



U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs

## Fact Sheet

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# Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) VA IS THE LARGEST SINGLE PROVIDER OF HIV CARE IN THE UNITED STATES.

In February 2019, the President announced a plan to end HIV during the State of the Union Address and the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) subsequently released an ambitious plan to do so which focuses on the following goals:

- 1) Diagnose all people with HIV as early as possible after infection;
- 2) Respond rapidly to detect and respond to growing HIV clusters and prevent new HIV infections;
- 3) Treat the infection rapidly and effectively to achieve sustained viral suppression;
- 4) Protect people at risk for HIV using potent and proven prevention interventions, including PrEP, a medication that can prevent HIV infections;
- 5) HIV Health Force will establish local teams committed to the success of the Initiative in each jurisdiction.

The Initiative will target resources to the 48 highest burden counties, Washington, D.C., San Juan, Puerto Rico, and seven states with a substantial rural HIV burden: [View Fact Sheet](#)

### **HIV testing to diagnose all people with HIV as early as possible after infection**

- VA's recommendation is to offer all Veterans an HIV test, with more frequent testing for those with risk factors.
- In 2018, the number of Veterans eligible for HIV screening was 3,998,600, which included all Veterans in VA care who had not received an HIV testing and did not have a diagnosis of HIV. VA continues to increase HIV testing each year with 44% of all Veterans in VA care tested for HIV as of December 31, 2018.

### **Respond rapidly to detect and respond to growing HIV clusters and prevent new HIV infections**

- VA is an active Federal and local partner in areas where there are HIV outbreaks
- VA sends information and alerts to our providers when clusters occur in their local area.

## **Treat HIV rapidly and effectively to achieve sustained viral suppression**

- VA is the single largest provider of HIV care in the U.S., with nearly 31,000 Veterans with HIV in care in 2018, 70% of whom are virally suppressed.
- Of approximately 24,000 people with a viral load test in 2018, 90% were virally suppressed.
- Of the approximately 24,000 with a CD4 lab in 2018, 64% had last CD4 of >500, and 93% had last CD4>200.

## **Protect people at risk for HIV using potent and proven prevention interventions, including PrEP, a medication that can prevent HIV infections**

- Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) is available to all Veterans in VA care at risk for HIV to prevent transmission.
- As of February 14, 2019, over 3,562 Veterans in VA care had received PrEP.
- As HIV incidence rates for African-American and Hispanic cohorts have shown to be disproportionate to their population in the US, the percent of the population receiving PrEP that is African-American and Hispanic meets or exceeds their representation in the VA for the majority of VISNs.

## **HIV Health Force will establish local teams committed to the success of the Initiative in each jurisdiction.**

- By policy, every facility must have an HIV Lead Clinician who is the serves as the VA medical facility subject matter expert and point of contact on testing, diagnosis, and care of Veterans with HIV, and HIV prevention among those at risk of becoming HIV-infected.

For more information, visit [www.hiv.va.gov](http://www.hiv.va.gov)