

2015 UCHAPS ANNUAL REPORT

Strengthening the Urban HIV Response

PEER SUPPORT. COLLABORATION. ENGAGEMENT



URBAN COALITION FOR HIV/AIDS PREVENTION SERVICES

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A Note from Our Co-Chairs and Executive Director

Since inception, UCHAPS has been the principal engine for strengthening the national response to HIV in metropolitan areas. Our organization is unique in our approach to HIV prevention in that we stand in partnership, health department & community, as the loudest voice advocating for resources, justice, and services to meet the needs of individuals living with HIV or at risk for HIV infection. Through our collaborative approach to addressing the HIV epidemic, our national standing and engagement in national policy, and our peer-to-peer Technical Assistance model, our membership has made critical strides in reducing HIV-related morbidity and mortality. Looking back on our cumulative accomplishments of 2015, it is with great confidence that UCHAPS continues forth to achieve pivotal goals in line with our mission and vision in 2016. We remain steadfastly committed to sustaining the momentum that propelled the successful development of our Strategic Plan and delivering on the goals outlined within. To that end, in the coming year, we will continue to strengthen our infrastructure to support programmatic and policy priorities.

Equally indispensable is our pledged awareness and focus on engaging our membership by identifying and addressing the needs in each of our jurisdictions. Prioritizing the challenges and celebrating the successes in each of our jurisdictions is among our greatest commitment to our membership as we develop and coordinate actionable work plans. Further, ensuring that our exemplary leadership in the field is made accessible to other jurisdictions grappling with HIV is equally vital in strengthening our coalition on the national HIV response platform.

While there is much to celebrate in the progress that we've made over the past year, our work is far from over. To that end we invoke and commit to this year's World AIDS Day theme of "The Time To Act Is Now" and we look forward to working harder than ever, in partnership with all of you, to this work we have left to do.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Chapman
Community Co-Chair

Terrance Gardet
Governmental Co-Chair

Sam Rivera
Executive Director

MISSION AND ACTIVITIES:

Government and Community Leading Through Collaboration

The Urban Coalition for HIV/AIDS Prevention Services (UCHAPS) is a national collaboration of community partners and health departments dedicated to preventing new HIV infections and reducing health disparities, morbidity, and mortality. UCHAPS collaborates with allied organizations and federal partners to reach our common goals, and continually explores ways to improve the delivery of services by using a peer technical assistance model to exchange expertise, strategies, and solutions to common challenges. UCHAPS was founded in 1999 and received its status as an independent, 501(c) 3 non-profit organization in 2010.

KEY UCHAPS ACTIVITIES INCLUDE:

Peer Technical Assistance to Enhance Local Programs

UCHAPS coordinates peer technical assistance (TA) and technology transfer activities aimed at enhancing programs in UCHAPS member jurisdictions and beyond. The TA focuses on topics of particular interest in urban areas and reflects pressing and innovative issues. Recent peer TA topics have included expanded and integrated HIV testing, linkage to care and treatment, and implementation of biomedical interventions.

Best Practices to Synthesize On-the-Ground Experience

As HIV prevention pioneers, UCHAPS members are often on the leading edge of responding to HIV prevention priorities and challenges. Using knowledge and lessons learned through members' experiences, UCHAPS prepares best practice documents to support program development and implementation within its membership and beyond.

Inform Federal Initiatives

UCHAPS provides input and feedback to officials at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and other federal agencies with a focus on the HIV prevention-related needs and experiences of urban jurisdictions. UCHAPS collective discussions with federal public health leaders have helped to identify problems and solutions, gain better understanding of varying perspectives, and develop strategies for moving forward.

Educate Policymakers to Build Support for HIV Prevention

UCHAPS is committed to building support for a robust and well-funded national HIV prevention response. UCHAPS provides public comment before federal advisory bodies, educates lawmakers and their staffs about urban HIV prevention needs and resources, and participates in efforts to implement the National HIV/AIDS strategy at the federal, state, and local levels.



Strengthening HIV Prevention in Urban America

UCHAPS member jurisdictions are among the epicenters of the urban HIV epidemic and are often at the forefront of piloting new intervention strategies. Member jurisdictions include: Atlanta, Baltimore, Chicago, Fort Lauderdale, Houston, New York City, Philadelphia, City and County of San Francisco, Washington, D.C. UCHAPS membership meetings have provided a consistent platform for health department and community leadership to collaborate in an effort to transform systems and approaches to HIV prevention.

In 2015, UCHAPS membership met to develop a three-year strategic plan, prepare for integrated HIV planning & review lessons learned in prevention program implementation:

FT. LAUDERDALE, FEBRUARY

Membership, Board of Directors Executive Committee, and staff met in February in Ft. Lauderdale to develop a three year-strategic plan for the organization. With the support of an outside consultant, during the two day meeting, the group developed a strategic direction for UCHAPS guided by a new vision and mission for ending the HIV epidemic in America's largest and most heavily impacted jurisdictions. Focusing on increasing the capacity and resources of community partners and health departments in the urban jurisdictions most affected by the epidemic, through peer-to-peer technical assistance, public and stakeholder education and public policy activities, and adoption of innovative models and strategies, the UCHAPS strategic plan identifies the following goals to guide the organization from 2015–2017:

- To ensure a coordinated and adequately funded national response to HIV, through collective engagement in outreach, education, and advocacy
- To lead the integration of co-morbidities into the work of HIV prevention
- To strengthen the capacity of urban jurisdictions in their efforts to implement effective HIV prevention and adapt to the changing public health landscape
- To increase the visibility of UCHAPS on the national stage as an expert in HIV prevention.
- To define and implement organizational structure that supports growth and sustainability to advance the UCHAPS mission.

ATLANTA, AUGUST

UCHAPS membership met again in August in Atlanta following the release by CDC and HRSA of the *Integrated HIV Prevention and Care Plan Guidance*, including the *Statewide Coordinated Statement of Need, CY 2017–2021*. The meeting included presentations from Chicago on the process for developing an integrated plan in a jurisdiction with a unified planning body and Houston on developing an integrated plan with separate planning bodies. CDC and HRSA staff joined the meeting to engage with the membership on discussion points regarding integrated planning and other priority areas.

BATON ROUGE, OCTOBER

Reflecting on the priority identified in the strategic plan to engage and provide support to currently non-directly funded metropolitan areas experiencing high rates of HIV infection, the third membership meeting of 2015 took place in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Community representatives and staff from the Louisiana Department of Health joined the meeting, provided an overview of the HIV landscape in Louisiana, programmatic efforts, and engaged in an information-exchange with UCHAPS member jurisdictions. In order to ensure long-term success and program sustainability, the membership discussed the changing public health landscape and developed guiding principles that support the implementation of locally responsive HIV prevention programs.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

UCHAPS supported a number of activities that facilitated peer technical assistance and information exchange. In 2015, staff and membership provided ongoing support to health departments to strengthen their capacity in HIV prevention program administration, program development and implementation. UCHAPS continued to work closely with jurisdictions newly funded by CDC for HIV prevention to evaluate and address contextual challenges in scaling up sustainable HIV prevention programs.

Technical assistance through conference calls, information dissemination and in-person meetings supported HIV Planning Groups (HPG) in their efforts around member recruitment, retention and engagement. UCHAPS also provided extensive support to HPGs to evaluate integrating HIV planning bodies as well as the process for developing integrated plans with separate HIV prevention and care planning structures.

NATIONAL HIV TESTING WEEK

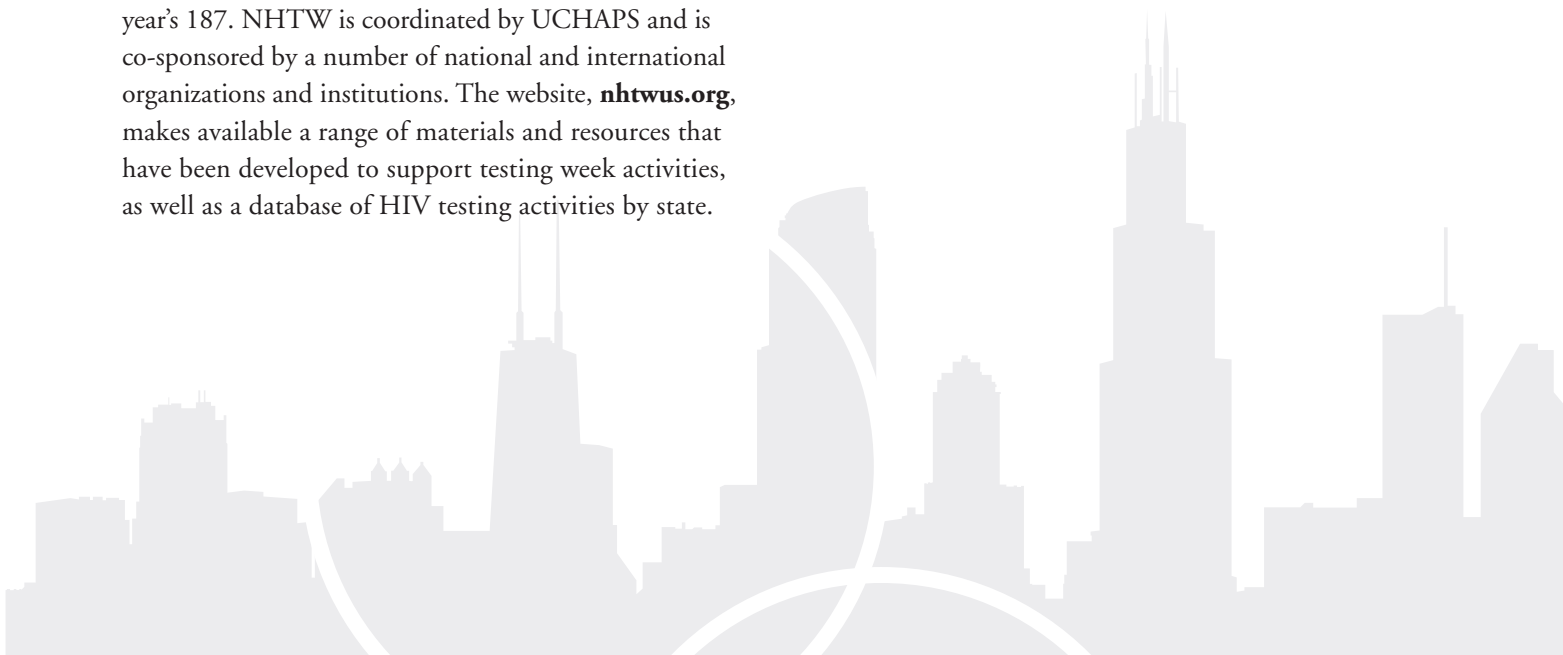
This year's National HIV Testing Week (NHTW) outreach was a great success. The goal was to have 550 events registered. The team achieved great increases from last year, reaching 400 registrations, doubling last year's 187. NHTW is coordinated by UCHAPS and is co-sponsored by a number of national and international organizations and institutions. The website, nhtwus.org, makes available a range of materials and resources that have been developed to support testing week activities, as well as a database of HIV testing activities by state.

SYRINGE ACCESS: A CALL TO ACTION

In response to the HIV outbreak in Indiana, UCHAPS developed and disseminated UCHAPS Syringe Access: A Call to Action. Throughout the year, UCHAPS also collaborated with the Coalition for Syringe Access, a national coalition promoting the implementation and expansion of syringe access programs to help reduce drug overdose; transmission of hepatitis C, HIV, and other diseases; and increase access to addiction recovery services.

PrEP

Building on a successful membership meeting held in December 2014 focused on local implementation of Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP), UCHAPS facilitated peer technical assistance and information exchange around PrEP for HIV program implementation in various health-care settings. Technical Assistance was provided in support of physician detailing to increase provider knowledge on components of PrEP administration and awareness campaigns. Additionally, UCHAPS worked closely with national and federal partners to share lessons learned for future support needed in scaling up PrEP in clinical and non-clinical settings.



CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

Throughout 2015, UCHAPS participated in various conferences either as presenters or facilitating content dissemination to the membership. Conferences included:

- *12th annual African American MSM Leadership Conference on HIV/AIDS and Other Health Disparities* hosted by NAESM in Atlanta, GA.
- **2015 National Summit on HCV and HIV Diagnosis, Prevention and Access to Care** took place on June 4-6 in the Arlington, VA.
- *International Conference on HIV Treatment and Prevention Adherence (Adherence 2015)* held in Miami, FL: poster presentation, **Scale Up of HIV Services: A Best Practices Strategic Collaborative Model for Urban Jurisdictions and Metropolitan Areas.**
- **US Conference on AIDS (USCA), Washington, DC** saw the return of the UCHAPS conference booth grouped alongside federal agencies such as NIH and CDC.
- **National HIV Prevention Conference (NHPC), Atlanta, GA:** roundtable on stakeholder engagement.

Collaborations/ National Meetings

Informing federal officials about program successes and working in partnership to identify future strategies that accelerate our nation's progress toward decreasing new HIV infections remained a high priority.

CDC NATIONAL PARTNERS MEETING

UCHAPS and CDC National Partners, National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors (NASTAD) and the National Coalition of STD Directors (NCSDD) met with CDC leadership in Washington, DC to discuss working together to improve health outcomes for gay men and persons who use/inject drugs and strengthening collaborations across programs (i.e. HIV/STD/HCV at the state/local level and in supporting the connection between health education and public health departments).

CDC CONSULTATION: CHANGING LANDSCAPES OCTOBER 2015

UCHAPS staff and three member jurisdictions participated in a consultation held by the CDC Program Evaluation Branch: *Understanding changes in the field of HIV prevention and how health departments have responded to, and been affected by, these changes: Health Department Consultation for Changing Landscapes Project* in an effort

- To better understand changes in the field of HIV prevention since the release of National HIV/AIDS Strategy (NHAS) and High Impact Prevention (HIP) and how health departments have adapted,
- To better understand how health departments will approach achieving the updated NHAS goals and objectives, and
- To ascertain health departments suggestions on how CDC can further support their use of data to improve program performance.

NATIONAL HIV/AIDS STRATEGY UPDATE

UCHAPS participated in a number of meetings convened by amfAR to develop recommendations supporting the White House's development of the National HIV/AIDS Strategy update. Some of the recommendations proposed as a result of the meetings were included in the updated Strategy.

FAST TRACK CITIES

UCHAPS participated in *White House Office of National AIDS Policy consultation: US fast track Cities and the National HIV/AIDS Strategy* that was held at the White House in November. The Fast-Track Cities Initiative was launched on World AIDS Day 2014. The initiative is led by Mayors and city governments from high HIV burden cities around the world, closely engaged with affected communities, civil society, city health officials, clinical and service providers, and other stakeholders. Current UCHAPS member jurisdictions participating in the initiative include Atlanta, Baltimore, San Francisco and Washington, DC.



WORLD AIDS DAY AT THE WHITE HOUSE

On Tuesday, December 1st, in observance of World AIDS Day, The White House hosted national and global leaders in prevention, care & treatment for the annual observance. This theme “The Time to Act Is Now,” was underscored as various speakers highlighted key actions underway here in the U.S. and around the globe. Panel discussions during the event highlighted how communities & organizations are committed and working towards ending AIDS. Work within five UCHAPS jurisdictions (Atlanta, Baltimore, Chicago, San Francisco, and Washington DC) was included within the afternoon’s panels.

HIV TRENDS MEETING

The three day HIV Trends Think Tank meeting and workshop hosted in May 2015 was the first of its kind giving public health practitioners and thought-leaders from national HIV/AIDS organizations, states, and local urban health jurisdictions the opportunity to come together to engage, exchange experiences, and share HIV program expertise.



UCHAPS Members Meet to Develop Strategic Plan, February 2015

UCHAPS on The Hill

UCHAPS continued its work educating policy makers and continuing to build support for a robust and well-funded national HIV response through collaborations with other leading national organizations and participation in outreach and education activities. UCHAPS staff and community members made visits to Capitol Hill and met with various Federal agencies to discuss UCHAPS' work and the importance of future funding for HIV prevention activities.

Leadership & Staff

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Steering Committee Community Co-Chair
Philadelphia, PA

Terrance Gardet, *Ex-Officio*
Steering Committee Governmental Co-Chair
New York City, NY

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Marcus Stanley, *Program Coordinator*

Ana Maria Visoiu-Knapp, *Program Coordinator*

FIND, FOLLOW AND LIKE US!

UCHAPS SOCIAL MEDIA

In January, the UCHAPS Facebook and Twitter accounts were realigned. UCHAPS added original content and the impact is registering. Both, Twitter and Facebook platforms have seen a significant increase in followers, shares, likes, and retweets. Make sure to find, follow and like us!


 twitter.com/UCHAPSusa

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UCHAPS

300 New Jersey Avenue NW, Suite 900

Washington, DC 20001

 **(202) 469-3454**

 **info@uchaps.org**

 **www.uchaps.org**

 **facebook.com/uchaps**

 **@UCHAPSusa**