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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

➤ **Glorietta Kundeti**

OA is pleased to share that **Glorietta Kundeti** is our new HIV Surveillance Section Chief (Research Scientist Supervisor II) in the OA. Over the past six years, Glorietta has demonstrated unwavering dedication within OA, beginning as a Research Scientist (RS) III in the Care Evaluation Monitoring Section, progressing to interim Chief of the ADAP Fiscal Forecasting Evaluation and Monitoring Section, and most recently leading as the Data Management Unit Chief in our Surveillance Section.

Before joining OA, Glorietta spent four years with CalREDIE as both an ELR analyst and a surveillance system data analyst, followed by two years as a RS II in the Infectious Disease Branch Statistics and Surveillance Section. Her academic credentials include an MPH in Epidemiology from Loma Linda University and a BS in Microbiology from the University of California, Davis.

Glorietta lives in Sacramento with her husband Hemanth and their beloved Toyota Prius (2008 produced a great Prius model). She enjoys many little things with a good cup of coffee.

Please join us in congratulating Glorietta on her well-deserved promotion!



➤ **2026 Black Box Workshop**

Nabeeh Hasan and **Triston Mosbacher** both attended this year's Black Box workshop in Washington, D.C., which took place April 6–7. The Black Box Project is a national CDC-funded HIV surveillance data matching project, operated by a team from Georgetown University, who hosted the event. OA has been a consistent participant in the project since late 2021, with Triston frequently collaborating with Georgetown staff to help test and ensure smooth operation of their systems.

The workshop consisted of Black Box participants from across the country, representing approximately forty jurisdictions. Triston led a discussion section focused on Western participating jurisdictions, seeking to identify challenges unique to these jurisdictions and potential opportunities for more routine data sharing between them. In recognition of his contributions to the Black Box Project, Triston was presented with an award at the end of the workshop.

Congratulations, Triston!

HIV AWARENESS

➤ National HIV Vaccine Awareness Day

May 18 is National HIV Vaccine Awareness Day (HVAD). On this day, we honor the scientists, health professionals, researchers, and clinical trial volunteers dedicated to finding an effective preventive HIV vaccine. Many treatments and preventive measures exist to help those living with or impacted by HIV/AIDS; however, a vaccine would help us achieve the goal of ending HIV. During these turbulent times, we want to highlight and stress the importance for the need of scientific innovation. HVAD provides an opportunity to educate communities about the importance of preventative HIV vaccine research.

➤ National Asian & Pacific Islander HIV/AIDS Awareness Day

May 19 is National Asian & Pacific Islander HIV/AIDS Awareness Day (NAPIHAAD). NAPIHAAD is observed to promote testing, reduce HIV stigma, and improve prevention and treatment within the Asian, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (A/PI) communities. Cultural stigma around sexual health and orientation is common in API communities. As a result, members tend to avoid HIV testing, prevention, and care due to familial shame and stigma.

NAPIHAAD is meant to educate, promote the need for culturally competent care and API-lead community organizations, and end the shame about HIV/AIDS in API communities.

GENERAL UPDATES

➤ Mpox

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.

➤ Office of STIs & HCV (OSH)

We are pleased to share a new Dear Colleague Letter (DCL) highlighting the importance of [HIV genotypic drug resistance testing](#). Conducting this testing at entry into HIV care provides immediate clinical benefit by guiding the selection of an individualized antiretroviral therapy (ART) regimen. The letter reviews current ART guidelines regarding how to incorporate HIV drug resistance testing into common clinical scenarios.

In addition, the letter describes how these data can support public health efforts by helping departments understand patterns of HIV transmission and respond to evidence of rapid spread.

Please share this letter with HIV clinical providers in your organization or network.

➤ OA's HIV Laws Webpage

We wanted to mention again that OA has 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

As a reminder, the position announcement for the new Chief of the Division of HIV, HCV, and STIs was released last October and was closed on November 15th. As we await word on its progress, we continue to align our services in a coordinated syndemic manner to better serve individuals at risk of acquiring HIV, STIs, and HCV.

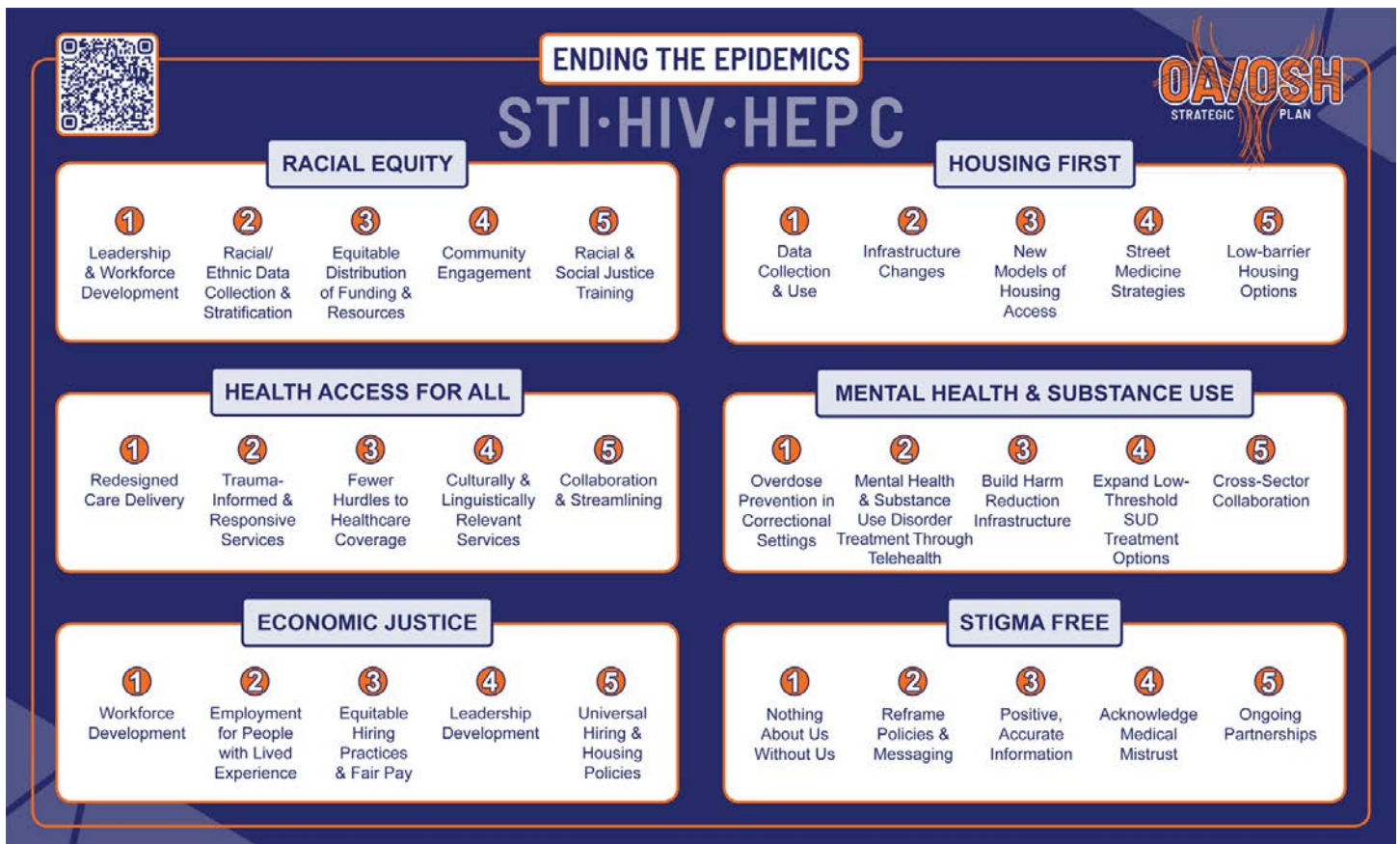
As always, we will continue to keep you updated as we learn more.

ENDING THE EPIDEMICS STRATEGIC PLAN OA/OSH

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

OA and OSH 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

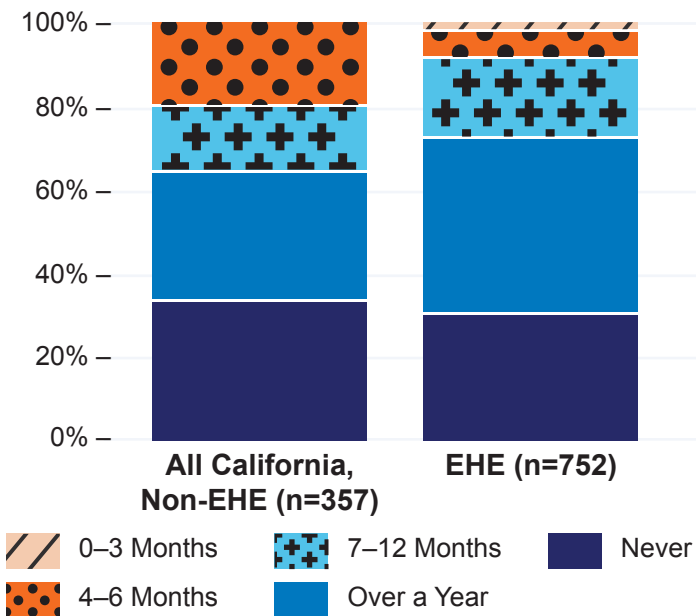
TAKEMEHOME

➤ 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 March, 357 individuals in 37 counties ordered self-test kits, with 249 (69.8%) 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 March 31, 2026, 22,628 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 500 (66.5%) of the 752 total tests distributed in EHE counties. Of those ordering rapid tests, 192 (76.2%) ordered 2 tests.

HIV Test History Among Individuals Who Ordered TakeMeHome Kits, March 2026



Additional Key Characteristics	EHE	All California, Non-EHE
Of those sharing their gender, were cisgender men	45.2%	50.2%
Of those sharing their race or ethnicity, identify as Hispanic or Latinx	37.9%	39.0%
Were 17-29 years old	41.8%	40.3%
Of those sharing their number of sex partners, reported 3 or more in the past year	39.0%	40.2%

Since September 2020, 2,355 test kit recipients have completed the anonymous follow up survey from EHE counties; there have been 1044 responses from the California expansion since January 2023.

Survey Highlights	EHE	All California, Non-EHE
Would recommend TakeMeHome to a friend	95.2%	94.8%
Identify as a man who has sex with other men	44.9%	49.0%
Reported having been diagnosed with an STI in the past year	8.0%	9.3%

HEALTH ACCESS FOR ALL

➤ Strategy 3: Fewer Hurdles to Healthcare Coverage

As of April 30, 2026, there are 309 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 next page of this newsletter.

As of April 30, 2026, the number of ADAP clients enrolled in each respective ADAP Insurance Assistance Program are shown in the [table below](#).

RACIAL EQUITY

➤ Strategy 4: Community Engagement

California Planning Group (CPG) – Spring 2026 Meeting Announcement

The CPG and OA will host the Spring In-Person CPG Meeting from May 12–14. Attendance

will be by invitation only. The meeting theme is *Navigating Troubled Waters and Riding the Wave of Success Together*. It will include a state-led presentation on access to and coverage of long-acting injectables as well as a capacity building session on navigating change during uncertain times. It will also have dedicated time for committee work, including a group assignment on PrEP gaps, extended breakout session, and team-building activities.

For more information, visit our [CPG webpage](#).

➤ 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.

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 March
Employer Based Health Insurance Premium Payment (EB-HIPP) Program	560	-1.41%
Office of AIDS Health Insurance Premium Payment (OA-HIPP) Program	6,275	-0.51%
Medicare Premium Payment Program (MPPP)	2,638	3.09%
Total	9,473	1.17%

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	263	10%	---	---	---	---	6	0%	269	10%
25 - 34	861	33%	---	---	---	---	97	4%	958	37%
35 - 44	742	28%	1	0%	---	---	80	3%	823	31%
45 - 64	390	15%	1	0%	3	0%	78	3%	472	18%
65+	24	1%	---	---	65	2%	7	0%	96	4%
TOTAL	2,280	87%	2	0%	68	3%	268	10%	2,618	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	146	6%	1	0%	32	1%	19	1%	---	---	46	2%	3	0%	22	1%	269	10%
25 - 34	584	22%	2	0%	85	3%	61	2%	4	0%	160	6%	8	0%	54	2%	958	37%
35 - 44	533	20%	4	0%	54	2%	62	2%	1	0%	136	5%	4	0%	29	1%	823	31%
45 - 64	292	11%	1	0%	26	1%	18	1%	---	---	116	4%	---	---	19	1%	472	18%
65+	15	1%	---	---	4	0%	4	0%	---	---	70	3%	---	---	3	0%	96	4%
TOTAL	1,570	60%	8	0%	201	8%	164	6%	5	0%	528	20%	15	1%	127	5%	2,618	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	39	1%	---	---	2	0%	11	0%	1	0%	15	1%	---	---	4	0%	72	3%
Male	1,447	55%	7	0%	184	7%	151	6%	3	0%	485	19%	13	0%	101	4%	2,391	91%
Trans	77	3%	---	---	13	0%	2	0%	1	0%	18	1%	1	0%	5	0%	117	4%
Unknown	7	0%	1	0%	2	0%	---	---	---	---	10	0%	1	0%	17	1%	38	1%
TOTAL	1,570	60%	8	0%	201	8%	164	6%	5	0%	528	20%	15	1%	127	5%	2,618	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: 04/30/2026 at 12:02:01 AM
Data source: ADAP Enrollment System. Site assignments are based on the site that submitted the most recent application.