

HIV SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM  
HIV PREVENTION  
PROGRAM  
RYAN WHITE PART B/ADAP  
PUERTO RICO DEPARTMENT  
OF HEALTH

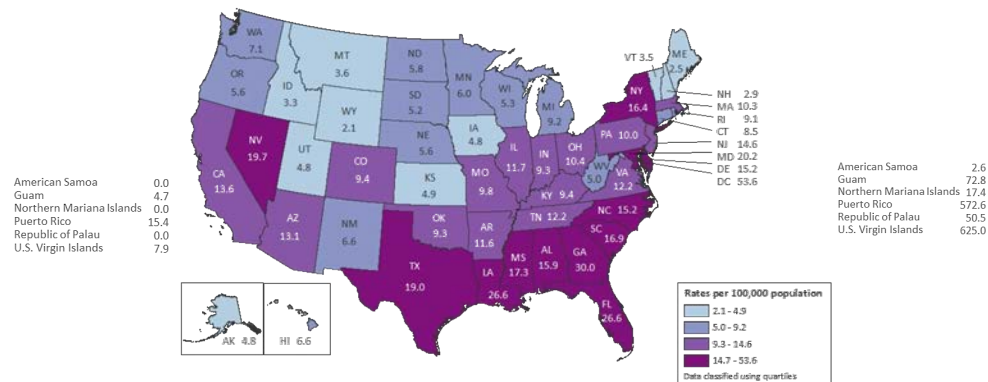


# **EPIDEMIOLOGY OF HIV IN PUERTO RICO AND THE TERRITORY'S EFFORTS TO ADDRESS THE HIV EPIDEMIC**

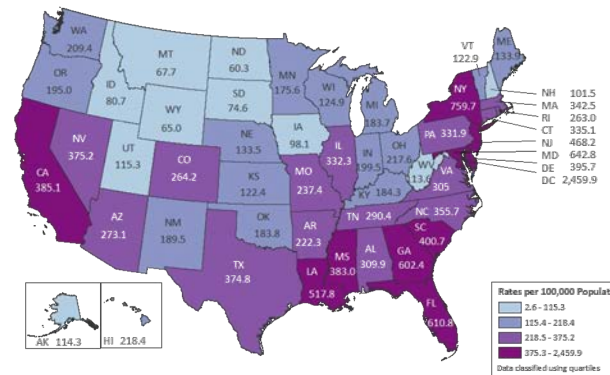
# HIV DIAGNOSES, PREVALENCE, AND CUMULATIVE AIDS CASES, BY AREA OF RESIDENCE -UNITED STATES AND 6 DEPENDENT AREAS

According to the latest CDC report, Puerto Rico is one of the top ten states/territories with the highest number of cumulative AIDS cases, and HIV prevalence.

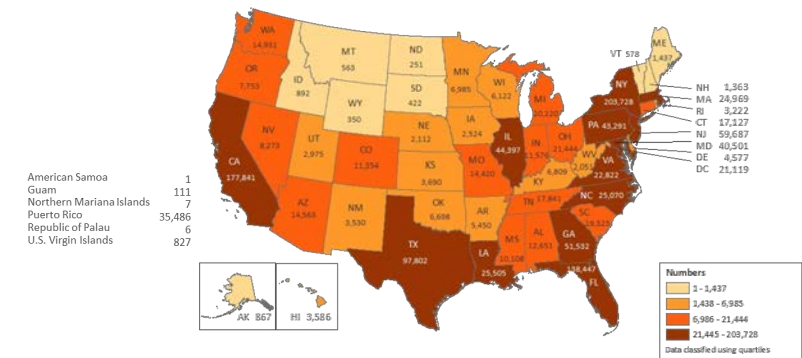
Rates of Diagnoses of HIV Infection among Adults and Adolescents, by Area of Residence,  
2017 — United States and 6 Dependent Areas  
N = 38,640  
Total Rate: 14.0



Rates of Adults and Adolescents Living with Diagnosed HIV Infection, by  
Area of Residence, Year-end 2016—United States and 6 Dependent Areas  
N = 1,006,691  
Total Rate: 367.6



Stage 3 (AIDS) Classifications among Adults and Adolescents with HIV Infection,  
by Area of Residence, Cumulative through 2017—United States and 6 Dependent  
Areas  
N = 1,281,787



12<sup>th</sup> place

HIV diagnoses rates among adults and adolescents ≥13 years  
in 2017 (**15.4 per 100,000 population**)

6<sup>th</sup> place

adults and adolescents living with diagnosed HIV infection in  
2016 (**572.6 per 100,000 population**)

10<sup>th</sup> place

highest number of cumulative AIDS cases in 2017

# HIV IN PUERTO RICO, 1980 – 2018\*

**49,639**

Reported cases of HIV infection  
(including AIDS)  
1980-2018

**29,391**

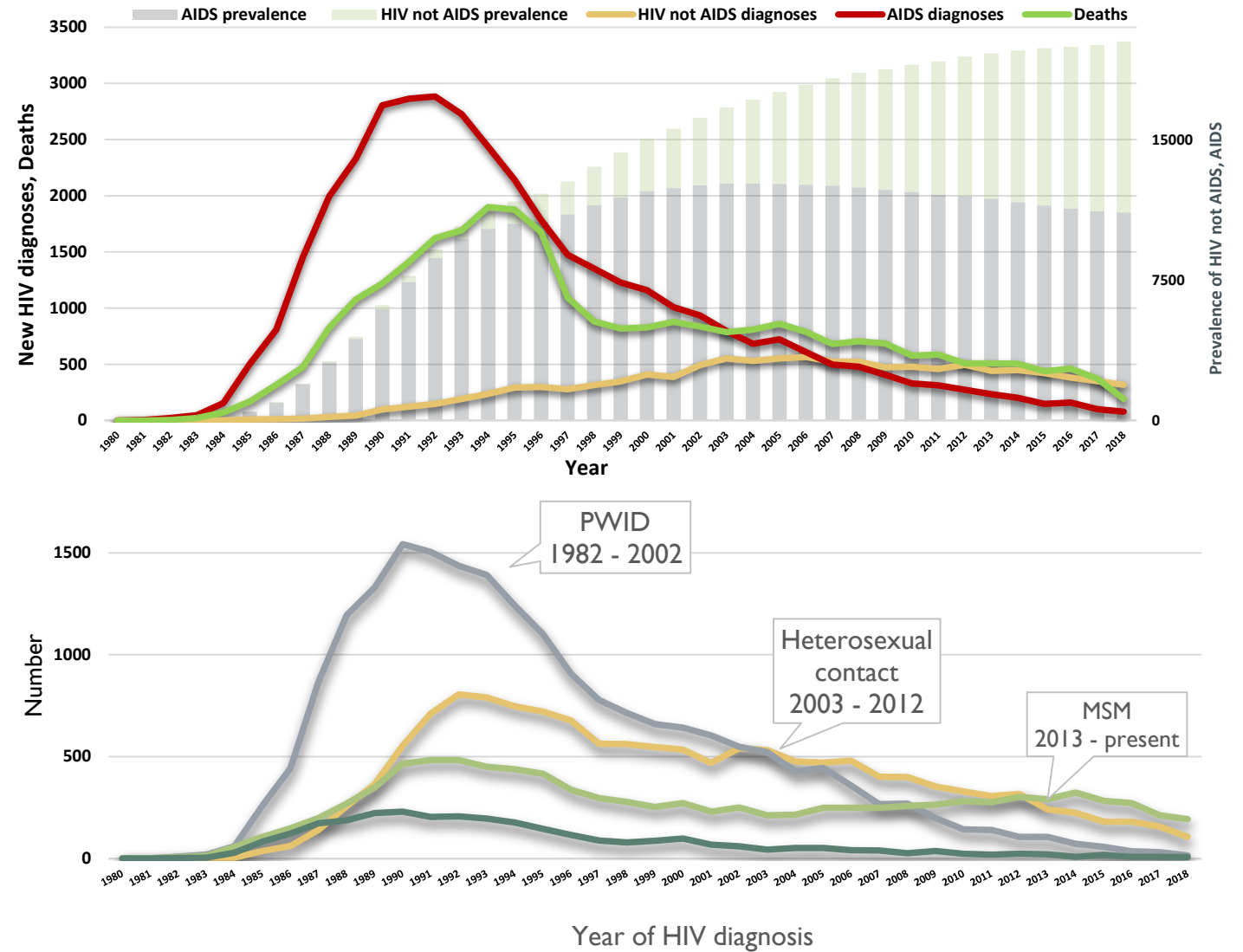
Number of deaths reported among PLWH by  
December 2018

**18,117**

Number of people residing in Puerto Rico by  
December 2018

**686**

Cumulative number of children (0 – 12 years)  
diagnosed with HIV infection 1981 - 2018

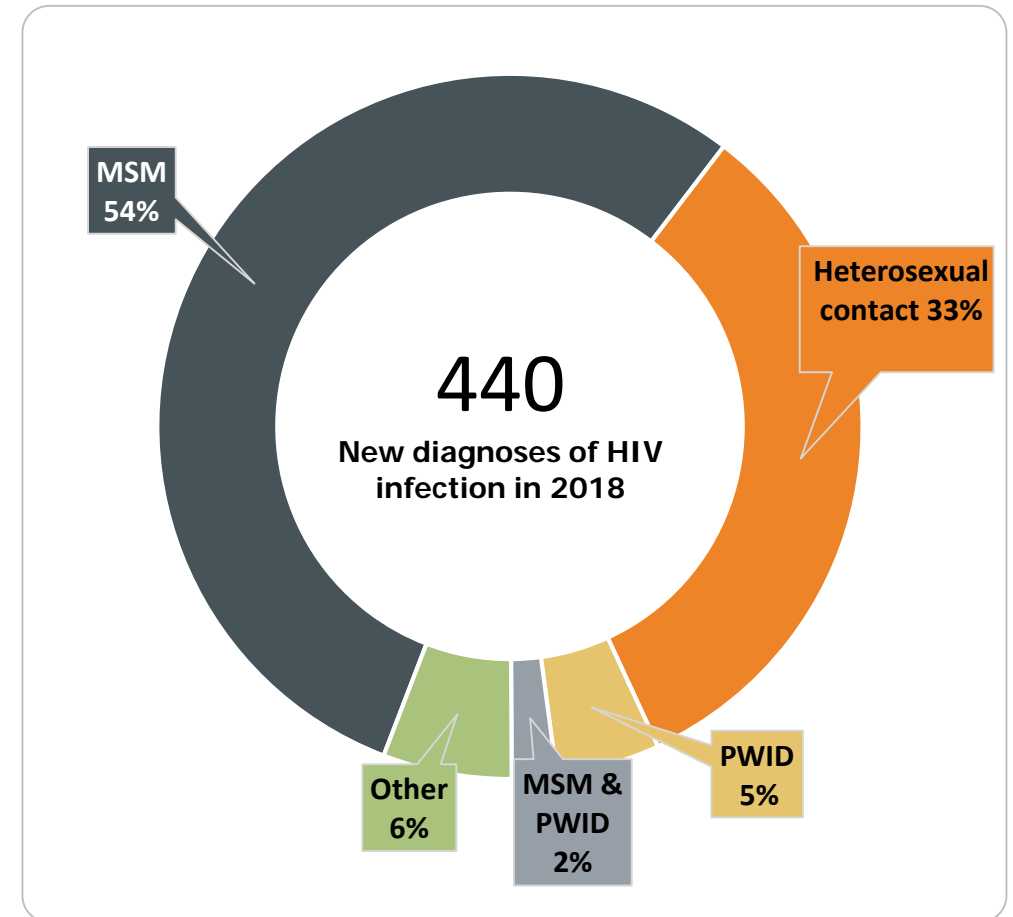


Source: HIV/AIDS Surveillance System, Epidemiology Division, Puerto Rico Department of Health

\*Data include all persons diagnosed with HIV infection reported in Puerto Rico by September 30, 2019.

# NEW DIAGNOSES OF HIV INFECTION IN 2018

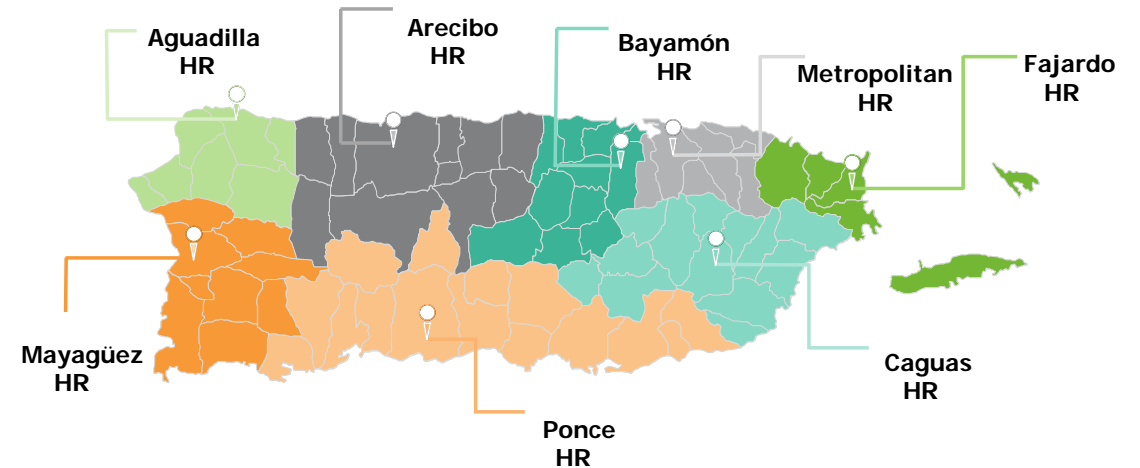
- In 2018, **440** persons were diagnosed with HIV in Puerto Rico
  - HIV diagnosis rates among adults and adolescents ≥13 years in 2018 was **15.7** per 100,000 population
  - HIV diagnosis rates among males is **4.7** times higher than females
  - **Men who have sex with men** was the primary transmission category (54%), followed by **heterosexual contact** (33%)
  - Every day, **2** persons are newly reported with HIV infection in Puerto Rico



# PREVALENCE OF HIV INFECTION - 2018

The number of persons living with diagnosed HIV infection in Puerto Rico at year-end 2018 was **18,117**.

- **567** persons were living with diagnosed HIV infection per 100,000 population in 2018
- Prevalence of diagnosed HIV infection among males is **2.5** times higher than in females
- Prevalence of diagnosed HIV infection in Metropolitan Health Region is **1.6** times higher than the overall prevalence
- Approximately **9% (N=1,700)** of people living with HIV in Puerto Rico are not aware of their HIV infection
- 2 in 3 persons living with diagnosed HIV infection are **45 years and older**



Health Region	HIV Prevalent Cases	Percent
Metropolitan	6,711	37.0
Bayamón	3,079	17.0
Ponce	2,449	13.5
Caguas	2,249	12.4
Arecibo	1,480	8.2
Mayagüez	961	5.3
Fajardo	623	3.5
Aguadilla	565	3.1
Total	18,117	100.0

For purposes of prevention and health services resource planning, Puerto Rico is divided into 8 Health Regions (HR)

Most of the Puerto Rican population and PLWHA live in the Metropolitan Health Region

# HIV CARE CONTINUUM, PUERTO RICO, 2014

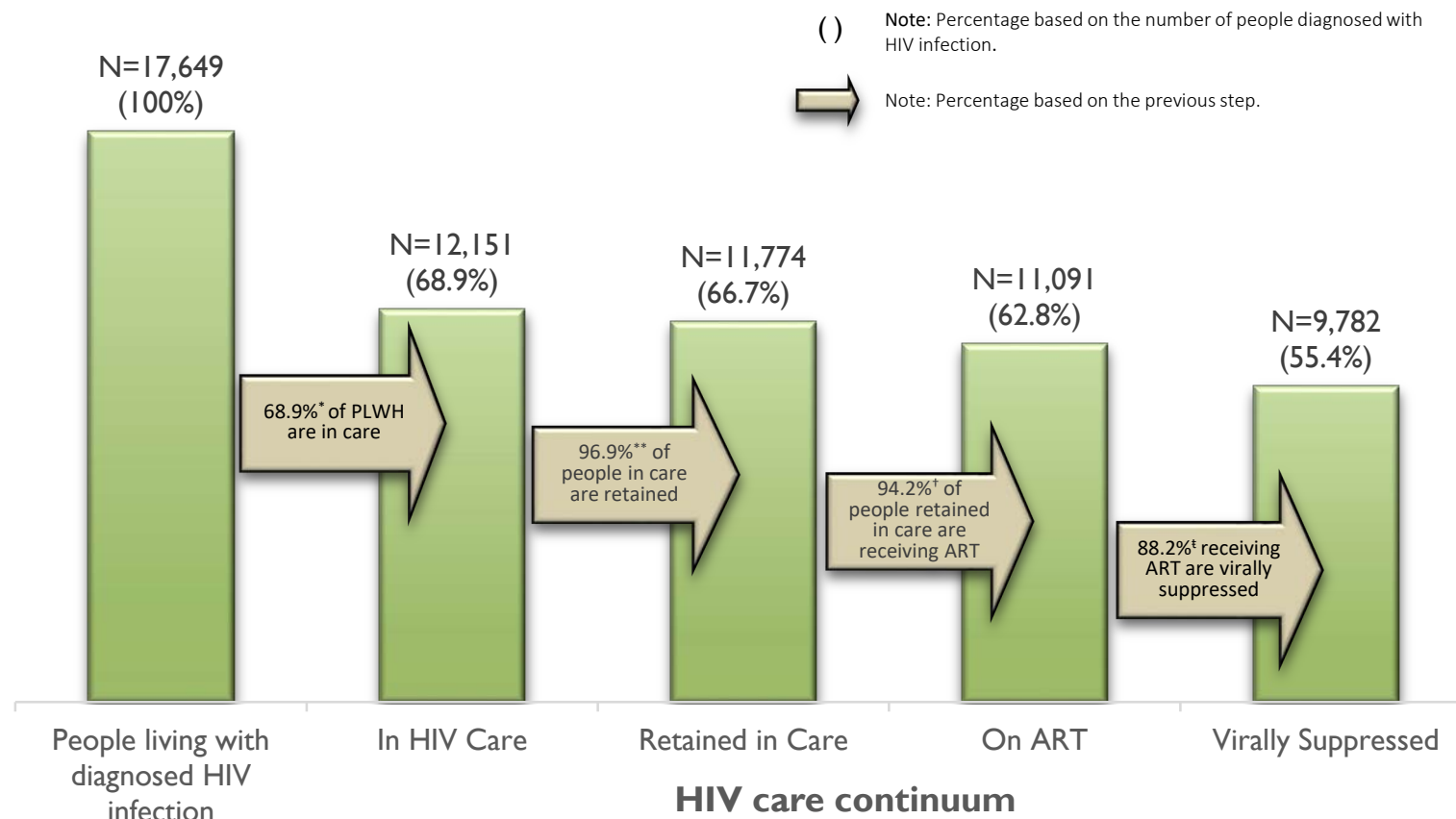
**HIV-diagnosed** – the number of adults ≥18 years diagnosed with HIV disease through year 2013 and alive at year-end 2014. **Source:** PR HIV/AIDS Surveillance Program

**In HIV Care** - the number of adults ≥18 years with evidence of CD4 count, VL, ART, and/or claim on PR Health Insurance Database in 2014. **Source:** *Unmet Needs for Primary Medical Care, 2014*

**Retained in HIV care** - the number of adults ≥18 years in HIV care with at least 2 CD4 or Viral Load tests in the medical record abstraction surveillance period (at least three months apart). **Source:** *PR MMP*

**On ART** - the number of adults ≥18 years retained in HIV care who had a documented prescription of ART. **Source:** *PR MMP*

**Suppressed Viral Load** – the number of persons on ART with viral load <200 copies/ml at the most recent test. **Source:** *PR MMP*



# COLLABORATIVE AGREEMENTS AND ALLIANCES

- Puerto Rico Department of Health
- Puerto Rico Health Insurance Administration (ASES)
- Medicaid Program
- Puerto Rico Department of Correction and Rehabilitation
- Ryan White Programs (A, C,D & F): Ryan White Interparts Committee
- Ryan White Part B Planning Body
- PLWH advocacy groups
- ADAP Advisory Committee
- HOPWA

Integrated HIV Surveillance, Prevention and  
Care Plan

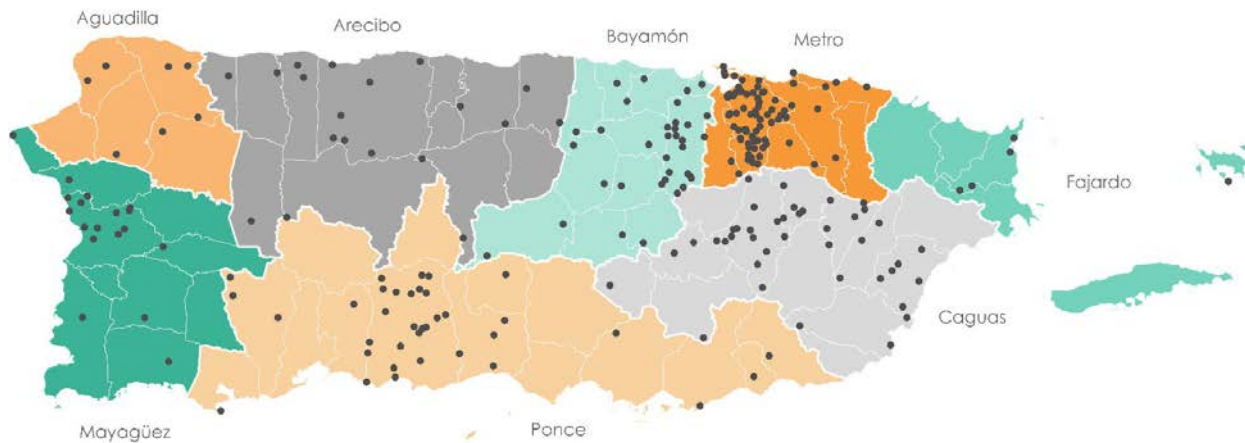
2017-2021

**PUERTO RICO**

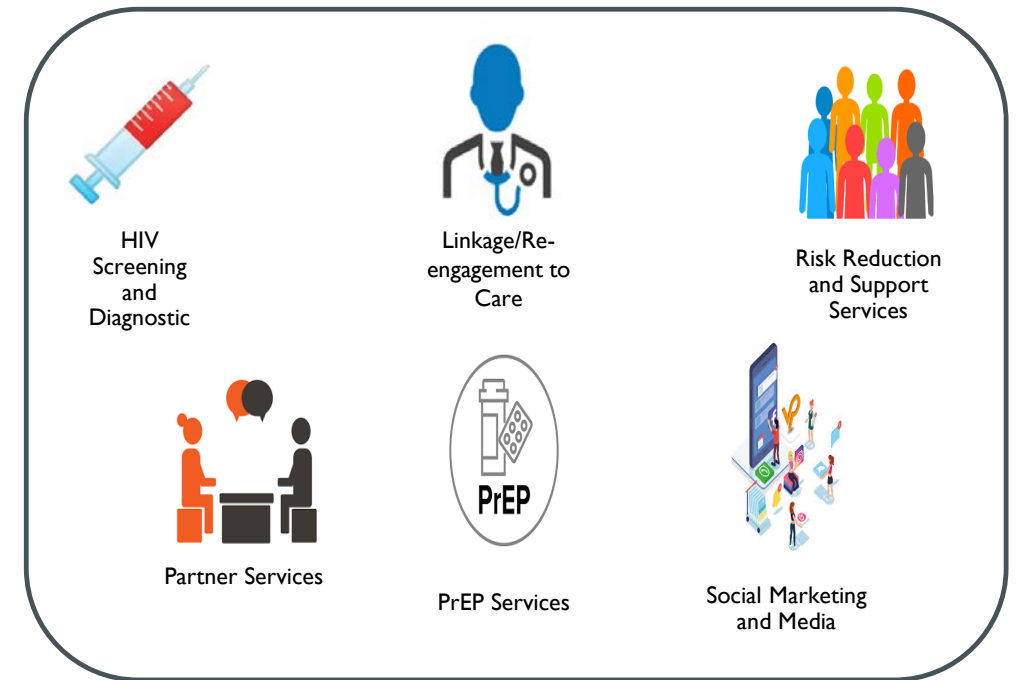


# PREVENTION SERVICES

Geographical distribution of organizations that provide HIV and STD services in Puerto Rico



Each point on the map equals 1 center



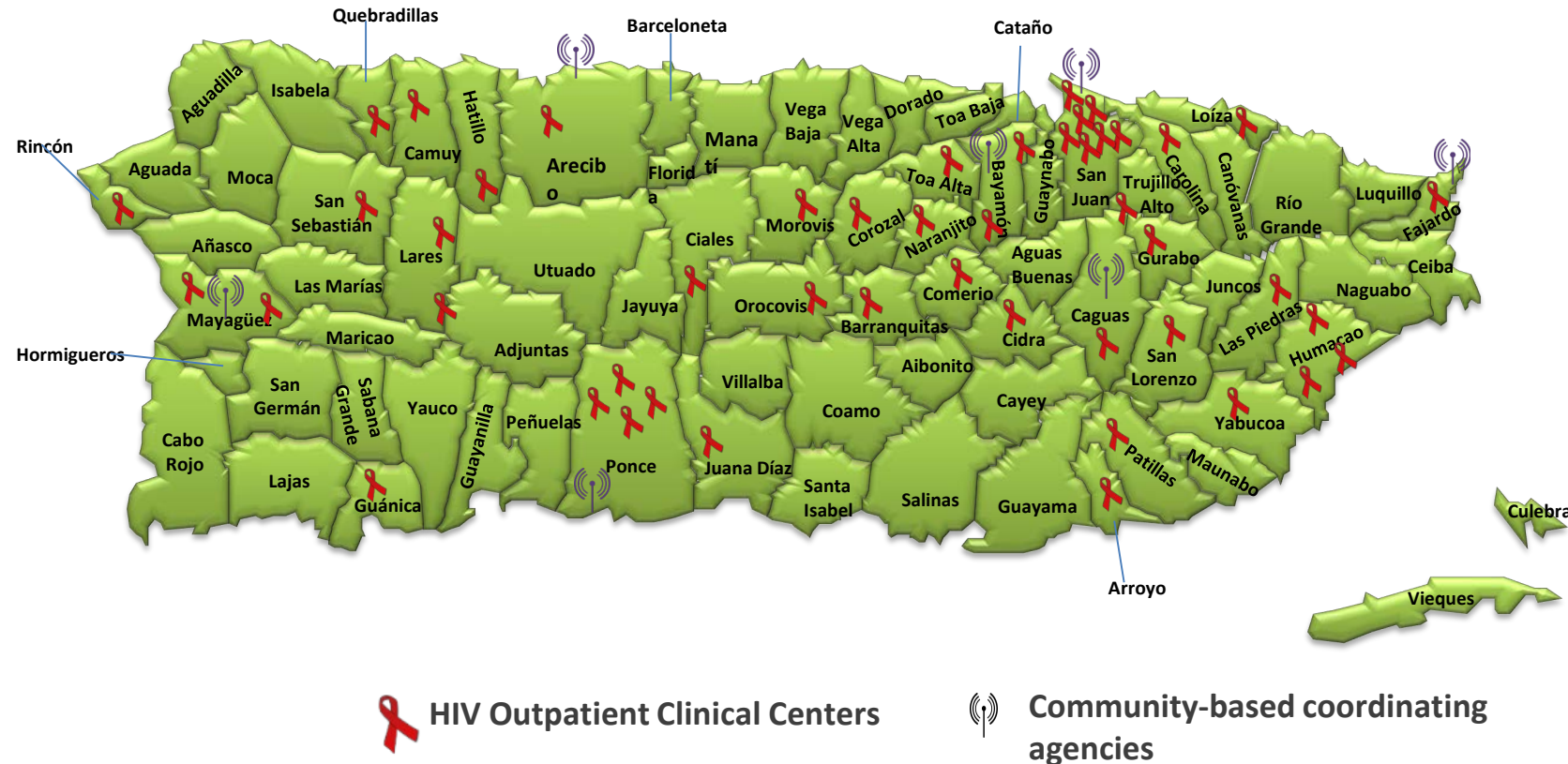


# HIV CARE SERVICES - RYAN WHITE PART B/ADAP PROGRAM

The Puerto Rico Ryan White Part B /ADAP Providers Network consists of 55 centers:

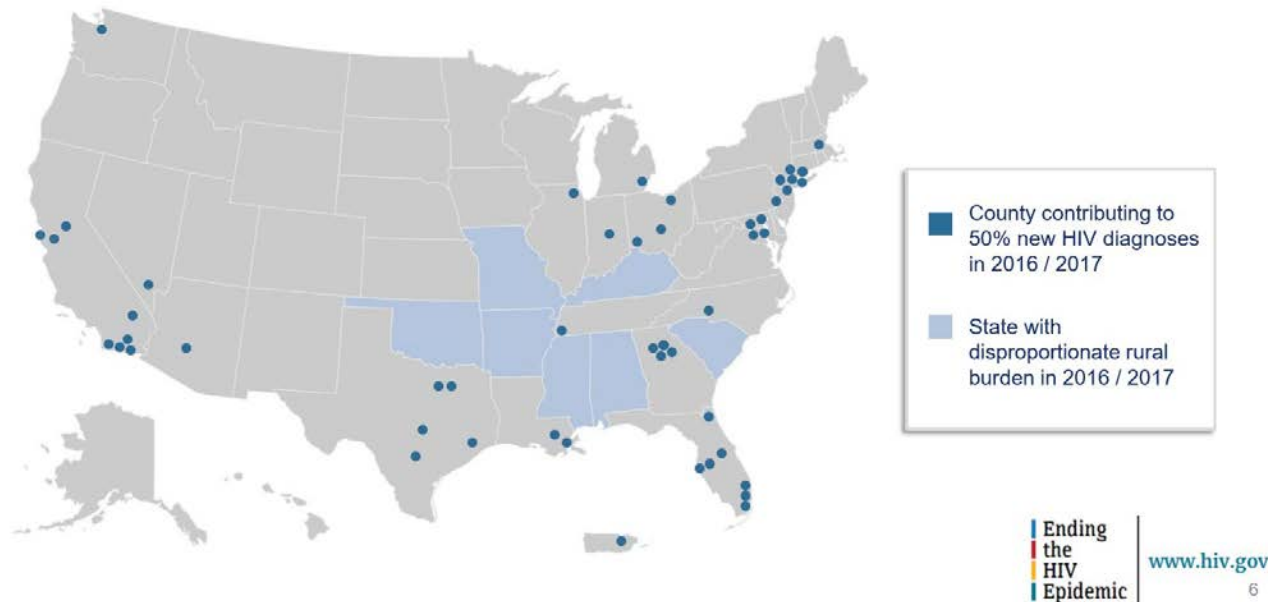
- Puerto Rico Department of Health (PRDOH) Communicable Diseases Prevention and Treatment Centers (CPTET, acronym in Spanish):
  - 8 regional HIV/STI/Hep/TB Clinics
- ADAP External Providers Network:
  - 39 HIV clinical centers
- Community-based Coordinating Agencies (CBOs):
  - 8 agencies, each designated to a specific DOH Health Region

## Ryan White Part B/ADAP Service Network



# ENDING THE HIV EPIDEMIC: A PLAN FOR AMERICA

48 COUNTIES, 7 STATES WITH SUBSTANTIAL RURAL HIV BURDEN,  
DC AND SAN JUAN ACCOUNT FOR 50% OF NEW DIAGNOSES



Nearly a thousand cases of HIV infection were diagnosed during the 2016-2017 period in Puerto Rico, 21.9% were residents of San Juan.

Geography (counties)	New HIV diagnoses 2016-2017
Los Angeles County, CA	3,470
Miami-Dade County, FL	2,427
Harris County, TX	2,358
Cook County, IL	1,996
Dallas County, TX	1,659
Broward County, FL	1,416
Kings County, NY	1,220
Fulton County, GA	1,174
Maricopa County, AZ	1,048
Bronx County, NY	1,013
<b>Puerto Rico</b>	<b>979</b>
<b>San Juan</b>	<b>214</b>
Philadelphia County, PA	965
Orange County, FL	934
San Diego County, CA	907
Clark County, NV	902
Queens County, NY	898
New York County, NY	846
Bexar County, TX	723
Dekalb County, GA	689
Wayne County, MI	659
District of Columbia, DC	659
Orange County, CA	652
Hillsborough County, FL	622
Palm Beach County, FL	603
Essex County, NJ	596
Tarrant County, TX	592
Duval County, FL	584
Riverside County, CA	574
Prince George's County, MD	563
Mecklenburg County, NC	534
San Francisco County, CA	513
Shelby County, TN	504
Alameda County, CA	475
Travis County, TX	465
Baltimore City, MD	464
Franklin County, OH	440
Orleans Parish, LA	435
King County, WA	434
San Bernardino County, CA	430
Marion County, IN	426
Montgomery County, MD	368
Cuyahoga County, OH	353
East Baton Rouge Parish, LA	352
Pinellas County, FL	335
Hamilton County, OH	330
Cobb County, GA	324
Hudson County, NJ	322
Sacramento County, CA	321
Suffolk County, MA	320
Gwinnett County, GA	312

# ENDING THE HIV EPIDEMIC: PUERTO RICO

## Goal

**75%**

reduction of new  
infection within 5  
years

**90%**

reduction of new  
infection within 10  
years

## Diagnose

people as early as possible

- Increase the number of people aware of their HIV status to at least 95%
- Increase HIV testing in high impacted communities by expanding outreach activities
- Increase routine and risk-based HIV testing on CPTET's

## Treat

HIV infection rapidly and effectively after diagnosis

- Increase linkage to care to at least 85% and retention in care to at least
- Increase the number of people receiving ART and adherence to HIV treatment
- Increase the number of people virally suppressed

## Prevent

new HIV transmissions

- Increase awareness, access and use of pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP)
- Increase access to syringe services programs
- Increase multi-sectorial alliances to reduce stigma and discrimination of vulnerable populations
- Increase community participation in condom distribution through collaborative agreements

## Respond

quickly to potential HIV outbreaks

- Development of cluster detection plan to identify and respond quickly to HIV outbreaks

# CHALLENGES

- Number of providers (N = 2) offering the service and lack of coverage to get the PrEP prescriptions filled
- Electronic laboratory reporting of nucleotide sequences and private laboratories have yet to be fully implemented
- Ryan White personnel cannot contact all newly identified HIV cases without a signed consent form
- Outreach activities of PLWH out of care from private and community HIV clinical centers (non DOH HIV Clinics)

## FUTURE DIRECTIONS

- Focus contact tracing of named partners on HIV-partners
- Offer Partner Services and Linkage to Care to new cases identified in private health care settings
- Focus HIV navigation services for people not-in-care and /or not virally suppressed
- Prioritize navigation for those who are most likely to transmit the infection

*Rafael Rodríguez Mercado, MD, FAANS, FACS*

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