

2016 ANNUAL REPORT

Programming Partnerships Innovations Outcomes



HIV/AIDS in Houston/Harris County

Estimated Houston/Harris County population as of 2015: **4,538,028**¹

Estimated number of Houston/Harris County residents newly diagnosed in 2014: **1,184**²

Number of African Americans diagnosed in 2014 for every white person diagnosed: **4.5**²

Number of African American women diagnosed in 2014
for every white woman diagnosed: **21.1**²

Percentage of African Americans women
among newly diagnosed women in 2014: **62**²

Percentage of men living with HIV in 2014 who
acquired it through sex with men: **54.1**²

Number of men who have sex with men who were
newly diagnosed with HIV in 2014: **> 800**²

Age group of Houston/Harris County residents with the most new HIV cases: **15-34**²

Number of 15-24 year old African Americans newly diagnosed in 2014
for every 15-24 year old white person diagnosed: **7.6**²

Age group of Houston/Harris County women with the most new HIV cases: **35-44**²

Number of male residents newly diagnosed in 2014 for every female diagnosed: **3.7**²

Percentage of Houston/Harris County residents
living below the Federal Poverty Level: **17.4**²

Percentage of residents (all races) who do not have health insurance: **22**²

Percentage of those newly diagnosed who progress to AIDS within one year: **26.2**²

Sources:

¹ *State & County QuickFacts*. United States Census Bureau.
<http://www.census.gov/quickfacts/table/PST045215/48201,00> Retrieved August 29, 2016.

² Houston Health Department, HIV Surveillance Program. *HIV Infection in Houston: An Epidemiologic Profile 2010-2014*. Houston, Texas; 2015.



STRATEGIES & DIRECTION

AIDS Foundation Houston, Inc.'s leadership developed an innovative three-year Strategic Plan that will take us into 2019 while continuing AFH's 34 year history of serving those most vulnerable to HIV/AIDS. With the goals of the 2013–2016 AIDS Foundation Houston, Inc. (AFH) Strategic Plan met, AFH leadership placed its sights on the future. AFH listened to stakeholders, investigated cutting edge national trends in HIV treatment and prevention, and formed strategic partnerships with local and national agencies over the last year to determine the best course of action.

IMPACT & RELEVANCE

So much has changed in the last 30 years. Before we began developing strategies for the next three years, the Strategic Planning Committee paused to consider our desired impact. What impact do we want to make? Are our goals today the same as they were 30 years ago? Thirty years ago we didn't have effective anti-retrovirals or biomedical prevention, such as PrEP, or even an accurate way to test for the disease. However, due to extraordinary efforts of the global movement to end HIV/AIDS those and new preventatives, medications, and interventions are being introduced several times a year. Our momentum is increasing as the finish line approaches.

The question is, do those advances change the goals of AFH? Not at all. On a programmatic level AFH continues to incorporate new biomedical advances into each client interaction. Our toolkit for prevention and viral suppression has grown, but our purpose and the populations we serve are the same. We exist to end HIV/AIDS.

We provide access to a community of services for those affected by HIV and experiencing inequities caused by injustice. Our goal is to prevent new HIV infections and increase viral suppression.

OUTCOMES & MEASURABLE RESULTS

Our efforts for next three years will show that AIDS Foundation Houston, Inc. is the “go-to” source in the community for HIV/AIDS information. We will support innovative new and existing programs with a network of sustainable funding streams. Partnerships will create pioneering programs that demonstrate excellence in execution and impactful outcomes. These outcomes will further AFH's stabilizing services that serve those affected by HIV/AIDS and support transformative services including research, education, and advocacy needed to prevent HIV.

The 2016–2019 Strategic Plan will focus on four core areas:

1. Excellence in Programming
2. Partnerships
3. Innovation in Funding
4. Demonstrated Outcomes



I'm proud to present five success stories in this year's Annual Report. As a donor please know each client success story is because of your compassion and generosity. HIV/AIDS is a global disease, but by helping end it here in our community, you help end it worldwide.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kelly Young".

Kelly Young, Chief Executive Officer

OUTCOMES

A Life in Transformation

Sometimes life throws us curves. For Carla*, a 10-year high-tech professional, one came when she discovered she was HIV-positive. Ashamed, embarrassed, and overwhelmed with fear, she shut down. She found it hard to go to work, so she stopped. She shut out friends and family. When her savings ran out, she was forced to start living out of her car. Realizing this would not work, Carla became determined to take control of her health and rebuild her life. She began by getting healthy. She did odd jobs to pay for medical and prescription expenses, often going hungry just to stay on her meds.

Eventually a relative found out about Carla's situation and gave her support to move forward. Today she lives in an apartment in one of AFH's housing programs and sleeps in a bed of her own. "It was like angels had come from heaven and put me in that bed." She is also in school studying for a new career and is well on her way back to good health and self-sufficiency.

AFH operates six housing programs focused on various segments of the community. When one's basic needs are met, the mind clears and can consider other needs.

As a coordinated access point for The Way Home, AFH allows anyone who is homeless to apply for housing, regardless of HIV status.

Housing provides stability that fosters progress. Fifty-five percent of AFH housing clients have income, and for 20% it comes from a job. 29% of those in the housing program one year ago have moved to private housing. Of those who entered AFH housing with drug or alcohol problems, 53% are now drug/alcohol free.

*Name changed to protect anonymity



PARTNERSHIPS

Swimming in a Real Pool

Life seems especially unfair when it burdens a child with HIV. Twelve year old David* was withdrawn during his first visit to a Dallas clinic. His eyes remained locked on his mother who was also sick with HIV/AIDS. Fortunately David's caregiver was Dr. Matthew Leahy, Psychosocial Director of Camp Hope. Over the next few months, he introduced Camp Hope to David and his mother.

One day, David's mother called Dr. Leahy. She wanted David to attend camp, but she worried other children tease him because he had so few clothes. The generous

clinic staff pooled funds to make sure David was "camp ready." Climbing onto the bus that first morning, he stared at his mother nervously, waving goodbye and hugging his pillow.

David had the time of his life. On the bus ride home he told Dr. Leahy that Camp Hope was his first time to swim "in a real pool." David returns to camp every year now.

In addition to having HIV/AIDS, most campers live in extreme poverty. At camp they don't go hungry. Fear and stigma melt away. If they struggle to take their HIV medication, the medical

staff helps them overcome it. Knowing you are not alone is a powerful source of strength for overcoming life's challenges.

Partnering with Texas Children's Hospital and Baylor Pediatric AIDS Initiative, Camp Hope medical staff is studying the effectiveness Camp Hope has on the campers' medication adherence and viral loads in an effort to quantify the tangible health benefits of Camp Hope. Preliminary results from the study indicate that camper viral loads are reduced for six months after camp ends.

*Name changed to protect anonymity



PROGRAMMING

In Bloom Against the Odds

Veria Steptoe's life has not been easy. She was born into poverty and had a child of her own at 13. Soon thereafter, she became addicted to drugs and then found herself incarcerated. It would be the first of nine times. At some point she became infected with HIV. Veria struggled for years to get clean and put her life in order. It took many attempts, but she eventually succeeded.

The path to recovery took Veria to a transitional living facility for recently released offenders four separate times. It took her three tries to get through the program. After the fourth she succeeded in staying off drugs. In 2004 Veria was referred to AIDS Foundation Houston. She was among the first group of clients to enter the then newly established Get Started Girl Program. Veria received housing services through AFH, as well as furniture and Stone Soup food pantry services. This provided the stable environment she needed to succeed. Ms. Steptoe credits AFH services with preventing her HIV from progressing to AIDS by allowing her to "have

a roof over my head, food, access to care, and transportation [which] helped me stay on my medication, stay sober and stay in good health."

In 2015, Veria returned to school to earn her Chemical Dependency Counselor (LCDC) certification. In 2016 she began working as a Patient Navigator in the AFH Linkage to Care Program.

AFH has trained thousands of peer educators since 1999 and more than 1,100 are currently working in 100 Texas prisons under our Wall Talk program. These peer educators teach more than 74,000 other incarcerated men and women how to avoid HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases each year. Creating impact beyond the prison walls; approximately 71% of the peer educators report sending information home to family and friends.

Poverty, stigma, and fear can prevent individuals from getting tested and seeking treatment but your support provides a safe haven for those who are positive.



INNOVATIONS

Once Lost, Now a Guide

What happens to youth when their families' fear of HIV/AIDS causes them to reject their children? James*, diagnosed HIV+ at just 14, soon found himself in this situation. Rejected by family and friends, he moved to Houston at the age of 17. He hoped to find a place to live and start life over among people unaware of his status. Instead he quickly found himself homeless.

Fortunately James learned about T.E.X.T M.S.G., the AFH housing program for those aged 18-24. Upon turning 18, James moved in and discovered he was surrounded by people he could relate to. New friendships and the supportive services provided by the program turned his

world around. He began volunteering at Camp Hope and participating in AIDS Walk. Soon he opened up about his diagnosis and expressed an interest in mentoring other newly diagnosed youth.

In September, 2015, James attended the *Positive Living 18* conference in Fort Walton Beach, Florida. There he found his voice and connected with other young HIV+ adults. Back in Houston, James spoke at the Youth Homelessness Conversation event with Nan Roman, CEO/President of the National Alliance to End Homelessness. There he shared his views on factors that impact homelessness and the services needed to assist homeless youth. He has since

enrolled in a community college to continue his education. James continues to be an advocate for young adults with HIV/AIDS.

More than 38 percent of the clients AFH helps are under the age of 30 and nearly five percent are 18 or younger. Why is the agency so focused on young people? According to the Centers for Disease Control, those aged 13-24 accounted for roughly 22 percent of all new HIV cases in 2014. Of those, 55 percent were Black, 23 percent were Hispanic/Latino, and 16 percent were Caucasian. Eighty percent were gay or bisexual.

*Name changed to protect anonymity

OUTCOMES

The Art of Living

Michael* came to AFH jobless, homeless, HIV+, and struggling to survive. He moved into one of our housing facilities where he slowly began to recover. As his health improved, his sense of self and a connection with his talents returned as well. Earlier this year, with his self-esteem restored, he courageously decided to venture back into professional life. He had a background in the arts and began seeking employment with arts-oriented organizations.

Imagine our joy when Michael delivered the following message to our housing program staff this past summer:

"I will no longer be needing your assistance in the form of housing services due to my recent acquisition of a new job out of state. I will be vacating the premises on August 10th, 2016...I appreciate all the help you have given me and promise that as soon as I am able will pay your kindness forward in the form of a donation to your program."

Today, Michael is the Program Director for a prestigious arts organization in a major American city. His success is proof that HIV/AIDS is no match for a unified and supportive community willing to stand up for the dignity and value of every person, regardless of his or her HIV status.

*Name changed to protect anonymity

GETTING TO ZER

AIDS Foundation Houston, Inc. has aligned its goals with those of the National HIV/AIDS Strategy: Updated to 2020. We believe these goals can be met. When we succeed, we will succeed together, and we will celebrate the lives saved.

We will also celebrate those who—out of a sense of compassion and responsibility towards their fellow human beings—took action to ensure that no hurdle was too high and no fear was too strong. Thank you for helping end HIV/AIDS.

THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS DONORS Donor levels were calculated using cash donations contributed between January 1, 2015 and October 2, 2016.

\$50,000+

The Brown Foundation, Inc.
Chevron
Episcopal Health Foundation
Gilead Sciences, Inc.
Houston Endowment, Inc.
Texas Children's Hospital

\$25,000-\$49,999

Junior League of Houston, Inc.
M.A.C AIDS Fund
Marathon Oil

\$10,000-\$24,999

Nora & Robert Ackerley
Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS
Bunnies on the Bayou, Inc.
John Curcio & Stephen Lilly
Fondren Foundation
Frost Foundation
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Boulevard Realty
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Andrea Gerber
Harold Gilliland
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Houston Bar Association AIDS
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John Logan
Love Wins Texas Weddings
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Latin Bites Café
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Kurt T. Nelson
Niko Niko's Greek American Café
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Prohibition Supper Club & Bar
Quattro Restaurant
Reef Restaurant
Michelle Reeve
Gwen Richard
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Dustin Ruffatto & Scott Moster
Alexander A. Ruiz
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Songkran Thai Kitchen
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Marcia Strauss
Strike
Tacos A Go-Go
Raylene Teel
Travis Torrence
Stephen Walker
Keith Wright

\$500-\$999

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AIDS Foundation Houston Programs and Demographics

HOUSING

A Friendly Haven

Housing and supportive services for families who are affected by HIV and experiencing housing and financial instability

Burress Street Apartments

Community residence for HIV+ women homeless or low- income who have additional barriers (incarceration, trauma and economic instability).

Chupik House

Community residence for chronically ill HIV+ men who experience economic and housing instability

First Responders

Permanent housing program for chronically homeless individuals who have disabilities and may be HIV+

Help House

Housing and supportive services to individuals who are HIV+ and experiencing housing and financial instability

T.E.X.T.M.S.G.

Permanent housing and supportive services for HIV+ homeless youth ages 18-24

YOUTH PROGRAMS

Camp Hope

All-abilities summer camp for HIV+ children 7–16

Youth Enrichment Center

Provides education, personal development, community, and socialization skills to youth living at A Friendly Haven to support success in school and increase parent competence in working with the school system.

PREVENTION & EDUCATION SERVICES

HIV/STD Testing

Testing for HIV, Syphilis, and other STIs

HIV and STI Education Classes

Educational presentations on HIV/STIs to the community.

PrEPtoPreventHIV.org

Educational website targeting heterosexual men and women for Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis

Wall Talk – Peer Education

Education program focused on providing peer-based HIV/communicable diseases prevention in Texas prisons.

WhyPrEP.org

Educational website targeting gay and bi-sexual men for Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis

SUPPORTIVE SERVICES

Counseling

Mental health and substance abuse counseling

Linkage to Medical Care

Guidance in signing up for assistance programs including Medicaid, Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families

Somebody Cares

Pre- and post-prison release counseling program for IV+ individuals to increase medical engagement and adherence

Stone Soup Food Pantry

Food assistance and referral system for those HIV+ individuals who experience economic and housing instability

Transportation

Public transportation vouchers for those living in AFH housing



TESTING

1,081 tested

18 HIV positive

100% linked to care (local)



FOOD PANTRY

1,700+ clients

32% linked or relinked to care

40,000 lbs. of food



YOUTH

1 camp

96 participants

51 took HIV class

98% understood HIV meds

88% understood adherence



HOUSING

6 housing facilities

100% linked to care

255 clients



PRISON PEER EDUCATION

100 Texas prisons/jails

553 newly trained peer educators

1,100 peer educators inside the prison

74,121 inmates educated



AFH Client Demographics

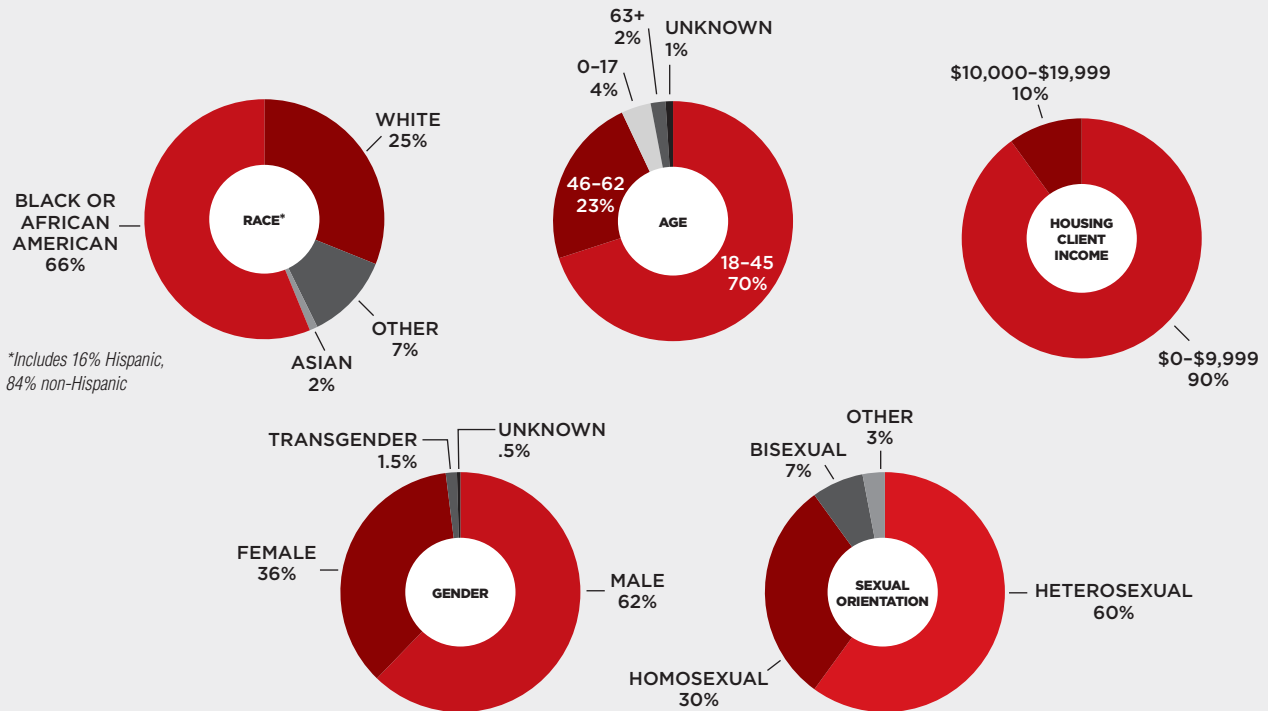
Race* – Black: 66%; White: 25%; Asian: 2%; Other: 7%

Age – 18-45: 70%; 46-62: 23%; 0-17: 4%; 63+: 2%; Unknown: 1%

Housing Client Income – \$0-\$9,999: 90%; \$10,000-\$19,999: 10%

Gender – Male: 62%; Female: 36%; Transgender: 1.5%; Unknown/Refused/Other: .5%

Sexual Orientation – Heterosexual: 60%; Homosexual: 30%; Bisexual: 7%; Other: 3%



Financials

Total Income: **\$4,492,298**

Fundraising Expenses: **\$463,414**

Administrative Expenses: **\$1,082,305**

Program Expenses: **\$3,160,790**

Net Assets: **\$3,195,342**

Donate with Confidence

AFH is an accredited Better Business Bureau charity and meets all 20 standards for charity accountability. Visit AIDShelp.org to review our federal income tax return (form 990) and recent audits.



66% of all AIDS Foundation Houston revenue goes to programs.

To see a complete report: www.bbbhouston.org

SENIOR LEADERSHIP

Kelly Young, Chief Executive Officer

Nike Blue, Chief Program Officer

Melody Patelis, Chief Development Officer

Nicholas Williams, Chief Financial Officer

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AFH MISSION & GOALS

AIDS Foundation Houston, Inc. leads the innovative efforts in the prevention of new HIV infections and empowers individuals, families, and communities affected by HIV/AIDS to create and sustain healthy lives.

AIDS Foundation Houston, Inc. envisions a supportive community free of new HIV infections where individuals affected by HIV/AIDS lead healthy and productive lives without stigma and discrimination.



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