

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](#).

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- General Updates
- Health Access for All
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STAFF HIGHLIGHT

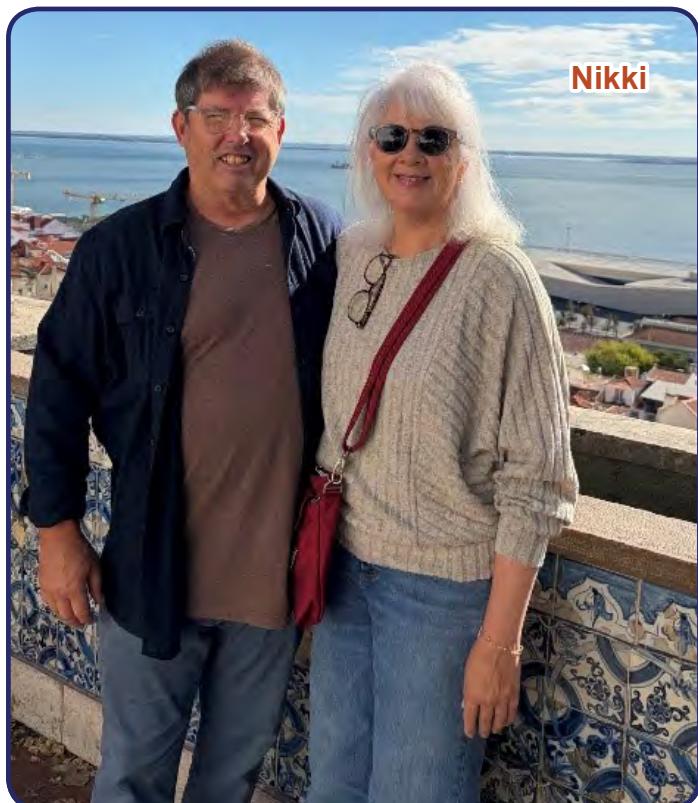
➤ Nikki Gracey

We are excited to announce **Nikki Gracey** has promoted and is the new Section Chief of the Eligibility and Operations Section in the ADAP Branch!

In her new role, she will guide the development of ADAP policies and the implementation of programmatic changes in coordination OA leadership, ACEI, contractors, and a team of three ADAP Eligibility Units.

Nikki joined the ADAP Branch in 2019 as the Unit Chief of Eligibility Unit 3 where she supervised staff, implemented program initiatives, and served as a liaison with contractors and stakeholders. She also developed strategic work plans, monitored performance, and helped shape policies and procedures that expand client access to medication and health care, while following federal requirements. Prior to the ADAP Branch, she worked for the California Department of Education where she managed contracts and procurement for the department.

Nikki brings more than ten years of experience in staff leadership, program management, policy development, and stakeholder engagement. She earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in Liberal Studies from CSU, Sacramento and is currently studying Computer Science at Los Rios Community College.



Outside of work, Nikki loves traveling, spending time with family, reading good books and playing pickleball. Congratulations Nikki!

➤ Sean McGowan

We are also excited to congratulate **Sean McGowan's** promotion to a Health Care Program Specialist, with the ADAP, Program Integrity and Operations Section, Contracts and Grants Unit.

Sean McGowan began his state service in 2008 as a Park Aide with the Department of



Parks & Recreation and eventually promoted to Accountant I in the Accounts Payable unit before promoting to EDD in the Compliance Resolution Unit as a Staff Services Analyst, then CDPH as an AGPA in the ADAP Branch. Sean has spent the past year learning the 340B Rebate Program, Enrollment Site invoicing, and Enrollment Site/ Clinical Provider contracts. He's excited to learn more about the intricacies of the ADAP rebate program as a Health Program Specialist I.

In his free time, Sean likes to play video games, spend time with friends, nap with his kitties, try new restaurants, and go to concerts. Congratulations on your promotion, Sean!

➤ Ben Gold

Please join OA in welcoming **Ben Gold** to the ADAP Branch. As the Fiscal Analyst for the Contracts and Grants Unit, Ben will be assisting with invoicing, vendor inquiries, and getting familiar with all the support trackers! Ben joined the Contracts and Grants Unit of the ADAP Branch in December 2025, his first role in State service. He previously worked in the private

sector as a Billing Coordinator for law firm Gordon & Rees before transitioning to public sector work as a graduate research assistant for Portland State University's Compensation Study team, and as a Strategic Planning Consultant for the Urban Flood Safety & Water Quality District. In his free time, Ben loves to watch movies, go to live music shows, and try new restaurants.

➤ Vanessa Craviotto-Guzman

Lastly, OA would like to welcome **Vanessa Craviotto-Guzman** to ADAP! She is excited and grateful to be returning to OA in her new role as a Fiscal and Contracts Analyst. Her professional background spans both the nonprofit healthcare sector and the private sector. In past lives, she held diverse roles such as bookkeeping/admin, insurance reimbursement for a drug manufacturing company, behavioral case management, health education, and until recently serving as a Data Analyst with the Medical Monitoring Project team in OA's Surveillance Branch. Vanessa brings a strong sense of purpose to her work and is happy to be back contributing her skills and experience.



Vanessa

Outside of work, she enjoys spending time with her family and unwinding through simple pleasures like sipping a cup of tea or hot chocolate while she coaxes her cat, Tater Tot, and dog, Hammy Sammy, to sit on her lap (they hate it). She also pretends to know what to do while playing Nintendo Switch games with her 11-year-old son and husband (they always win).

She also enjoys riding her bike on sunny days along the river trails and then treating herself to a delicious dinner and a good murder mystery show (lately it has just been all food and comfort because it's too cold outside). Welcome back, Vanessa!

GENERAL UPDATES

➤ Mpx

OA continues its commitment 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.

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

Also, please refer to the [DCDC website](#) to stay informed of mpox updates.

➤ OA's HIV Laws Webpage

As we've previously mentioned, OA has recently updated its [HIV Laws webpage](#) in an effort to improve awareness of important legislative information relating to HIV. This page contains organized links to state laws and regulations, as well as associated fact sheets and letters, all relating to OA's programs on HIV prevention, treatment, care, surveillance, and harm reduction. OA will continue to update this webpage with new links and resources in-line with the passage of new legislative bills.

➤ HIV/STI/HCV Integration

Again, we're excited to share an update on the progress of our integration of CDPH's HIV, STI, and HCV programs into a single new Division.

On October 16, 2025, the position announcement for the new Chief of the Division of HIV, HCV, and STIs was released with a final closing date of November 15, 2025. This position can be based out of Sacramento or Contra Costa Counties. Both MDs and PhDs with relevant experience were encouraged to apply.

We anticipate you won't see many immediate changes or impacts to existing contracts/ grants or points of contacts from this first step and that more changes will unfold as planning continues.

As we begin planning for further integration, we will rely on the expertise of our teams to inform the direction and pace of our changes and

also see opportunities for our many partners to weigh-in on the integration of our teams as well.

We are excited for the accomplishment of this huge milestone and are committed to continuing to align our services in a coordinated syndemic manner to better serve individuals at risk of acquiring HIV, STIs, and HCV.

As always, we will continue to keep you apprised on our journey as we move forward and more information develops.

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.

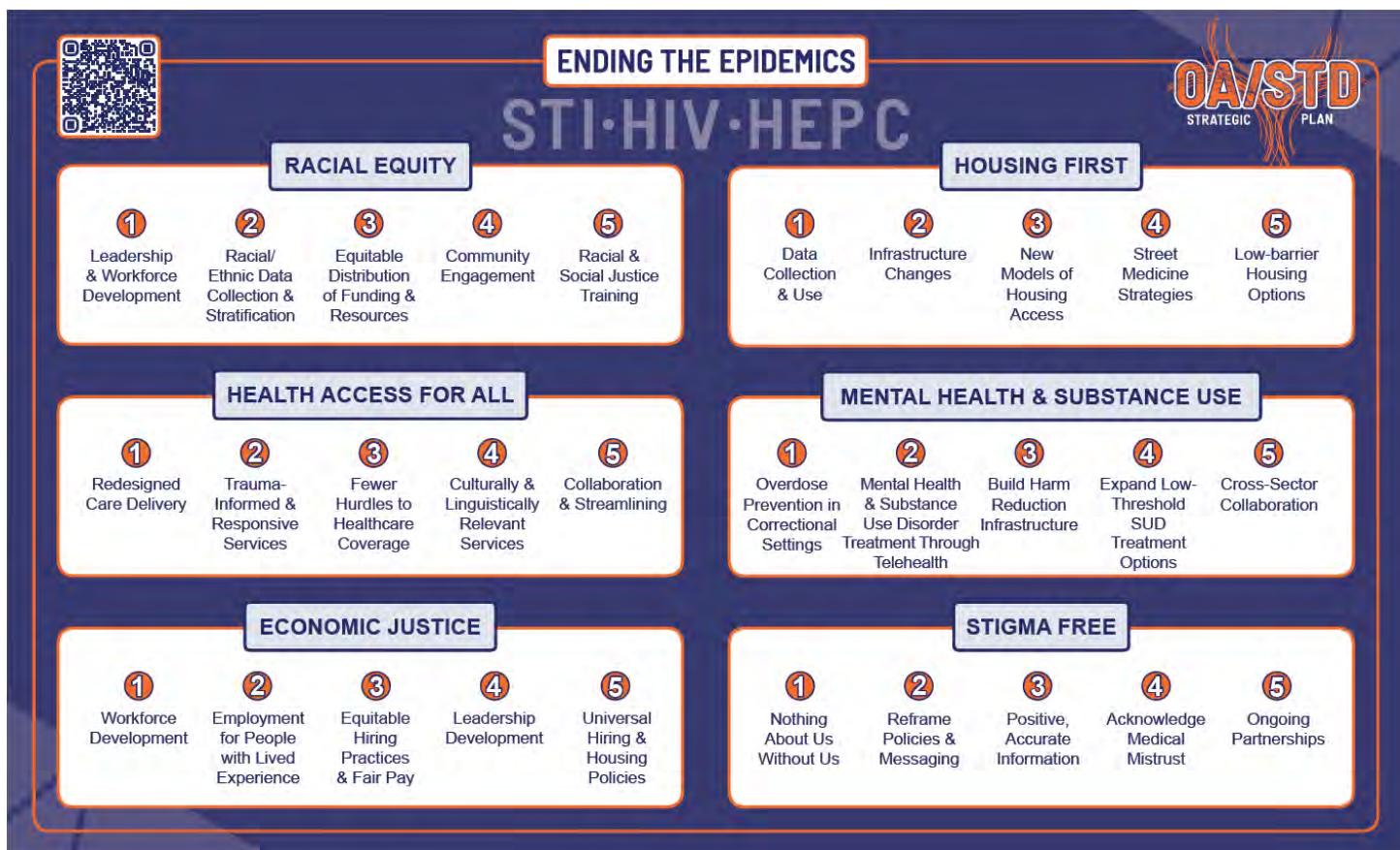
OA and STD Control Branch would like you to continue to use and share the *Strategic Plan* and the *Implementation Blueprint*. These documents address HIV as a syndemic with HCV and other STIs, through a Social Determinants of Health lens.

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



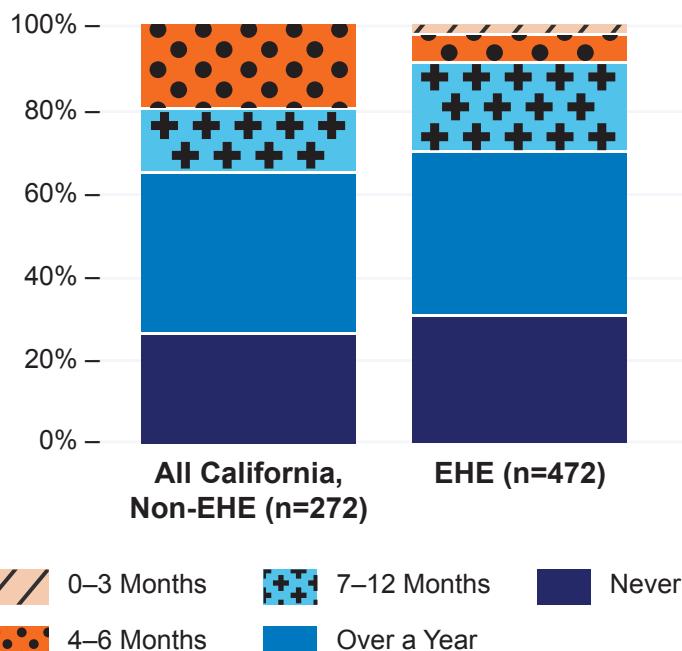
in all jurisdictions in California. The program, [TakeMeHome](#), is advertised on gay dating apps, where users see an ad for home testing and are offered a free HIV-home test kit.

TAKEMEHOME



In November, 272 individuals in 37 counties ordered self-test kits, with 198 (72.8%) 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 November 30, 2025, 20,209 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 313 (66.3%) of the 472 total tests distributed in EHE counties. Of those ordering rapid tests, 112 (70.4%) ordered 2 tests.

HIV Test History Among Individuals Who Ordered TakeMeHome Kits, Nov. 2025



Additional Key Characteristics	EHE	All California, Non-EHE
Of those sharing their gender, were cisgender men	45.7%	53.4%
Of those sharing their race or ethnicity, identify as Hispanic or Latinx	35.1%	41.9%
Were 17-29 years old	36.9%	35.7%
Of those sharing their number of sex partners, reported 3 or more in the past year	46.8%	43.3%

Since September 2020, 2,166 test kit recipients have completed the anonymous follow up survey from EHE counties; there have been 967 responses from the California expansion since January 2023.

Survey Highlights	EHE	All California, Non-EHE
Would recommend TakeMeHome to a friend	95.1%	94.5%
Identify as a man who has sex with other men	46.2%	49.5%
Reported having been diagnosed with an STI in the past year	8.1%	9.7%

HEALTH ACCESS FOR ALL

RACIAL EQUITY

► Strategy 3: Fewer Hurdles to Healthcare Coverage

As of December 31, 2025, there are 301 PrEP-AP enrollment sites and 232 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 the last page of this newsletter.

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

► Strategy 5: Racial and Social Justice Training

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) offers free capacity building assistance (CBA) through training, technical assistance, and other resources to reduce HIV infection and improve health outcomes for people with HIV in the United States.

Its CBA Provider Network provides CBA on a vast variety of HIV prevention related topics! To submit a CBA request, please contact the Local Capacity Building and Program Development Unit at CBA@cdph.ca.gov.

ADAP Insurance Assistance Program	Number of Clients Enrolled	Percentage Change from November
Employer Based Health Insurance Premium Payment (EB-HIPP) Program	578	0.87%
Office of AIDS Health Insurance Premium Payment (OA-HIPP) Program	5,942	3.16%
Medicare Premium Payment Program (MPPP)	2,356	0.73%
Total	8,876	4.76%

Source: ADAP Enrollment System

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



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	310	12%	---	---	---	---	7	0%	317	12%
25 - 34	880	33%	1	0%	---	---	123	5%	1,004	38%
35 - 44	659	25%	---	---	1	0%	95	4%	755	29%
45 - 64	364	14%	2	0%	4	0%	76	3%	446	17%
65+	22	1%	---	---	75	3%	8	0%	105	4%
TOTAL	2,235	85%	3	0%	80	3%	309	12%	2,627	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	185	7%	1	0%	35	1%	23	1%	1	0%	48	2%	2	0%	22	1%	317	12%
25 - 34	573	22%	2	0%	92	4%	79	3%	3	0%	190	7%	7	0%	58	2%	1,004	38%
35 - 44	473	18%	5	0%	54	2%	46	2%	2	0%	134	5%	6	0%	35	1%	755	29%
45 - 64	254	10%	---	---	30	1%	13	0%	---	---	115	4%	2	0%	32	1%	446	17%
65+	11	0%	---	---	4	0%	4	0%	---	---	78	3%	---	---	8	0%	105	4%
TOTAL	1,496	57%	8	0%	215	8%	165	6%	6	0%	565	22%	17	1%	155	6%	2,627	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	34	1%	---	---	3	0%	14	1%	1	0%	9	0%	---	---	5	0%	66	3%
Male	1,396	53%	7	0%	195	7%	148	6%	4	0%	536	20%	16	1%	132	5%	2,434	93%
Trans	61	2%	---	---	14	1%	2	0%	1	0%	11	0%	1	0%	4	0%	94	4%
Unknown	5	0%	1	0%	3	0%	1	0%	---	---	9	0%	---	---	14	1%	33	1%
TOTAL	1,496	57%	8	0%	215	8%	165	6%	6	0%	565	22%	17	1%	155	6%	2,627	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: 12/31/2025 at 12:01:53 AM Data source: ADAP Enrollment System. Site assignments are based on the site that submitted the most recent application.