

A Syndemic Approach to HIV, Viral Hepatitis, STD and TB Prevention

Michelle Van Handel, MPH
Associate Director, Program &
Performance Improvement
NCHHSTP/CDC

Syndemics: Current and Future State
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Syndemic

Population-level clustering of social and health problems

- (1) two or more diseases or health conditions cluster within a population
- (2) contextual and social factors create the conditions for clustering
- (3) results in adverse disease interaction, either biological, social or behavioral, increasing the health burden of the affected population

Potential Benefits of a Syndemic Approach

- **Holistic service delivery**
- **Increased efficiency and cost-effectiveness**
- **Reduced stigma**
- **Supports a focus on policy and SDOH drivers**
- **Increased flexibility by enabling partners to adapt, implement, and modify integrated services to increase responsiveness to evolving epidemics or changing contexts**
- **Provides implementing partners with increased control and ability to provide comprehensive services**





People Matter

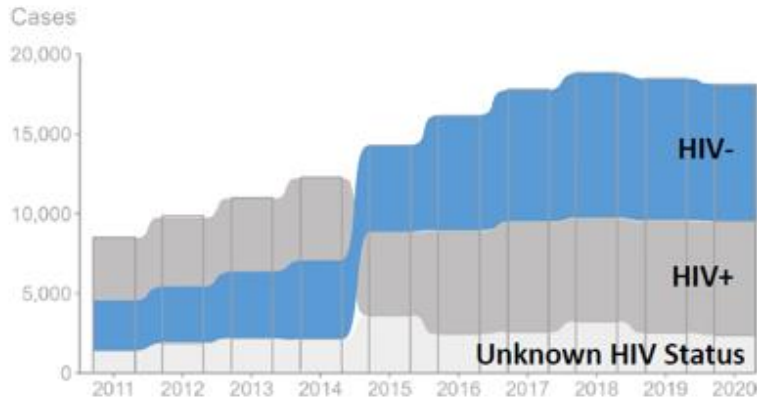
Differential incidence and morbidity among groups is frequent and frustrating

Inequities will naturally form in an unjust society, but they are not inevitable

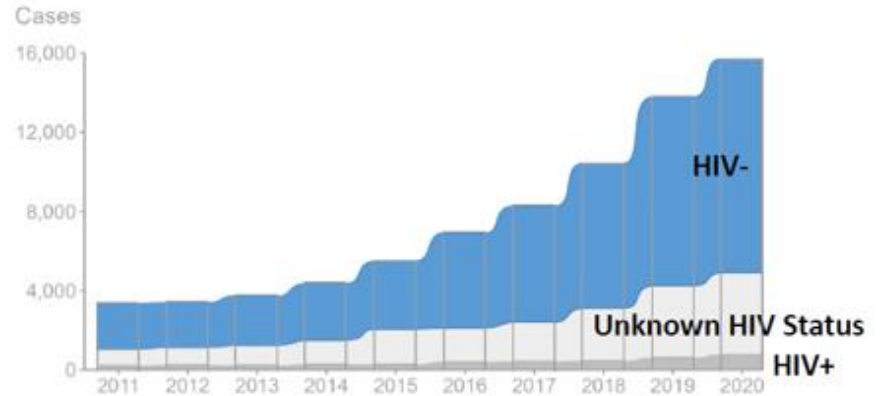
Embrace holistic approaches and multi-faceted outcomes

Strong workforce & good partnerships lead to success

Syphilis Diagnoses Provide HIV Prevention Opportunities



Primary and Secondary Syphilis — Reported Cases Among Men Who Have Sex with Men by HIV Status, United States, 2011–2020



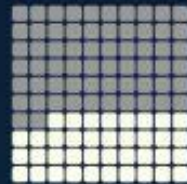
Primary and Secondary Syphilis — Reported Cases Among Women and Men Who Have Sex with Women Only and by HIV Status, United States, 2011–2020

Note: During 2011 to 2020, the proportion of primary and secondary syphilis cases among men reported without data on sex of sex partners ranged from 17% to 23%.

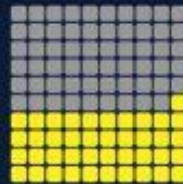
Need to leverage systems for MPX, HIV, and STI treatment and prevention

In the U.S., HIV or recent sexually transmitted infections (STIs)* are common among people with monkeypox

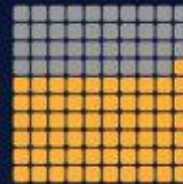
Among nearly 2,000 people with monkeypox:†



38%
had HIV



41%
had an STI in the past year



61%
had either HIV or an STI

It is important to

Prioritize people with HIV and STIs for monkeypox vaccination

Offer HIV and STI screening for people evaluated for monkeypox



*Diagnosed with an STI other than HIV in the past year

† People diagnosed with monkeypox in eight jurisdictions during May 17–July 22, 2022

bit.ly/mm7136a1

SEPTEMBER 9, 2022

MMWR



Populations

- **Men who have sex with men**
 - 42% of P&S syphilis cases, 42% of gonorrhea cases, 70% of HIV diagnoses
- **Persons who inject drugs**
 - High incidence of STIs, most acute HCV, large proportion of acute HBV infections, 11% of HIV diagnoses, large proportion of overdose deaths
- **Some racial and ethnic groups disproportionately affected**
 - African Americans, Hispanic/Latinos, AI/ANs, higher incidence of STIs and HIV; more than 1/3 of TB and HBV among Asian Americans
- **Justice-involved populations have higher incidence of all infections**
- **Young people**
 - Highest rates of STIs; 21% of new HIV diagnoses



Place Matters

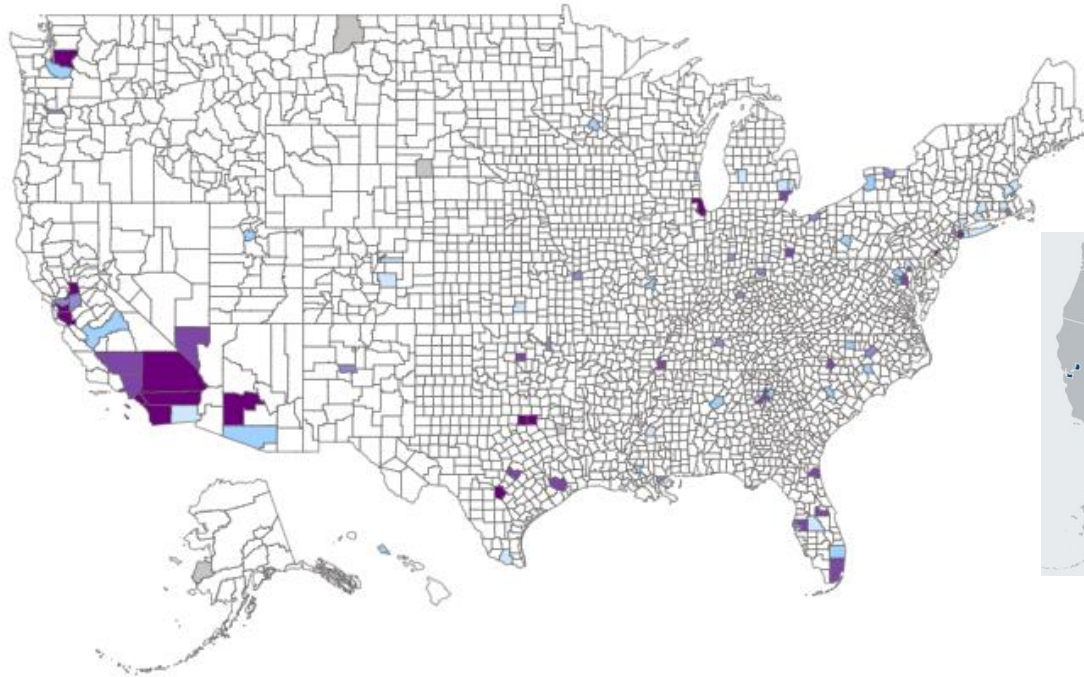
Extreme disparities in geographic distribution and resources exist

Social and economic determinants lead to most major disparities

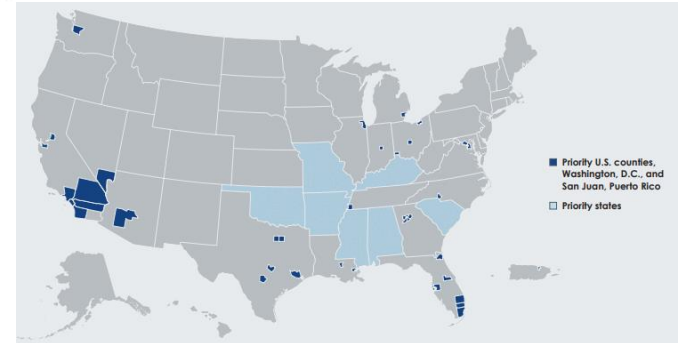
Focus resources in disparately affected geographic areas and venues

Co-locate services to provide holistic care

Counties with High Burden* for HIV, Chlamydia, Gonorrhea, Syphilis, & TB



EHE Priority Areas



* High burden defined as counties with the highest number of diagnoses accounting for 50% of diagnoses for each infection in 2019

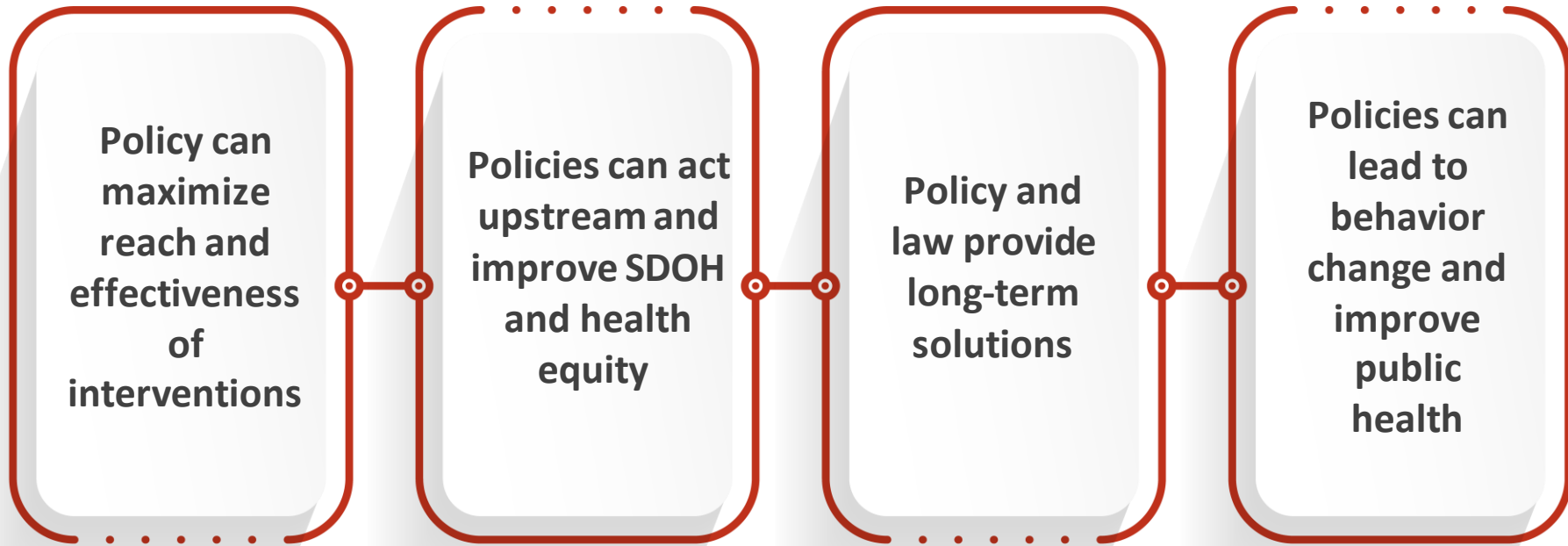


Place Provides Opportunity

- STI clinics
- HIV clinics
- Schools, school nurses, and student health clinics
- Community health centers
- Syringe Services Programs
- Substance use disorder treatment centers
- Correctional facilities
- Homeless shelters
- Emergency departments
- Hospitals
- Virtual space: dating sites, digital interest groups, influencers



Policy Matters





Science Matters

New multi-pathogen testing technology

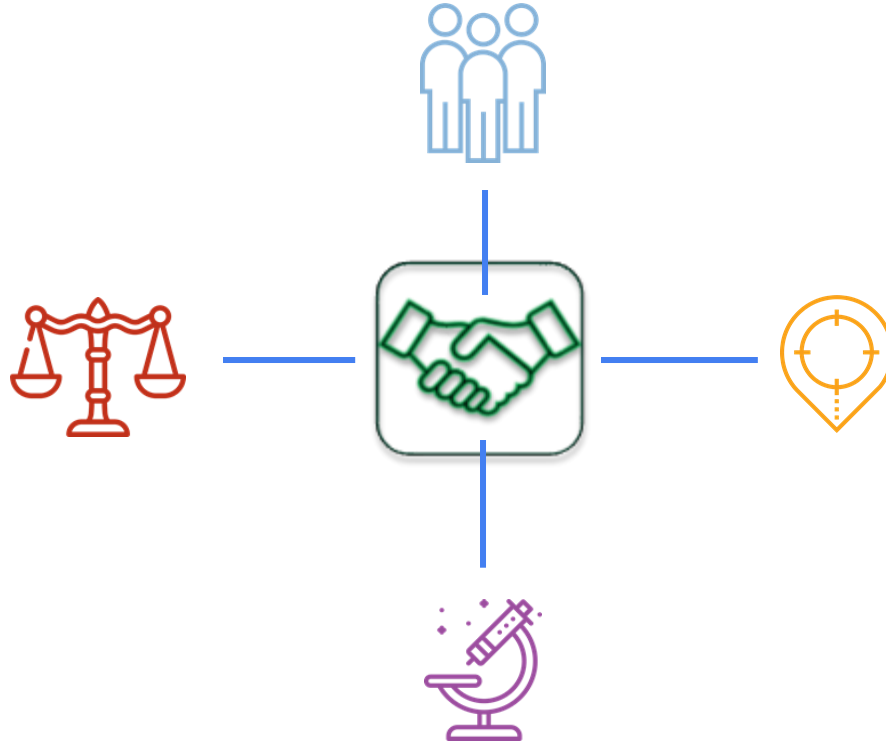
Multi-pathogen vaccines

PrEP guidelines decrease STI and HIV incidence

SSPs prevent HIV, HCV, and overdose deaths




Workforce & Partnerships



High Impact Strategies

- Multi-pathogen testing and vaccines
- Policy change
- *What Works in Schools*
- Prevention interventions and outbreak response
- Venue- and program-based multi-disease prevention
- Data sharing and analyses
- Digital communication campaigns and interventions

Supportive Structures & Processes

- **Administrative, financial, and managerial processes that enable a syndemic approach**
 - **Evaluations of the impact, costs, and benefits of a syndemic strategy**
 - **Strategic communications to support syndemic approaches**
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Innovation for HIV Prevention and Advancing Health Equity

Self-Testing



Syndemic Approaches



CBO Capacity



PrEP Uptake



Status Neutral Models of Care



Diagnose

Treat

Prevent

Respond

Diagnose

Treat

STI Prevention and Control in the 21st Century

Integrating Services to Address Syndemics

Addressing Disparities & Inequities Through



**Identifying
Collaboration
Opportunities**



**Increasing
Access to
Healthcare**



**Expanding Partner
Services & DIS**



**Improving STI
Diagnostics &
Therapeutics**



**Enhancing
Surveillance
Systems**

Vision

Eliminate infectious diseases associated with drug use

Mission

To decrease morbidity and mortality, infectious disease incidence, and stigma among people who use drugs through evidence-based solutions and coordinated partnerships

IDO Strategic Priorities

NCCHSTP has identified four priorities to be achieved by 2026



Establish a Nationwide Syringe Services Program (SSP) Infrastructure as Part of the U.S. Public Health System



Decrease Injection Drug Use



Establish Coordinated Surveillance and Monitoring Systems for Infectious Disease Indicators Associated with Drug Use



Collaborate at the Federal, State, and Local Levels to Reduce Infectious Disease Consequences of Drug Use

CDC's "What Works in Schools" Approach Improves Adolescent Health and Well-being

In schools implementing this approach within CDC-funded districts, students were **less likely** to:



HAVE EVER
HAD SEX



HAVE 4+
SEXUAL
PARTNERS



BE CURRENTLY
SEXUALLY
ACTIVE



MISS SCHOOL
BECAUSE
OF SAFETY
CONCERNS



BE FORCED TO
HAVE SEX



USE
MARIJUANA

CALL TO ACTION:

Key actions to Address Syndemics



**Put people
first**



**Put money
where
epidemic is**



**Leverage
policy as a
public
health tool**



**Support
scientific
advances**



**Focus on
equity**



**Support
Workforce &
Partnerships**

Thank you!

For more information, contact CDC
1-800-CDC-INFO (232-4636)
TTY: 1-888-232-6348 www.cdc.gov

The findings and conclusions in this report are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

