

- Community Spotlight
- Awareness
- Updates
- Strategic Plan
- Health Access for All
- Racial Equity

This newsletter is organized to align with the six Social Determinants of Health found in the [Ending the Epidemics Integrated Statewide Strategic Plan](#), addressing the syndemic of HIV, HCV, and STIs in California. More about the *Strategic Plan* is available on the [Office of AIDS \(OA\) website](#).

STAFF HIGHLIGHT

OA is pleased to congratulate **Deanna Sykes, PhD**, Chief of the Surveillance & Prevention Evaluation and Reporting Branch on her retirement! We'd like to recognize the incredible leadership, unwavering commitment, and excellent services she has provided over her career to the people of California, the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), and OA.

Deanna exemplified integrity, professionalism, and compassion in advancing public health efforts to improve the lives of individuals impacted by HIV/AIDS across the state of California. She served as a mentor, leader and trusted colleague, whose collaborative spirit and steady presence have been an inspiration to all who have worked alongside her.

OA seeks to recognize Deanna for her enormous contribution, dedication, institutional knowledge, and tireless efforts in State service, and celebrate her passion and vital role in shaping responsive and inclusive HIV/AIDS policies and programs that have had a profound impact on California's communities.

After 27 years of high-quality essential service, we congratulate Deanna Sykes on her retirement and wish her the best in all future endeavors!

We wanted to share with you a portion of the e-mail she sent to her OA family.

Deanna, Marisa, & Jesse



Dear OA,

It's been an amazing ride! It's hard to believe it's been nearly 27 years since I started at the Office of AIDS. When I came onboard in 1998, Bill Clinton was president, there was no such thing as an iPhone, and here at the Office of AIDS, we didn't even have real e-mail. (We had "profs" – an internal electronic messaging system.)

The world has changed dramatically, and not entirely for the better. But if there is one thing

*It is with deepest gratitude that I say thank you,
and farewell. - Deanna*

Page 2 of 6

empowers people to prioritize their sexual health, choose options to keep themselves and others healthy, and ultimately helps prevent the spread of HIV. There are many places to get an HIV test, find one near you at [AIDSVu](#) or for self-testing visit [TakeMeHome](#).

GENERAL UPDATES

➤ Mpox

OA is committed to providing updated information related to mpox. We have partnered with the Division of Communicable Disease Control (DCDC), a program within the Center of Infectious Diseases and have disseminated a number of documents in an effort to keep our clients and stakeholders informed. Please refer to the [DCDC website](#) to stay informed.

Digital assets continue to be available for LHJs and CBOs on DCDC's [Campaign Toolkits](#) website.

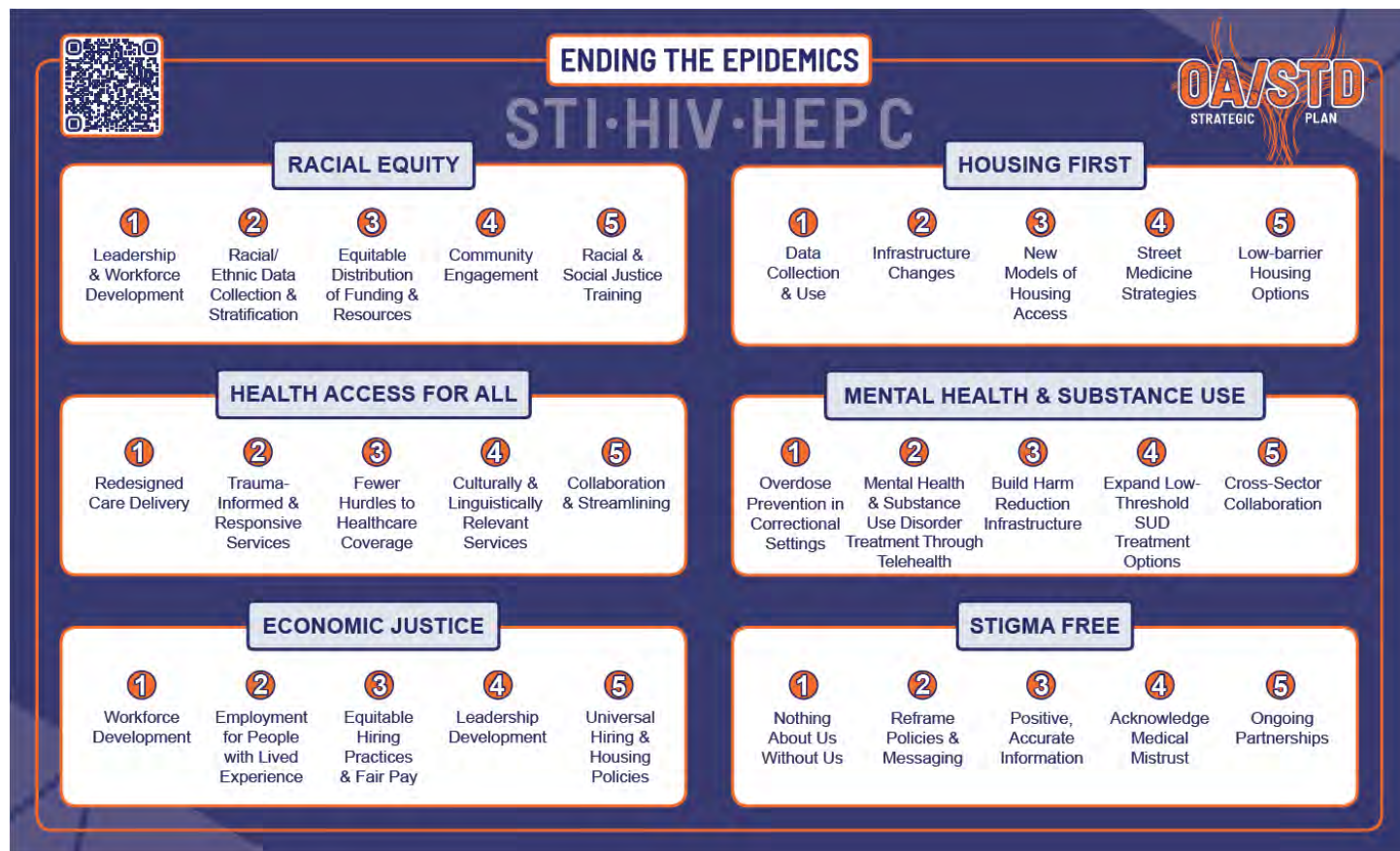
➤ HIV/STI/HCV Integration

We continue to move forward with the necessary steps to integrate our HIV, STI, and HCV programs into a single new Division. We will continue to keep you apprised on our journey as new information comes in.

ENDING THE EPIDEMICS STRATEGIC PLAN OA/STD

The **visual below** is a high-level summary of our *Strategic Plan* that organizes 30 Strategies across six Social Determinants of Health (SDoH).

OA and STD Control Branch would like you to continue to use and share the [Strategic Plan](#) and the [Implementation Blueprint](#). These documents address HIV as a syndemic with HCV and other STIs, through a SDoH lens.



For technical assistance in implementing the *Strategic Plan*, California LHJs and CBOs can visit [Facente Consulting's webpage](#).

HEALTH ACCESS FOR ALL

➤ Strategy 1: Redesigned Care Delivery

OA continues to implement its **Building Healthy Online Communities (BHOC)** self-testing program to allow for rapid OraQuick test orders in all jurisdictions in California. The program, **TakeMeHome**, is advertised on gay dating apps, where users see an ad for home testing and are offered a free HIV-home test kit.

In April, 321 individuals in 37 counties ordered self-test kits, with 211 (65.7%) individuals ordering 2 tests. Additionally, OA's existing TakeMeHome Program continues in the six California Consortium Phase I Ending the HIV Epidemic in America counties. Between the program's initiation in September 1, 2020, and April 30,

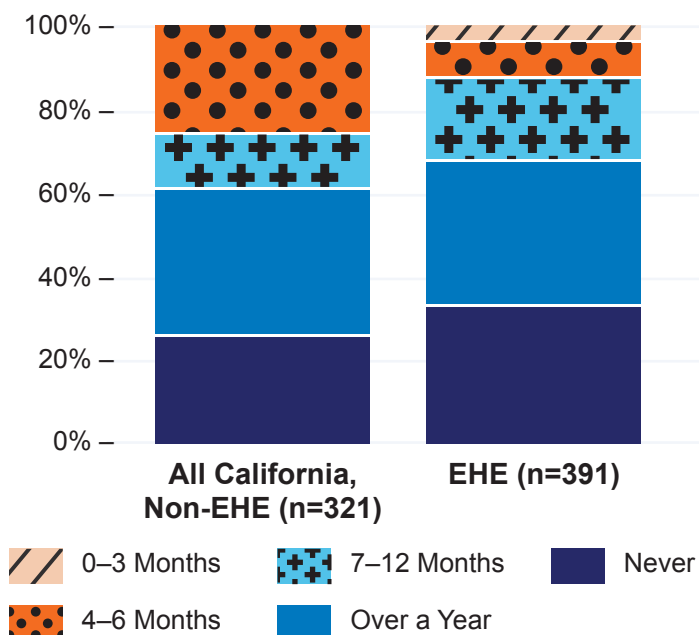
2025, 17,140 tests have been distributed. This month, mail-in lab tests (including dried blood spot tests for syphilis, and Hepatitis C, as well as 3-site tests for gonorrhea and chlamydia) accounted for 65 (16.6%) of the 391 total tests distributed in EHE counties. Of those ordering rapid tests, 257 (78.8%) ordered 2 tests.

Additional Key Characteristics	EHE	All California, Non-EHE
Of those sharing their gender, were cisgender men	55.3%	51.7%
Of those sharing their race or ethnicity, identify as Hispanic or Latinx	41.5%	40.9%
Were 17-29 years old	42.2%	38.9%
Of those sharing their number of sex partners, reported 3 or more in the past year	45.5%	39.9%

Since September 2020, 1,904 test kit recipients have completed the anonymous follow up survey from EHE counties; there have been 809 responses from the California expansion since January 2023.



HIV Test History Among Individuals Who Ordered TakeMeHome Kits, April 2025



Survey Highlights	EHE	All California, Non-EHE
Would recommend TakeMeHome to a friend	94.6%	94.3%
Identify as a man who has sex with other men	48.2%	52.4%
Reported having been diagnosed with an STI in the past year	8.5%	10.0%

➤ Strategy 3: Fewer Hurdles to Healthcare Coverage

As of May 31, 2025, there are 286 PrEP-AP enrollment sites and 231 clinical provider sites that currently make up the [PrEP-AP Provider network](#).

[Data on active PrEP-AP clients](#) can be found in the three tables displayed on page six of this newsletter.

As of May 31, 2025, the number of ADAP clients enrolled in each respective ADAP Insurance Assistance Program are **shown in the table below**.

RACIAL EQUITY

➤ Strategy 2: Racial/Ethnic Data Collection and Stratification

The [California HIV Surveillance Report - 2023](#) is available on the [OA Case Surveillance Reports webpage](#). This report includes statewide and

local health jurisdiction summary tables for 2019–2023 on new HIV diagnoses, persons living with diagnosed HIV infection, and deaths among persons with diagnosed HIV infection. Statewide tables also present data by selected demographics and transmission categories.

In addition, the [Supplemental Tables to the California HIV Surveillance Report - 2023](#) is also available on the same webpage. This report includes additional statewide and local health jurisdiction summary tables for 2019–2023 on new HIV diagnoses, persons living with HIV, and persons classified as Stage 3 (AIDS). This report provides information supplemental to the *California HIV Surveillance Report - 2023*, with further breakdowns by demographic and transmission categories.

For [questions regarding The OA Voice](#), please send an e-mail to angelique.skinner@cdph.ca.gov.

ADAP Insurance Assistance Program	Number of Clients Enrolled	Percentage Change from April
Employer Based Health Insurance Premium Payment (EB-HIPP) Program	594	-0.34%
Office of AIDS Health Insurance Premium Payment (OA-HIPP) Program	5,875	-0.97%
Medicare Premium Payment Program (MPPP)	2,297	0.00%
Total	8,766	0.55%

Source: ADAP Enrollment System

Active PrEP-AP Clients by Age and Insurance Coverage:

Current Age	PrEP-AP Only		PrEP-AP With Medi-Cal		PrEP-AP With Medicare		PrEP-AP With Private Insurance		TOTAL	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
18 - 24	313	10%	---	---	---	---	9	0%	322	10%
25 - 34	1,030	34%	---	---	---	---	135	4%	1,165	38%
35 - 44	748	25%	---	---	3	0%	116	4%	867	29%
45 - 64	413	14%	1	0%	5	0%	91	3%	510	17%
65+	31	1%	---	---	124	4%	5	0%	160	6%
TOTAL	2,535	84%	1	0%	132	4%	356	12%	3,024	100%

Active PrEP-AP Clients by Age and Race/Ethnicity:

Current Age	Latinx		American Indian or Alaskan Native		Asian		Black or African American		Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander		White		More Than One Race Reported		Decline to Provide		TOTAL	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
18 - 24	174	6%	3	0%	37	1%	24	1%	1	0%	42	1%	4	0%	37	1%	322	11%
25 - 34	632	21%	3	0%	108	4%	93	3%	5	0%	238	8%	9	0%	77	3%	1,165	39%
35 - 44	503	17%	4	0%	76	3%	55	2%	4	0%	173	6%	7	0%	45	1%	867	29%
45 - 64	277	9%	---	---	41	1%	15	0%	1	0%	127	4%	1	0%	48	2%	510	17%
65+	16	1%	---	---	5	0%	4	0%	---	---	126	4%	---	---	9	0%	160	5%
TOTAL	1,602	53%	10	0%	267	9%	191	6%	11	0%	706	23%	21	1%	216	7%	3,024	100%

Active PrEP-AP Clients by Gender and Race/Ethnicity:

Gender	Latinx		American Indian or Alaskan Native		Asian		Black or African American		Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander		White		More Than One Race Reported		Decline to Provide		TOTAL	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Female	50	2%	---	---	4	0%	13	0%	1	0%	6	0%	---	---	5	0%	79	3%
Male	1,474	49%	9	0%	242	8%	174	6%	9	0%	677	22%	19	1%	191	6%	2,795	92%
Trans	64	2%	---	---	15	0%	2	0%	1	0%	12	0%	2	0%	4	0%	100	3%
Unknown	14	0%	1	0%	6	0%	2	0%	---	---	11	0%	---	---	16	1%	50	2%
TOTAL	1,602	53%	10	0%	267	9%	191	6%	11	0%	706	23%	21	1%	216	7%	3,024	100%

All PrEP-AP charts prepared by: ADAP Fiscal Forecasting Evaluation and Monitoring (AFFEM) Section, ADAP and Care Evaluation and Informatics Branch, Office of AIDS. Client was eligible for PrEP-AP as of run date: 05/31/2025 at 12:01:27 AM
Data source: ADAP Enrollment System. Site assignments are based on the site that submitted the most recent application.