In early 2021, we quickly realized that COVID-19 was going to be with us for the long haul, as the promise of effective vaccines gave way to emerging variants and new case surges. COVID has reminded everyone about three essential public health strategies needed to end a pandemic – strategies we have been using to fight HIV and AIDS for nearly 40 years.

First, COVID taught us that testing must be available, affordable, and frequent. Likewise, testing is the first strategy to ending the HIV epidemic. Today in our area, about 1 in 6 people living with HIV do not know their status. AFH offers HIV/STI testing in-person at our offices, in the community at special events, and in the comfort of one’s home – all at no cost, to ensure that every Houstonian has the opportunity to know their HIV status and take appropriate action.

The second strategy to ending a pandemic is early and effective treatment. While COVID treatment options have been scarce, HIV treatment advances have made today’s medications safer, more effective, and better able than ever to achieve viral suppression. Viral suppression is vital to keeping the immune system healthy, preventing serious illness, and empowering people living with HIV to live long, healthy lives. Viral suppression also means that a person cannot transfer HIV through sex, an important component of prevention.

The third strategy is prevention. With COVID, we learned about practical ways to prevent acquiring the virus – face coverings, cough and sneeze etiquette, physical distancing, isolation, quarantine, and vaccines. While we do not yet have a vaccine for HIV, we do have daily oral PrEP medications and a bi-monthly injectable medication that are up to 99% effective at preventing HIV acquisition through sex.

Being tested to know one’s status, seeking treatment early to achieve viral suppression, and taking preventive measures are key strategies to ending the HIV pandemic. But they are not the only strategies. Stigma, fear, discrimination, systemic racism, poverty, lack of affordable health insurance, prior incarceration, homelessness – these realities impact people’s lives every day in Houston. At AFH, we are passionate about ensuring that everyone has equitable access to care and to the services that support making that care possible. That’s why, in addition to prevention education, testing, PrEP, and “rapid-start” treatment, we also provide outreach in Texas prisons and discharge planning for persons exiting incarceration, transportation and food assistance, supportive housing for 300 individuals and families every month, substance abuse and mental health counseling services, a summer camp for children impacted by HIV, and case management services. Each of these strategies is equally essential to support persons vulnerable to and living with HIV to receive the care they need.

Ultimately, we hope for the day when a safe, effective vaccine is available, and for the day when a cure is finally found. In the meantime, we remain steadfastly committed to the public health strategies and supportive interventions that are moving us toward our mission to end the HIV epidemic in the greater Houston area.

Thank you for all of the ways that you support us in this work.

John Huckaby
AIDS Foundation Houston, CEO
**HIV statistics**

- **34,800**
  New HIV acquisitions in the United States

- **1,189,700 million**
  People aged 13+ living with HIV in the United States

- **27,643**
  People living with HIV in the Houston area

- **1,257**
  People were newly diagnosed with HIV

*Accurate as of 2019

**Sources**
2. 2020 Q4-HIVReport.pdf (houstontx.gov)
5. https://aidsvu.org/local-data/united-states/south/texas/houston

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**AFH Client Demographics**

**RACE/ETHNICITY**

- African American/Black 63%
- Latinx 23%
- White 10%
- Other* 4%

*Asian, Native American, Pacific Islander, Mixed, etc.

**AGE**

- 0-10 years 2%
- 11-19 years 5%
- 20-29 years 36%
- 30-39 years 28%
- 40-49 years 15%
- 50-59 years 12%
- 60+ 3%

**GENDER**

- Male 54%
- Female 44%
- Transgender 2%

**SEXUAL ORIENTATION**

- Gay/bisexual 51%
- Heterosexual 46%
- Other 3%

**INCOME**

- $0-$9,999 29%
- $10,000-$19,999 5%
- $20,000 and higher 66%
Programs

AFH Housing Programs

AFH offers seven permanent housing programs, providing safe affordable living and supportive services to individuals and families impacted by HIV. To help individuals develop a stable, healthy and productive future, all AFH housing programs provide intensive case management, community and social support.

Prevention and Education

HIV/STI Testing
Provides free HIV/STI Testing and treatment, sexual health education and patient navigation to link to care. Testing and education provided on-site or in the community.

Clinical Services
Provides on-site/via telehealth free HIV testing, STI testing and treatment, PrEP and same day PrEP, and nPEP.

Mistr/Sistr
Provides access to at-home HIV/STI testing from the comfort of home including PrEP delivery.

START Now (Strategic, Targeted, Anti-Retroviral Treatment)
Allows individuals recently diagnosed with HIV to get on Anti-Retroviral Treatment within 7 days of their diagnosis.

Youth Programs

Camp Hope
Established 26 years ago, Camp Hope was the first safe place for children living with HIV in Texas. The camp serves kids and their siblings (ages 7 to 16) from marginalized and underserved communities. These amazing kids are given the opportunity to develop life, education, work and other important skills that are needed to help manage a life living with HIV in a safe, healthy and a secure environment.

The Youth Enrichment Center
This program provides education support for children and youth impacted by HIV and living at our housing community for families.

765 clients tested for HIV and received PrEP education

19 individuals linked to care/treatment within less than 30 days of new diagnosis*

*This does not include START Now

73% linked to care

72% with income less than $10,000

10% with income between $10,000 and $20,000

73% linked to care

11 graduated into independent living

319 received housing in 2021

34 people linked to care

14 virally suppressed within 60 days

34 individuals enrolled

177 youth participation
Incarcerated and/or Recently Released Outreach

**Wall Talk**
We offer a peer-based education program (virtually and in-person) about HIV, STIs, human trafficking, and sexual violence for those incarcerated.

**Bridge ReEntry Initiative (BRI)**
AFH offers transitional housing for persons living with HIV who have been recently released. The clients are also case managed through the Somebody Cares program.

**Somebody Cares**
This program is designed to help individuals plan for living with HIV after their release from incarceration, providing access to post-release resources and services that increase adherence to treatment and medication.

**Project C.O.R.E. (Coordination of Resources and Employment)**
This program helps improve HIV health outcomes through coordinated strategies with a medical clinic and connects clients to employment services, housing and HIV medical care.

**Mental Health and Substance Disorder Counseling**
These much-needed services are provided to our housing clients, both by AFH staff and referrals to outside partner agencies for mental wellness.

**Case Management and Client Navigation**
This support program offers case management of clients and access to transportation for medical appointments and other community-based services as needed.

**Stone Soup**
Provides food assistance for persons with food insecurities and offers nutritious food free of charge from our on-site food pantry.

**B.E.S.T. Box**
This program offers the first at-home, self-administered HIV test.

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**Support Services**

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**I learned most of my survival skills from learning to cope with living with HIV. I was not always undetectable and untransmittable as the slogan goes. I was not always unafraid and unashamed. Three years ago, I was homeless and unemployable. Early on medical professions said in order to survive, I must adhere to a strict medication regimen. However, I couldn’t because I and my child had no stable living arrangement. Because of the medical support and guidance from AFH I no longer worry about being able to keep up with and taking multiple medications and have found a regime that is easy and keeps me healthy. Thanks to the AIDS Foundation, I now have my own apartment and I can be sure where I will lay my head each night.**

— Client Quote

**As a transgender female who entered the BRI program under Transitional Short-term services, I initially received social security as my main source of income. However, after three months of ongoing services and support from the program, I was able to be hired full-time at a delivery company, purchase a car and and afford household expenses. I was linked to care, received routine counseling, and health medications. Overall, I completed 12 months of Transitional Short term Housing services and was approved to move into a unit as the first client who received Permanent Housing Placement Services.**

— Client Quote
It’s been yet another unprecedented year and I have never been prouder of the perseverance shown by our staff, volunteers, and financial supporters. Despite the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, AFH spent 2021 investing in and delivering on our mission to end the HIV epidemic and support our community in the greater Houston area. We would not have been able to continue this critical work without the support of our corporate, individual, foundation, and community donors.

With Viiv Healthcare’s new investment, we will be able to provide a Teen Leadership Institute for our graduates of Camp Hope, preparing them for life beyond high school. Along with Viiv’s continuing support of our discharge-planning program for people living with HIV and exiting incarceration, Viiv is enabling a new program dedicated to the prevention and care needs of African American cisgender and transgender women.

We are equally grateful to Gilead Sciences, which has expanded our partnership by providing funds of $500,000 that will support AFH’s in-person, community-based, and at-home testing; as well as investing in a new satellite location scheduled to open in 2022.

As we prepare to enter our 40th year serving the greater Houston area, we are committed to creating a future where HIV is stigma-free and rare, and everyone has equal access to care.

Through expanded outreach, increased testing, access to PrEP and rapid-start treatment, more supportive housing, and a cadre of essential support services, AFH will ensure that care is available and accessible to our vulnerable neighbors who deserve equitable health outcomes.

In our quest for innovative strategies to end the HIV epidemic, we are thankful for the considerable ways you support our mission. And while we look toward a future where the COVID-19 pandemic is in the rear view, we will not rest until HIV is no longer an epidemic. Please continue to pledge your time, your financial support, and your passion to AFH. Together with your ongoing commitment, we boldly proclaim that Houston can one day extinguish HIV.

With our deepest gratitude,
Kyle Pierce
Our Partners and Donors

2021 Major Donor List

$50,000+
- Gilead
- ViiV Healthcare
- Houston Methodist
- Avita Pharmacy

$49,999 - 25,000
- Outsmart
- PNC Bank
- Avita

$24,999 - 10,000
- Broadway Cares
- Frost Fdn
- Smith & Assoc
- Urban One
- Junior League
- John Curcio and Stephen Lilly
- CORT
- Mad Hat Maven
- BeDesign
- Macy’s
- Thomas Family

$9,999 - 5,000
- Stewart Prentice
- Daniel Cooper
- Kyle Pierce and Daryl Shorter
- HEB
- Lori Whitaker
- Thomas Stewart
- AON
- Burlington
- CORT
- ExxonMobil
- King & Spalding
- Quest
- Radio One
- Strike
- Houston Young Lawyers

$4,999 - 2,500
- Lyondell Chemical Company
- Salt Air
- OutFront Media
- Skylabs
- MAC AIDS
- Richard Hormann
- Leslie & Steve Nagy
- C. Andrew Doyle
- Jennifer and Craig Simons
- Agency Partner
- Emerson
- Parker Wellbore

$2,499 - 1,000
- Russell Cotton
- Elia Chino
- Shell Oil Company Foundation
- Maurice Chaplin
- Jennifer and Craig Simons
- Karra Marino
- Chasta Martin
- John Hackaby and Sheng Chung
- Michelle Reeve
- W. Jeffrey Campbell
- David Underwood
- Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing
- Steven Clendenen
- AIG
- Frost Bank
- St. Peter United Methodist Church
- Tito’s Vodka
- Rev. Leslie Jackson
- Morris Malakoff
- Chris Lewis and Lynsdey Linnen
- Van Lessig
- Roger Nicome
- Michelle Pisklak
- Elisa Vega-Burns & Gemma Burns
- Andrea Simonton
- Courier Gordon and Richard Hormann
- Nicholas Williams
- Exxon Mobil Corporation
- Derrick Brown and Dan Ritchel
- Sara Morgan
- Dustin Ruffatto
- Paula Gardenhi
- Clifford Wilson
- Brett Kruse
- David Creager
- Duke and C. C. Ensell
- Janet Siefert
- Barnaby’s Café
- Mark Boring
- Richard James Smith
- Robert Jobe
- Schwab Charitable Fund

$999 - $500
- Ashley Chabaud
- Karlena Gray
- Andrea Gerber
- Anonymous Chevron
- David Centanni
- Marcia Strauss
- Judy and Scott Nyquist
- Twana Griffith-Faykus
- Margaret Chabaud
- Travis Ware
- Jonathan Huckaby
- Laurenzo El Tiempo
- Roman Kapadia
- Alexander Ruiz
- William Knittle
- Loren Walkington
- City of Refuge Church / Rapha House Outreach Center
- Gwen Richard
- Brooke Bihlartz
- Kendace Klingler
- Brian Torrez
- Elizabeth Goza
- Jennifer Lockwood
- Margaret Menger
- Cedrick Smith
- Virgil Skinner
- Jon B. Bumann
- Colin Mitchell
- Gary Douglas
- George Hawkins
- Gregory Berry
- Kyle Carter
- Matthew and Bess Wareing
- Meagan Hanson
- Tom Durrett
- Andrew Doan
- Gary Ward
- Houston Chronicle
- PaperCity