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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

➤ Nabeeh Hasan

OA is pleased to announce **Nabeeh Hasan** has accepted the Chief of the HIV Surveillance Prevention Evaluation and Reporting (SPER) Branch!

Nabeeh joined our team in September 2020 as the Chief of the Prevention Evaluation and Monitoring (PEM) Section, where he spent 3 _ years working with the PEM team on prevention evaluation and cross-branch programs. In April 2024, he stepped into the role of Surveillance Section Chief, leading surveillance activities and serving as the Principal Investigator for the National HIV Behavioral Surveillance (NHBS) program and the Medical Monitoring Project (MMP) for the past 1-1/2 years.

Before joining us, Nabeeh was the supervising analyst for the national Non-tuberculous Mycobacteria surveillance program for the US Cystic Fibrosis Foundation's CF Care Centers for five years. He brings a wealth of knowledge with a Ph.D. in biology and a postdoc in molecular epidemiology, specializing in genomics, genetics, and informatics in outbreak surveillance.

Outside of work, Nabeeh is passionate about mentoring and community engagement. He's also a big fan of cooking, movies, podcasts, travel, and investing. And if you're ever up early

Nabeeh



on a Sunday morning, you'll catch him at Coffee and Cars in Elk Grove or Delta Shores. Congratulations Nabeeh!

COMMUNITY PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

On November 17th, California Health and Human Services Department (CalHHS) hosted their first ever Trans Awareness Month lunch and learn event, in support of Transgender Awareness

Month. The theme was *Spotlighting CalHHS Trans Leadership and Support for Transgender, Nonbinary, and Gender Expansive Communities*.

CalHHS Secretary, Kim Johnson provided opening remarks. The event was facilitated by Maureen Keffer, CalHHS Assistant Equity Officer.

OA's State Transgender Health Manager, Tiffany Woods was one of the panelists and shared the leadership and work CDPH/OA is doing to advance trans and nonbinary inclusive programs, policies, including in the workplace, and capacity to serve California's diverse transgender communities as specified in our 2022–2026 *Ending the Epidemics Strategic Plan* and strategies we could be engaging in at the state level to support trans and gender diverse people, especially in light of the current federal administration's actions and a call to action for intentional allyship and accomplices to protect trans gender diverse people.

Tiffany's entourage attended the event for support and to celebrate all her contributions towards this work.



L–R: Dr. Marisa Ramos, Angelique Skinner, Jesse Peck, Tiffany Woods, Karin Hill, Leroy Blea, and Matt Willis

HIV AWARENESS

➤ World AIDS Day 2025 - #37

“Overcoming Disruption, Transforming the AIDS Response”
- World Health Organization Theme

Dear Partners,

Every year on December 1st the world unites to commemorate **World AIDS Day**. On World AIDS Day, we honor those lost to HIV, along with the resilience of those who have paved the way for progress. In 2025 we mark the 37th commemoration of this important day. Never has it been more important for us to recognize that we can do so much more together, through collective action, than we can do alone. The history of HIV/AIDS activism has taught us this.



After decades of progress, the HIV response stands at a crossroads. Life-saving services are being disrupted, and many communities face heightened risks and vulnerabilities. Yet amid these challenges, hope endures in the determination, resilience, and innovation of communities who strive to end HIV/AIDS.

Through the sustained efforts of consumers, advocates and allies we have continued to make progress in California. However, we have not made enough progress, and not fast enough progress for all communities, particularly Black/ African American and Latine communities. So, today we recommit to ending HIV-related stigma and to work for a day when HIV is no longer a threat to anyone or any community, even in these difficult times.

As our communities gather across California today and this month to commemorate World

AIDS Day, I do not have to remind you that you are also gathering as a community made stronger because of the outstanding contributions of those currently involved in the fight against the HIV/AIDS epidemic in your community.

On World AIDS Day, I would like to again highlight the critical work at the planning tables of our HIV Councils, Commissions and Groups throughout California. Working in eight grant areas throughout the state, these bodies are primarily responsible for the priority setting and resource allocation of HRSA Part A dollars that funds critical core medical and support services for low-income people living with HIV. In addition, the statewide California Planning Group (CPG) helps to advise California's HRSA Part B program. These groups also help to advise HIV prevention work. Their efforts are a critical part of the effectiveness of HIV work and why we can move towards getting to zero HIV deaths, zero HIV stigma, and zero new HIV infections in California.

If you are part of the communities represented by the groups listed below, please consider joining your home planning body or supporting their work by adding your voice, skills and insight to their community events and activities throughout the year. At these meetings you will find amazing and talented individuals: people living with HIV, those whose communities are most impacted by HIV, and their allies and advocates. You will find people grappling directly with how to address social determinants of health barriers to make sure that all communities benefit from the life-saving tools and resources that are available to treat and prevent HIV. CDPH/OA, does our best to help in their important work and learn from their communities how the State can partner with their best next steps of getting to zero in California.

We hope to see you at one of these planning tables in the future:

- [California Planning Group](#)

- [Inland Empire HIV Planning Council](#) - Serving Riverside and San Bernardino Counties
- [Los Angeles Commission on HIV](#)
- [Oakland TGA HIV Planning Council](#) - Serving Alameda and Contra Costa Counties
- [Orange County HIV Planning Council](#)
- [San Diego HIV Planning Group](#)
- [Sacramento TGA HIV Health Services Planning Council](#) - Serving El Dorado, Placer, Yolo and Sacramento Counties
- [HIV Commission | Public Health | County of Santa Clara](#)
- [San Francisco HIV Community Planning Council](#) - Serving Marin, San Francisco, and San Mateo Counties

To the members of these Planning Councils, Commissions and Groups, and to all those doing HIV/AIDS work across California, on behalf of the entire team at CDPH I want to thank you all for your ongoing courage, focus and effectiveness in carrying out your critical duties. Your work will continue to be the best way to honor World AIDS Day and to be an inspiration to me, my staff and all HIV advocates throughout California.

With great appreciation,



Marisa Ramos, Ph.D.

Office of AIDS Division Chief

OA would also like to share a couple of messages from our community partners regarding World AIDS Day:

"I honor the lives, stories, and resilience of those impacted by HIV and AIDS, especially in communities that have been overlooked. World AIDS Day is a reminder that healing begins with truth, visibility, and compassion. We must remain committed to creating spaces rooted in

connection, where people feel seen, heard, and supported.”

– Daniel G. Garza

“In my work as an HIV provider in West Hollywood, I’m moved daily by my patients’ honesty, strength, and hope. On World AIDS Day, I pause to remember the lives that shaped this journey and to reaffirm my dedication to standing with our community until the epidemic is truly over.”

– Anonymous

Lastly, many events were held across the state in commemoration of World AIDS Day 2025. OA would like to thank all of the partners for sharing those community events across the OA network.

Your unwavering commitment to honoring the lives of those impacted by HIV/AIDS is appreciated and continues to inspire progress in the effort to end the HIV epidemic.

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.

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

In an effort to improve awareness of important legislative information relating to HIV, OA has recently updated its [HIV Laws webpage](#). 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.

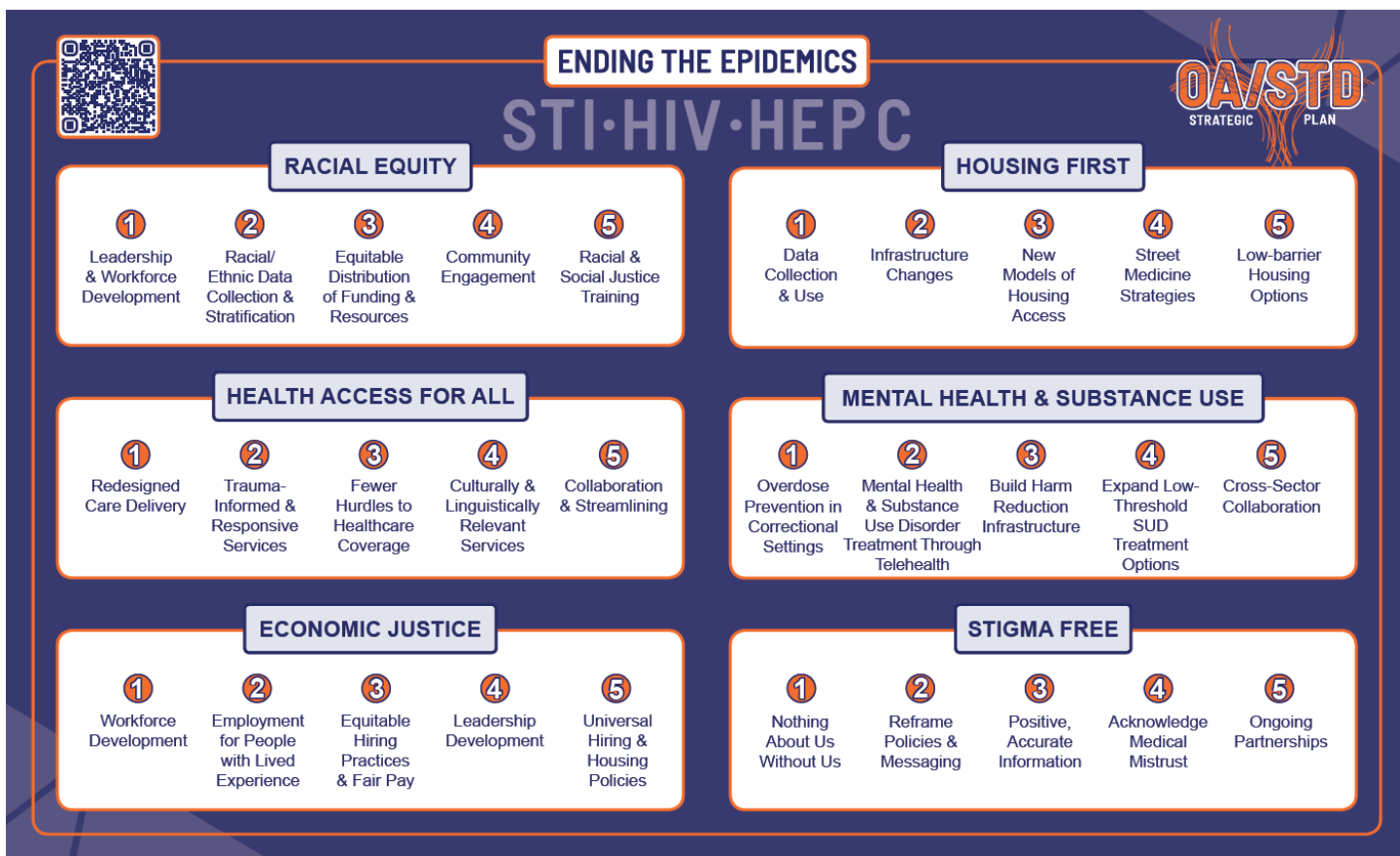
➤ HIV/STI/HCV Integration

As we mentioned in last month’s *OA Voice* issue, 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 (there is a posting for each location which are both for this single position). Both MDs and PhDs with relevant experience were encouraged to apply and the most qualified applicants were interviewed.

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.

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



The **visual above** 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

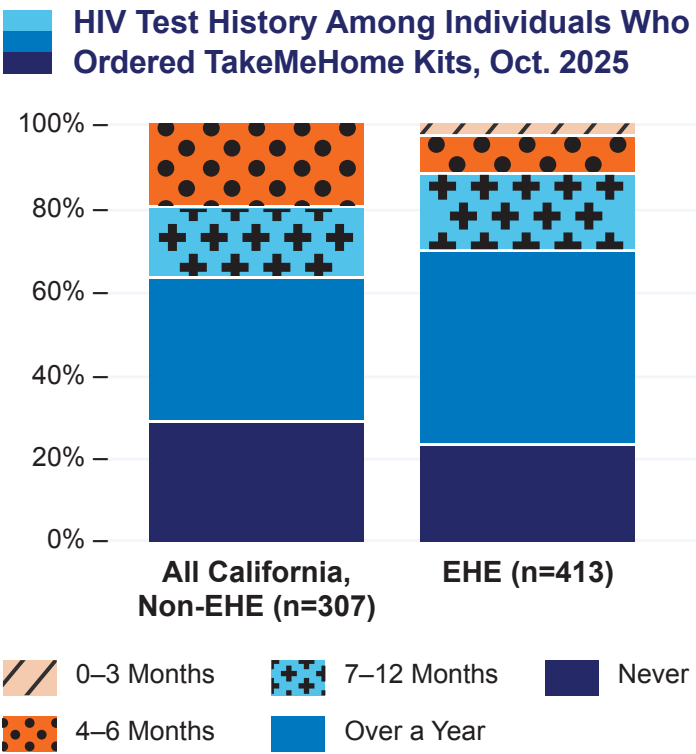
OA continues to implement its **Building Healthy**

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 October, 307 individuals in 37 counties ordered self-test kits, with 206 (67.1%) 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 October 31, 2025, 19,737 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 154 (37.3%) of the 413 total tests distributed in EHE counties. Of those ordering rapid tests, 189 (73.0%) ordered 2 tests.



Since September 2020, 2,122 test kit recipients have completed the anonymous follow up survey from EHE counties; there have been 950 responses from the California expansion since January 2023.

Survey Highlights	EHE	All California, Non-EHE
Would recommend TakeMeHome to a friend	95.0%	94.4%
Identify as a man who has sex with other men	46.5%	50.1%
Reported having been diagnosed with an STI in the past year	8.3%	9.7%

HEALTH ACCESS FOR ALL

➤ Strategy 3: Fewer Hurdles to Healthcare Coverage

As of November 30, 2025, there are 299 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 November 30, 2025, the number of ADAP clients enrolled in each respective ADAP Insurance Assistance Program are shown in the [table at the top of page 8](#).

(continued on page 8)

Additional Key Characteristics	EHE	All California, Non-EHE
Of those sharing their gender, were cisgender men	47.0%	48.2%
Of those sharing their race or ethnicity, identify as Hispanic or Latinx	27.3%	41.7%
Were 17-29 years old	38.7%	40.4%
Of those sharing their number of sex partners, reported 3 or more in the past year	40.0%	50.5%

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	316	12%	---	---	---	---	9	0%	325	12%
25 - 34	872	33%	2	0%	---	---	124	5%	998	38%
35 - 44	673	25%	---	---	1	0%	100	4%	774	29%
45 - 64	351	13%	1	0%	4	0%	78	3%	434	16%
65+	26	1%	---	---	78	3%	7	0%	111	4%
TOTAL	2,238	85%	3	0%	83	3%	318	12%	2,642	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	178	7%	1	0%	36	1%	23	1%	1	0%	51	2%	3	0%	32	1%	325	12%
25 - 34	568	21%	3	0%	88	3%	83	3%	2	0%	189	7%	6	0%	59	2%	998	38%
35 - 44	489	19%	4	0%	56	2%	46	2%	3	0%	135	5%	5	0%	36	1%	774	29%
45 - 64	251	10%	---	---	28	1%	13	0%	---	---	112	4%	1	0%	29	1%	434	16%
65+	14	1%	---	---	4	0%	4	0%	---	---	81	3%	---	---	8	0%	111	4%
TOTAL	1,500	57%	8	0%	212	8%	169	6%	6	0%	568	21%	15	1%	164	6%	2,642	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	43	2%	---	---	2	0%	17	1%	1	0%	8	0%	---	---	8	0%	79	3%
Male	1,388	53%	7	0%	189	7%	150	6%	4	0%	539	20%	14	1%	132	5%	2,423	92%
Trans	63	2%	---	---	17	1%	1	0%	1	0%	10	0%	1	0%	4	0%	97	4%
Unknown	6	0%	1	0%	4	0%	1	0%	---	---	11	0%	---	---	20	1%	43	2%
TOTAL	1,500	57%	8	0%	212	8%	169	6%	6	0%	568	21%	15	1%	164	6%	2,642	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: 12/01/2025 at 10:12:55 AM
Data source: ADAP Enrollment System. Site assignments are based on the site that submitted the most recent application.

ADAP Insurance Assistance Program	Number of Clients Enrolled	Percentage Change from October
Employer Based Health Insurance Premium Payment (EB-HIPP) Program	573	-1.04%
Office of AIDS Health Insurance Premium Payment (OA-HIPP) Program	5,760	-0.40%
Medicare Premium Payment Program (MPPP)	2,339	-0.09%
Total	8,672	-0.36%

Source: ADAP Enrollment System

RACIAL EQUITY

➤ Strategy 4: Community Engagement

California Planning Group – Fall 2025 Meeting

The 2025 Fall In-Person CPG Meeting was a great success! Thank you to all CPG members who provided feedback in the Spring meeting survey that was used to plan this meeting. We want to extend a heartfelt thank you for attending the meeting and for the time, dedication and work you have put into helping to cultivate and foster a positive and intentional planning body.

We appreciate your engagement, personal perspectives, insights, and help in creating a safe space for sharing and listening! If you were able to attend, we hope you found the meeting informative to our CPG and collective work. If you were unable to attend, we look forward to seeing you at the Spring In-person meeting.

Huge thank you to all Steering Committee members who helped to plan the meeting, support the CPG members, and helped with setting up, cleaning up, and so much more! Also, thank you to the OA Liaisons and STDCB Liaisons who continuously support CPG members throughout the monthly committee meetings leading up to and during this event.

We also extend sincere gratitude to the CPG Host Committee for their stellar planning and facilitation and OA Division Chief, Dr. Marisa Ramos, for taking time out of her busy schedule to attend and provide her candid open forum updates.

Also, much appreciation to the OA and STDCB Management Teams for attending the meeting and supporting CPG members. We also want to express a huge thanks to Community Co-Chairs Vivian Gallardo and John Paul Soto for their ongoing work and support in helping to plan for this meeting!

And of course, another huge thank you to Rachel Kallett and California State University, Sacramento (CSUS) for taking care of all our travel and hotel logistics!

Meeting Highlights:

On Day 1, we hosted a two-part Leadership Academy focused on increasing skills and capacity for CPG members. The first session was a training presentation facilitated by Eileen Jacobowitz on healthy conflict for successful collaboration and communicating in a multi-generational workforce. This session was followed by an artistic activity facilitated by Paint the Town, where CPG members painted tote bags to connect with each other through this team-building activity.

On Day 2, we had state-led presentations on OA Branch Updates by Jesse Peck, Nabeeh Hasan, Joseph Lagrama, Karl Halfman, and Linda Lewis as well as an update and discussion on HIV Care Connect Data Sharing and Consent by Chris Paular and Hillary Chigi-Garcia. We also had community-led presentations on the work of the Ending the Epidemics Coalition, by Sebastian Perez and Jonathan Frochtzwaig as well as a presentation on CPG accomplishments, by Community Co-Chairs Vivian Gallardo and John Paul Soto.

On Day 3, we had a presentation on CPG 101 by State Co-Chairs Tiffany Woods and Matt Willis. We also had a community focus

group discussion around gaps in PrEP across California facilitated by Ian Holloway, UCLA Professor of Nursing and Director of Research and Innovation.

The full meeting notes will be added to the [CPG webpage](#).

Much appreciation to all presenters for sharing their time and expertise with CPG!

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