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention. CDC center responsible for public health surveillance, prevention research, programs to prevent HIV/AIDS, STDs, viral hepatitis, and TB, and promoting school-based health and disease prevention.

NH: New Haven

NHAS: National HIV/AIDS Strategy

NL: New London

NMAC: National Minority AIDS Council. NMAC's mission is to develop more equitable and capable responses to the crisis of HIV/AIDS in America's communities of color.

NP: Nurse Practitioner

nPEP: Non-Occupational Post Exposure Prophylaxis.

OD: Overdose

ONAP: The Office of National AIDS Policy is part of the White House Domestic Policy Council and is tasked with coordinating the continuing efforts of the government to reduce the number of HIV infections across the United States.

OPEN Access CT: Overdose Prevention Education and Naloxone Access CT. A DPH initiative focused on providing statewide training, education, informational resources and Naloxone distribution for people who access DPH funded Syringe Services Programs.

OTC: Over the Counter

OTL: Outreach, Testing, and Linkage to Care. An initiative consisting of condom distribution, education, rapid HIV testing and linking individuals to care services through participating outreach sites community.

PA: Physician Assistant

Part A: Ryan White Modernization Act section, formerly Title I of the Ryan White CARE Act. Funds Eligible Metropolitan Areas and Transitional Grant Areas.

Part B: Ryan White Modernization Act section, formerly Title II of the Ryan White CARE Act. Funds states to provide health care and support services.

Part C: Ryan White Modernization Act section, formerly Title III of the Ryan White CARE Act.

Part D: Ryan White Modernization Act section, formerly Title IV of the Ryan White CARE Act. Funds support services for women, infants, children & youth.

Part F: Ryan White Modernization Act section, formerly Title V of the Ryan White CARE Act. Comprises Special Projects of National Significance (SPNS), AIDS Education and Training Centers (AETC), dental programs, and the Minority AIDS Initiative (MAI).

PCSI (pronounced “pixy”): Program Collaboration and Service Integration. A mechanism for organizing and blending interrelated health issues, activities, and prevention strategies to facilitate comprehensive delivery of services.

PCP: Primary Care Provider

PDSA: Plan–Do–Study–Act. An iterative four-step management method used for the control and continuous improvement of processes and products.

PEP: Post-Exposure Prophylaxis. Taking anti-HIV medications as soon as possible after you may have been exposed to HIV to try to reduce the chance of becoming HIV positive.

PhD: Doctor of Philosophy degree

PII: Personally Identifiable Information. Any data that can be used to identify a specific individual.

PLWA: People Living with AIDS

PLWH: People Living with HIV

PLWHA: People Living with HIV/AIDS

PPSNE: Planned Parenthood of Southern New England

PrEP: Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis. A way for people who do not have HIV but who are at substantial risk of getting it to *prevent* HIV infection by taking a pill every day.

PS: Partner Services program operated by the Connecticut Department of Public Health that uses a confidential protocol by trained field staff to locate, screen and treat partners without divulging the identity of the infected patient.

PWID: Persons Who Inject Drugs

PWP: Prevention With Positives, Prevention With Persons With HIV

QA: Quality Assurance. The process of identifying problems in service delivery, designing activities to overcome these problems, and following up to ensure that no new problems have developed and that corrective actions have been effective.

QI: Quality Improvement. An ongoing process of monitoring and evaluating activities and outcomes in order to continuously improve service delivery.

QM: Quality Management. A systematic process with identified leadership, accountability, and dedicated resources and uses data and measurable outcomes to determine progress toward relevant, evidence-based benchmarks.

QPM Team: Quality and Performance Measures Team. A subgroup of the CHPC Data and Assessment Committee (DAC).

RBHAO: Regional Behavioral Health Action Organization funded by the Connecticut Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services to promote mental health and substance abuse prevention and treatment.

RFP: Request for Proposals

RN: Registered Nurse

RWPC: Ryan White Planning Council

Rx: Medical prescription

SAMHSA: U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

SCSN: Statewide Coordinated Statement of Need. The SCSN is a mechanism for addressing key HIV/AIDS care issues and enhancing coordination across CARE Act programs and titles.

SDE: Connecticut State Department of Education

SDOH: Social Determinants of Health are conditions in the environments in which people are born, live, learn, work, play, worship, and age that affect a wide range of health, functioning, and quality-of-life outcomes and risks.

SHIP: Connecticut State Health Improvement Plan.

SIM: Medicaid State Innovation Model. A broad stakeholder effort under the Affordable Care Act (ACA) to transform healthcare delivery and health for Connecticut's residents.

SNS: Social Networking Strategy. An evidence supported approach to recruiting high-risk people into testing by using peers to reach out to their social networks.

SPNS (Pronounced "spins"): Special Projects of National Significance. The SPNS Program advances knowledge and skills in the delivery of health and support services to underserved populations diagnosed with HIV infection.

SSDI: Social Security Disability Insurance

SSI: Supplemental Security Income

SSP: Syringe Services Program (formerly called syringe exchange program or SEP)

STD: Sexually Transmitted Disease

STI: Sexually Transmitted Infection

STMFD: Stamford

T as P: Treatment as Prevention

TA: Technical Assistance

TB: Tuberculosis

TGA: Transitional Grant Area. Under the Modernization Act, TGAs are cities that have between 1000 - 1999 cumulative AIDS cases in the past 5 years.

TT: Testing Together. A public health strategy that occurs when two or more persons who are in or planning to be in a sexual relationship receive HIV testing services together. Previously known as Couples HIV Testing and Counseling (CHTC).

Tx: Treatment

USCA: United States Conference on AIDS

UW: United Way

WAD: World AIDS Day (December 1 each year)

WILLOW: Women Involved in Life Learning from Other Women is a small group, skill-training evidence-based intervention for women living with HIV.

WTBY: Waterbury

VL: Viral Load

YNHH: Yale New Haven Health System

WHO: World Health Organization