



AT THE FOREFRONT

**UChicago**  
**Medicine**



# CHICAGO CENTER FOR HIV ELIMINATION

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

**CCHE**

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[hivelimination.uchicago.edu](http://hivelimination.uchicago.edu)

2023

# INTRODUCTION

## The Chicago Center for HIV Elimination (CCHE)

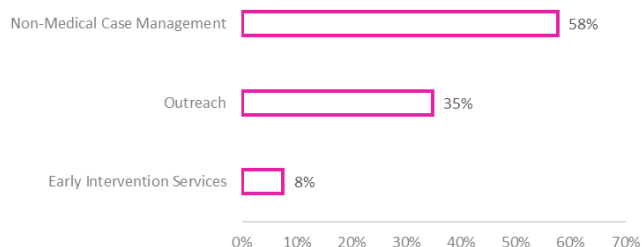
CCHE is at the **front line of cutting-edge service and research** that will lead to the **elimination of new HIV transmission events** in Chicago, and potentially serve as a model for other jurisdictions **domestically and abroad**. There are two distinct arms of CCHE: **HIV Prevention and Care Team (HIV-PACT)**, providing clinical services and research in the hospital and Adult Infectious Disease section, and **The Village**, CCHE's off-campus community service and research site. CCHE uses unique **network intervention approaches, predictive analytics, implementation science models** to integrate HIV treatment, prevention, research, and structural and community specific interventions, with a scientifically estimated goal of **getting to zero new infections by 2041**. CCHE has been essential in dismantling systemic and social barriers for **Black sexual and gender diverse individuals (BSGD)**, **people who use drugs (PWUD)**, **people experiencing criminal legal involvement (CLI)**, **those experiencing disproportionate STI burden**, and those at the **intersections** of these communities in accessing healthcare, support and treatment services. Working as **one operational unit**, the Center's **interdisciplinary staff** translates research directly into practice to deliver services to those **who need it most**. In turn, practice drives mission-critical research questions to best serve the community.

In **2023**, CCHE (HIV-PACT and The Village) served a **combined 1,435 unique clients over 3,694 encounters**. **58%** (n=832) of clients served are living with HIV, while the remaining **42%** were equally comprised of those with an unknown HIV status (21%, n=306) and those with a negative HIV status (21%, n=297).

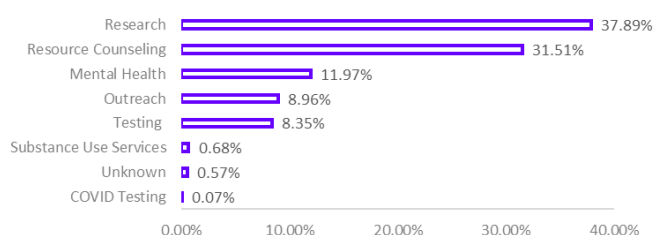
**HIV-PACT provided supported services to 551 people living with HIV (PLWH) over 1026 encounters in 2023**. Majority of participants (58%) received non-medical case management, offering care coordination, health education, mental health support, referrals, and more. Another 8% received early intervention services, which are more targeted support offerings for individuals newly diagnosed with HIV or re-engaging with HIV care. The remaining 35% of participants were a part of outreach efforts to re-engage individuals in care.

**The Village served 884 unique clients with 2,668 encounters, comprised of individuals living with HIV, those with an unknown HIV status, and those with a negative HIV status (31%, 35%, 34%, respectively)**. Clients visited CCHE on an average of 3 times throughout the year, ranging from 1-84 visits per client. Research (38%) and resource counseling (32%) were the most requested services requested by community members. Mental health services, outreach and testing were also among services rendered (12%, 9% and 8%, respectively).

Completed Services 2023, HIV-PACT  
(n=1,026, duplicated)



Completed Research & Services  
2023, The Village  
(n=2,790, duplicated)



# SOUTH SIDE HEALTH HOME

In 2019, the Chicago Department of Public Health modified the funding structure for HIV prevention and care, creating a **network-based resource community** for people affected by HIV (population-centered health homes, PCHH). The University of Chicago's HIV programs joined together to create the **South Side Health Home (S2H2)**. Each group in S2H2 (**HIV-PACT, CCHE, and Care2Prevent- UCM's pediatric HIV center**) bring their unique areas of expertise to create a care and prevention system that ensures that all community members, regardless of status, are receiving the **medical, social and structural support they deserve**. As part of S2H2, University of Chicago medical providers provided care to **617 individuals living with HIV in 2023**. Of the 617 people living with HIV, **69% are currently retained in care** (seen in the last six months) and **88% are virally suppressed (VL<200)**. Our additional S2H2 physicians providing care for an additional **500+ clients at local federally qualified health centers** including Howard Brown Health Clinic, Friend Health Center, and Chicago Family Health Clinic.

## SERVICES

### HIV-PACT

**HIV-PACT (Prevention and Care Team)**, is part of the S2H2 population Centered Health Home for the University of Chicago. HIV-PACT provides **comprehensive HIV prevention and care support** at The University of Chicago's Medical Campus. The HIV-PACT team is staffed with members from **pharmacy, social work, nursing, and health education** who provide **care coordination** and outreach to community members who are hospitalized, lost to follow-up, and/or newly diagnosed with HIV.

### HIV-PACT: Sexual Wellness Clinic (SWC)

In February 2024, the HIV-PACT team celebrated the **5th year of the Sexual Wellness Clinic (SWC)**, a collaboration with the Emergency Department to expand sexual health services and HIV prevention efforts to those presenting to the Emergency Department (ED). Since inception, the SWC has provided **wholistic and comprehensive care to nearly 700 individuals** who were tested under the **routine syphilis screening** program or presented to the ED for **sexual health concerns**.

### HIV-PACT: Additional Services

In 2023, Infectious Disease faculty have received grant funding to be able to expanded programming and services through collaboration with other departments. Drs. Jessica Ridgway and Neda Laiteerapong led work to annually **screen all patients with HIV for anxiety and depression** and refer patients to appropriate services. They have since expanded that work under an R01 grant to include

**substance use screening services** and will be working under a collaborative care model. In collaboration with the Section of Geriatrics through a CDC SPNS grant, Drs. Shellie Williams, Jacob Walker, and Moira McNulty are supporting efforts to **train staff as Dementia Champions** to identify and support clients over the age of 50 who are experiencing signs of dementia or other cognitive loss. The **Long Acting Injectable (LAI)** clinic was also expanded, providing Cabenuva injections to **68 patients living with HIV**.



# SERVICES

## The Village

The Village offers an array of supportive services aimed at addressing **structural barriers that impact community members affected by HIV**. The Supportive Services team, which is comprised of **social workers, case managers, and mental health counselors**, work in partnership to provide a variety of services to meet the community's unique needs. The Center believes that this type of programming is **integral** to the mission of **eliminating new HIV transmission events by 2041**.

## The Village: Supportive Services

Community members who touch **any S2H2 provider** are eligible to receive Supportive Services offerings at The Village, located off-

campus on 55th and Lake Park. During 2023, Supportive Services **served 272 unique clients at The Village, with 83 individuals receiving therapy services and 189 receiving case management**. Moreover, **16 participants (170 encounters)** attended **Thriving Thursdays**, a digital mental wellness group. Thriving Thursday is facilitated by a group of mental health professionals and aims to provide participants with a safe space to **explore, expound and engage in wellness practices**. Thriving Thursdays creatively introduces mental health concepts and self-exploration activities to participants through **art, music and movement**.

The team provided over **\$12,000 in resources to community members in 2023**. The most frequently provided supports include **gift cards for food** and other necessities, transportation support (**Lyfts**) **to appointments and interviews**, and **bus cards** for other transportation needs. In 2023, the team noted that there was an increase in the number of clients who were street based and unstably housed. With the hopes of better supporting those clients, the program **added microwavable food and snacks for clients who drop in**, and **7-day bus passes for safer sleep/transportation** to the service offerings. Between March and December, 2023, **59 unique clients** have received these expanded services.

*"I think having [my resource counselor is like] having that person who just really cares. Like, who has a similar mindset as your own. So I think that's that's the thing, like, I feel like when I explain something to [my resource counselor], he understands... he's really uplifting. And it's like, oh, this person actually cares about what I what I'm saying. They want to know rather than my words just going over their head. So I think it's just that effort to want to get to know me but also to understand like, what I'm trying to do like what direction or, you know, path I'm trying to take and how they can assist in the process."* - The Village client 2023

*"It is really beautiful. So I love [my resource counselor]. I don't know her title but she helped me out with like bus cards, gift cards. I tell her I just moved from the studio to a one bedroom and I just was talking, just running my mouth. You know what I mean? Just [to] tell her, you know why I got a one bedroom. She said, 'well, do you have any furniture?' I said 'no'. She took me to a furniture bank and everything. I really love The Village. You guys have wonderful resources. Y'all really help the community and help me out. I really love them."* - The Village client 2023

Sonic Healing Event 2023





# SERVICES

## Community-Based Testing

CCHE offers **community-based, low-barrier, free HIV and STI testing**. In 2008, prior to the development of CCHE as a Center, the research team utilized **network science to engage vulnerable populations** for HIV acquisition in HIV testing. Notably, 44% of the community members engaged were found to be living with HIV (10% newly diagnosed) (Schneider et al., 2012). This research served as an indicator of the formerly ignored epidemic on the South side and led to the development of CCHE as a Center. Since then, CCHE has continued to grow these efforts, and in 2023 The Village testing team performed **nearly 600 HIV and STI tests**.

## ED-Based Testing

The University of Chicago Medicine continues to be the **lead organization for HIV screening in healthcare settings** (also known as Expanded HIV Testing and Linkage to Care, or xLTC), in partnership with **13 hospitals and federally qualified health centers** on the South and West sides of Chicago. In 2023, University of Chicago Medicine performed **37,039 HIV tests (up 13% from 2020) and identified 44 individuals newly diagnosed with HIV**. Dr. Kimberly Stanford, MD, MPH, Director of ED HIV/STI Testing, has worked closely with the HIV-PACT team to increase routine HIV and syphilis screening in the ED and has been **cited in state guidelines recommending routine syphilis screening in emergency departments**. HIV-PACT also provides linkage to care services for people diagnosed with Hepatitis C who are eligible for treatment. University of Chicago Medicine screened **25,661 individuals for Hepatitis C, up 55% from 2020**.

HIV: 519 tests performed in community

48%

48% of those tested had a positive HIV result.

5%

5% of those tested for HIV received their HIV diagnosis for the first time while testing with CCHE.

Gonorrhea & Chlamydia: 578 tests performed (multi-site) in community

Multiple sites were tested for Gonorrhea and Chlamydia: 544 oral, 517 urine and 500 rectal tests completed.

10%

10% of those tested had a positive Gonorrhea result.

10%

10% of those tested had a positive Chlamydia result.

Syphilis: 508 tests performed in community

41%

41% of those tested for syphilis were RPR reactive. RPR is reactive when there is a current infection of syphilis, OR a past infection that has been treated.

28%

28% of those tested for syphilis were experiencing a new infection and were eligible for treatment

HIV: 37,039 tests performed @ UCM ED

44 INDIVIDUALS

UP 13%

44 individuals of those tested for HIV received their HIV diagnosis for the first time while testing in the ED.

HIV tests performed at the ED increased by 13% from 2020.

HCV: 25,661 tests performed @ UCM ED

UP 55%

HCV tests performed at the ED increased by 55% from 2020.

# SERVICES

## Outreach

**Meaningful community engagement** is a **cornerstone** of the work at CCHE. Since its inception, CCHE has built **thoughtful partnerships with South and West side organizations and stakeholders**. Throughout 2023, the Center participated in the following:

- **Community Advisory Board:** To ensure community support and relevance, CCHE maintains an active Community Advisory Board (CAB). The CAB meets on a monthly basis to provide feedback on research and service proposals/projects.
- **AIDS Run/Walk 2023:** CCHE raised nearly \$15,000 for services and programming. As a community direct partner, 90% of funds raised were returned to CCHE to support 2024 programming.
- **Internal programming:** More than 200 community members were served at outreach events in 2023.
- **Digital outreach efforts:** CCHE revamped all social media in 2023 and have quickly built a following. We are hoping to expand in 2024-**follow us!**

In 2023, CCHE supported several external events through our sponsorship efforts, including:

- **Monthly support of community groups:** Adodi (Adodi is a brotherhood organization for same-gender-loving men of African descent) & People Advocating Change (PAC)
- **Tabling at events:** World AIDS Day celebration, Summit of Hope for Women, Love Fest, Pride Southside, and Sonic Healing
- **Event support:** PAC's Memorial Day Softball game and Third Coast Center for AIDS Research community sponsorship events
- **Sponsorships:** Painted Villains Ball, STRUT Fashion show, and other community-led events.

515 followers



56 followers



357 followers



FB: villageCCHE IG: villageCCHE X: CCHEvillage



2023 AIDS Run/Walk: CCHE Team!

CCHE

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# SERVICES

## Care2Prevent

**Care2Prevent (C2P)**, the University of Chicago's Pediatric and Adolescent HIV Program, is part of the S2H2 Population Centered Health Home for the University of Chicago. C2P champions **stability and upholds dignity through client-focused support**, enabling **self-directed progress** within the continuum of HIV care. By prioritizing autonomy and the provision of innovative services, C2P aims to **reshape and elevate the landscape of HIV care provision** for individuals and families on Chicago's South Side. Since 1990, C2P has remained **one of the largest** providers of pediatric HIV care and prevention services on the South Side. Approximately **95% of youth (up to 24 years old)** served through C2P's supportive services **present with housing insecurity, 60% present with food insecurity, and 40% request employment assistance**. The COVID-19 pandemic and its deep impact on the economy and communities of color has only exacerbated these issues; over the past few years, C2P has seen a dramatic increase in needs around housing, employment, and food assistance.

As part of their community-engaged programming, C2P utilizes the **Comer Children's Mobile Medical Unit** twice weekly to provide HIV/STI testing, safer sex kits, harm reduction supplies, and sexual health education in high HIV prevalence and incidence communities on Chicago's South Side. In 2022, Care2Prevent **tested over 300 individuals for HIV**, the highest number since 2017. Since 2019, C2P has made a concerted effort to build relationships with



community organizations throughout the city, including Lawrence Hall, Covenant House of Illinois, Deborah's Place, and Casa Esperanza among others, to ensure that needs for **wraparound services** are met. With funding from Getting to Zero Illinois, C2P has developed and implemented a flagship **peer mentorship program**. This program supports individuals with HIV who work alongside C2P staff to facilitate support groups and work with clients **experiencing difficulty engaging in care**. Clients who met with a peer expressed feeling more comfortable speaking about their concerns and were comforted by seeing someone in clinic with HIV who served as a role model for medication adherence and viral suppression, the goal of HIV treatment.

**One of C2P's long-term goals is to help inform the development of peer mentorship programs in other HIV treatment and prevention spaces that focus on adolescent and young adult populations.**

Black Women's Expo 2023



# SERVICES

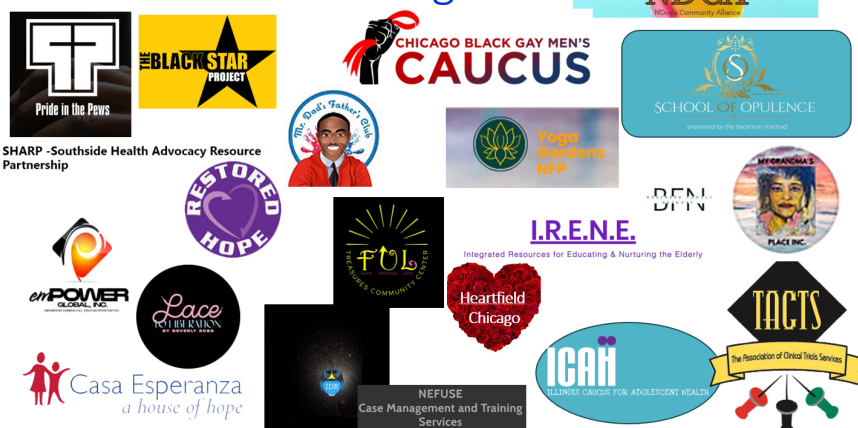
## Service Spotlight: BIA

Launched in 2019, ViiV Healthcare's Amp Grant funds organizations to operate micro-granting and capacity building programs to support individuals and organizations leading grassroots HIV service efforts. As 1 of 10 organizations funded, CCHE proposed the **Black Incubator and Accelerator (BIA)** project, in collaboration with the **Office of Civic Engagement** and alongside 4 contracted **non-profit experts**. Over three years (2021-2024), BIA has worked closely with **23 Black-led organizations housed on the South and West sides** (Year 1: 4 organizations, Year 2: 12 organizations, Year 3: 21 organizations). BIA aims to: 1) **build organizational resilience and programmatic strength** of South and West BSGD-led organizations, 2) support and cultivate **BSGD local leadership**, and 3) nurture a **healthy ecosystem of BSGD HIV service organizations** that promote innovation, the development of culturally relevant programs, collaboration, and cross-fertilization between agencies. These aims are accomplished through an **individualized needs assessment, tailored capacity building, seed funding, linkage to University of Chicago resources, and peer networking**, among other activities.

Preliminary results from our completed 2021-2023 cohorts (13 organizations total) indicate that **all participating organizations (n=13) reported greater confidence and vision for their organizations**. During Year 1, **two of four (50%)** organizations that were considering/pursuing 501c3 status **were able to secure/regain 501c3 status**. The two organizations that did not secure 501c3 status decided that a fiscal agent/sponsor type arrangement was best for their organization and **were able to secure a fiscal agent/sponsor**. During Year 2, **six of 6 organizations (100%)** that needed or wanted to **revise their agency strategic plan** were able to do so. **Three of 3 (100%)** organizations that needed a physical space **were able to secure a space**. **Five of 5 (100%)** organizations that wanted to **develop and/or refresh their board** were able to do so. **Three of 3 (100%)** organizations that wanted a **web and/or social media presence** were able to do so to increase their visibility. The **13 organizations that participated in BIA were able to form 28 new partnerships**. Lastly, **six of 6 (100%)** organizations that applied for funding and/or conducted fundraisers **were able to leverage an estimated total of \$430,000**.

## Meet Our 2024 BIA Orgs

2024 BIA Cohort (Year 3)



*"I just wanted to reach out as a testament. The BIA program has been such a life changer to me. Waking up this morning to the great news of another grant awarding (\$30K VHC Positive Action Community Grant). Being able to hire a grant writer was absolutely instrumental."*  
-2023 BIA organization



# RESEARCH

## Overview

Through innovative research strategies, CCHE researchers and staff continued to dive into vital research topics that will ultimately contribute to the elimination of new HIV infections. The research team, provides project management, administrative and technical support for recruitment, retention, data collection, and regulatory compliance to ensure the smooth operation of studies led by CCHE investigators. Current studies include:

Title	PI	IRB#
Harnessing social network support to improve retention in care and viral suppression among young Black men in Chicago and Alabama: A hybrid type I effectiveness-implementation trial of <b>(Project nGage)</b>	Alida Bouris, PhD, MSW	IRB11-0654
Case management dyad <b>(CM2)</b>	Alida Bouris, PhD, MSW	IRB22-0600
Identifying Optimal Rapid START Implementation Strategies to End the HIV Epidemic in the U.S: A Preparatory Study <b>(ISC3I)</b>	Russell Brewer, DrPH, MPH	IRB22-1908
Youth Services Navigation Intervention for HIV+ adolescents and young adults being released from incarceration: A randomized control trial <b>(LINK2)</b>	Russell Brewer, DrPH, MPH	CIRB18-1769
Informing Rapid PrEP Implementation Strategies Tailored to the Context of Medicaid Expansion <b>(Pathways to PrEP)</b>	Russell Brewer, DrPH, MPH	CIRB22-1936
STI/HIV Prevention for Black Sexual Minority Men and Transgender People <b>(Project REACH)</b>	Russell Brewer, DrPH, MPH	CIRB21-2016
Relevant Implementation Strategies to Enhance a Status Neutral Approach to HIV Prevention and Treatment <b>(Project RISE)</b>	Russell Brewer, DrPH, MPH	IRB22-0875
Relevant Implementation Strategies to Eliminate the social and structural barriers to HIV services among Justice-involved Black men who have sex with men and other key populations <b>(JRISE)</b>	Russell Brewer, DrPH, MPH	IRB23-1495
Exploring Needs, Barriers, and Opportunities for Integration of HIV Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) Prescription in Psychiatry: A Mixed Methods Study of Patients and Psychiatrists <b>(PrEP in Psych)</b>	Anu Hazra, MD	IRB22-0889
Computational modeling to evaluate socio-structural interventions for HIV and substance use	Anna Hotton PhD, MPH	IRB23-1398

# RESEARCH

Title	PI	IRB#
Understanding Patient, Provider, and Systems Stakeholder Attitudes and Preferences to Optimize Implementation of Long-Acting Injectable Antiretrovirals and Maximize Clinical and Public Health Impact <b>(LAI-ART)</b>	Moira McNulty, MD, MS	CIRB20-0933
Long-Acting Injectable Antiretroviral Therapy <b>(MODERN ART)</b>	Moira McNulty, MD, MS	CIRB20-0933
Structural Intervention to Promote HIV Care in Black Sexual Minority Men <b>(Work2Prevent Plus)</b>	Darnell Motley, PhD	IRB22-0783
We Realize and Prioritize: A Zine-based Intervention for Young Black Sexual Minority Men (YBSMM) and Their Medical Providers <b>(WRaP)</b>	Jade Pagkas-Bather, MD, MPH	IRB22-0857
Ending transmission of HIV, HCV, and STDs and overdose in rural communities of people who inject drugs <b>(ETHIC)</b>	Mai Pho, MD, MPH	IRB17-1630
Promoting remote harm reduction and secondary services in rural settings <b>(PROMOTE)</b>	Mai Pho, MD, MPH	IRB22-1415
Understanding Missed Opportunities for Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) in Women and Achieving Equity in Patient Outcome Reporting for Timely Assessments of Life with HIV and Substance Use <b>(ePORTAL HIV-S)</b>	Jessica Ridgway, MD, MPH	IRB21-1035
Adapting PrEP Optimization Among Women to Enhance Retention and Uptake (POWER Up) Strategies in Community Health Clinics in the Midwest and Southern U.S. <b>(POWER Up)</b>	Jessica Ridgway, MD, MPH	IRB21-1035
Marijuana Effects and Executive Function Pilot Among Young Black Men Who Have Sex With Men <b>(fMRI)</b>	John Schneider, MD, MPH	IRB15-0031
PrEP Uptake and Adherence Among Young Black Men and Transwomen who have Sex with Men and Transwomen: Neighborhood and Network Determinants <b>(Networks and Neighborhoods, N2P2)</b>	John Schneider, MD, MPH	IRB16-1419
Social Network Diffusion of COVID-19 Prevention for Diverse Criminal Legal Involved Communities <b>(C2P2)</b>	John Schneider, MD, MPH	IRB22-0732
Evaluating Linkage to Care Methods for Patients Screened for Syphilis Through the University of Chicago Emergency Department	Kim Stanford, MD	IRB24-0115

**Interested in research?**

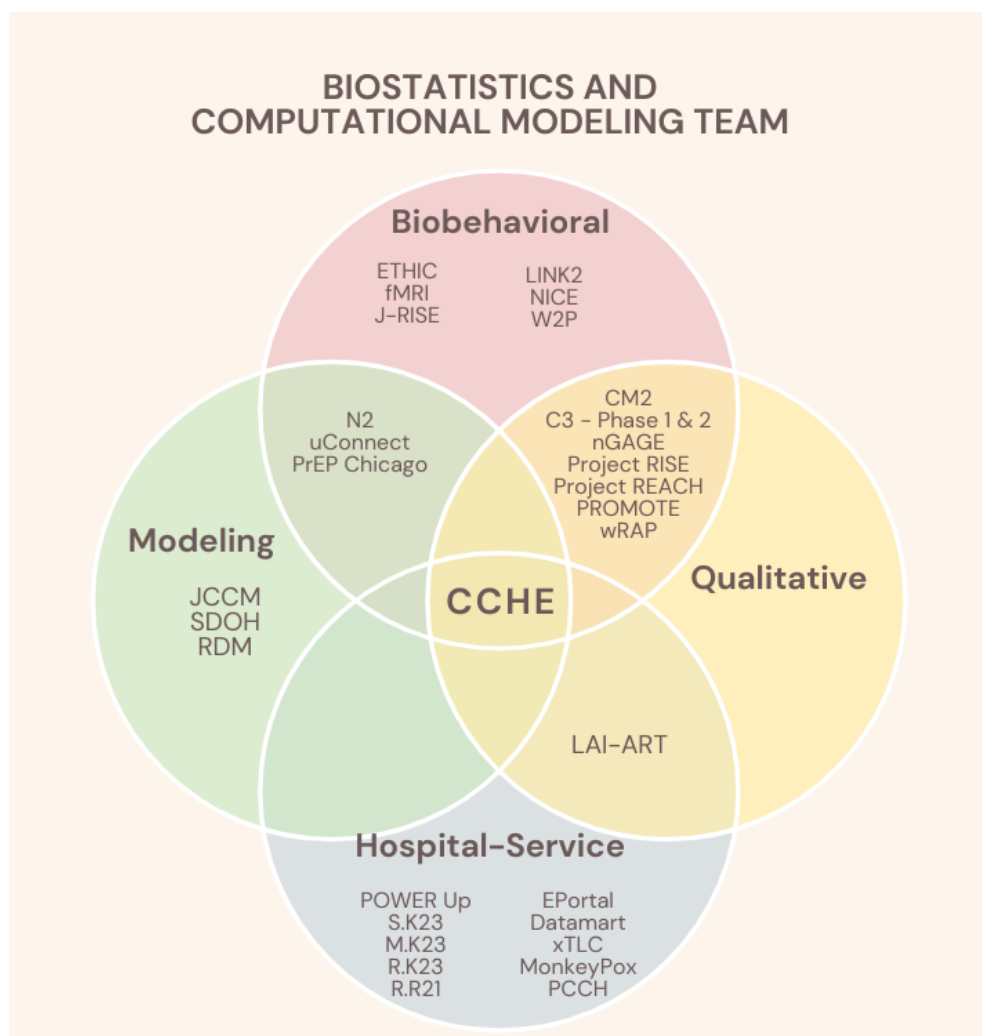
**Please scan the QR code to screen for current research studies.**



# BIOSTATS

## Biostatistics and Computational Modeling

The **Biostatistics and Computational Modeling** team conducts innovative research using **simulation and novel statistical approaches** with the goal of producing rigorous evidence to support the development and dissemination of interventions to **improve health equity**. The team engages in a variety of biobehavioral and clinical research projects, including **observational cohort studies, randomized controlled trials, mathematical modeling, with expertise in statistics, epidemiology, computational modeling, and quantitative methods**. In 2022, the team added expertise in **qualitative and implementation science methods**, as well. The team assists faculty investigators within and outside CCHE at each stage of the research process, **including proposal development, study design, sample size and power calculations, survey and qualitative protocol development, data linkage and harmonization, data management and quality assurance, and statistical and qualitative analyses**.





# RESEARCH

## Faculty Spotlight: Darnell Motley, PhD



Dr. Motley, **Research Assistant Professor and Director of Structural Interventions**, is a researcher focused on examining and challenging the ways that **structural factors function to limit the experiences of racial, sexual, and gender minority communities**, as well as **people living with HIV (PLWH)**. Given Dr. Motley's investment in **community feedback and oversight**, he works closely with CCHE's **Community Advisory Board** to ensure community perspective is included from the beginning to end of a study.

### Economic Stability & Care Engagement

Dr. Motley was awarded a Mentored Clinical Scientist Development Award (K08) from the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) to continue his work from Work2Prevent, a research study funded through the Adolescent Trials Network that aimed to **build career readiness among HIV-negative Black and Latinx sexual minority men and transgender women ages 16-24**. As part of this study, Dr. Motley and his colleagues developed a **two-day intervention** to support young people to **identify their strengths, build a strong resume, practice for interviews, and build skills for navigating interpersonal dynamics in the workplace**. Further, the intervention explored the relationship between **health and work**. At the end of the study, **participants reported increases in hours worked per week and a reduction in compulsory sex work engagement**. The K08 funds his efforts to adapt and tailor Work2Prevent tailored for **Black sexual minority men regardless of HIV status**. This project, **The Workshop**, is intended to support these men in **gaining economic stability** in order to support engagement prevention among HIV-negative men and care engagement among men living with HIV. Preliminary review of the data has demonstrated that **participants want to know about the legal protections from discrimination afforded them by the law, strategies for navigating discrimination in the workplace, and opportunities for advocacy against anti-LGBTQ laws which could impact employment**. Further, DEI experts and employers have identified the importance of feeling **respected** in the workplace, as well as the role of **social capital and academic credentials** in job seeking. As his team prepares to adapt the intervention, all these aspects of the job seeking process will be considered and used to develop intervention content.

Recently, Dr. Motley (in collaboration with Drs. Jade Pagkas-Bather and John Schneider) submitted a grant to National Institutes of Health (NIH) to continue this work, though in a different way, through the **basic income guarantee model** (i.e., providing a monthly amount of money to participants to build a consistent and predictable economic floor). He is hopeful this work will be funded, given that basic income guarantee provides access to a degree of **stability absent the structural impediments many Black sexual minority men experience** in seeking and/or maintaining formal work. He is excited to explore the affordances and challenges of basic income guarantee for this community.

**Dr. Motley uses qualitative methods to amplify the voices of community members – making room to showcase their expertise on their own experiences, highlight their understanding of the world they navigate, and identify their priorities for intervention.**

# RESEARCH

## Faculty Spotlight: Kimberly Stanford, MD, MPH

Dr. Stanford, **Director of ED HIV and STI Screening at CCHE**, is an **emergency department (ED) physician** whose research focuses on **leveraging the ED visit as a critical point of contact** with the health care system for people with otherwise limited access to care. While her main research focus is the **syphilis epidemic**, Dr. Stanford takes a syndemic approach to her research. As such, her work encompasses screening for **HIV, syphilis, urogenital STIs, hepatitis C, diabetes**, as well improving care for **survivors of sexual assault** and creating pathways to provide **HIV PrEP and long acting contraception** from the ED.



### ED Syphilis Screening

The University of Chicago ED was the **first ED in the country** to pilot universal ED syphilis screening, utilizing a model similar to the routine HIV screening model. This syphilis screening model has detected **extraordinarily high rates of untreated syphilis** in our local community. During the first two years, more than **38,000 patients were screened, 1.7% had untreated syphilis, and less than 10% presented with any STI symptoms**. In 2022, Dr. Stanford received a K23 award from NIAID to study the implementation of the syphilis screening model. Through this award, she is performing a **retrospective review of the impact of the program**, a **qualitative analysis of stakeholder readiness** to implement similar programs around Chicago, and a **cost analysis**. The Third Coast Center for AIDS Research (CFAR) also funded a **pilot study** to evaluate linkage to HIV PrEP through ED syphilis screening. This study showed much **higher uptake of PrEP among patients with syphilis**, even compared to their peers with similar reported sexual behaviors who screened negative in the ED. As a result of Dr. Stanford's active research on syphilis screening, the University of Chicago will be hosting the **first national convening on ED syphilis screening and congenital (passed from mother to child) syphilis in June 2024**, sponsored by the CDC and National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO).

### STI Self-Testing

In 2023, a new study funded by the Emergency Medicine Foundation and the University of Chicago Women's Board rolled out in the ED, allowing patients to **test themselves confidentially for gonorrhea, chlamydia, and trichomonas** by leaving a urine sample in a testing station in the ED bathrooms. This type of self-testing model **addresses issues of stigma, cost, and access to STI testing**, and it is being used by both ED patients and visitors. The project also aims to identify candidates for **HIV PrEP and link them to care and prevention through the Sexual Wellness Clinic**. This is a model that can hopefully be scaled to other EDs and medical and non-medical settings in the future.

The aim of Dr. Stanford's research is to create a robust evidence base showing both the efficacy and the acceptability of these interventions, which ultimately influences policy and inspires EDs around the country to integrate similar public health initiatives.

# RESEARCH

## 2023 Funded R01 Research Studies



Russell Brewer, DrPH, MPH  
IRB23-1495

**J-RISE: Relevant Implementation Strategies to Eliminate the Social and Structural Barriers to HIV Services among Justice-Involved Black Men who have Sex with Men** aims to simultaneously evaluate the effectiveness and implementation of two bundled status-neutral interventions (Transitional Case Management versus Transitional Case Management +Employment Navigation +Contingency Management +Employer Outreach and Support) within justice and community settings to improve HIV and employment-related outcomes. J-RISE is led by an academic, community, and criminal justice collaborative and will be conducted in three Ending the HIV Epidemic (EHE) jurisdictions: Cook County, IL and in Baton Rouge and New Orleans, LA.

**Computational Modeling to Evaluate Socio-Structural Interventions for HIV and Substance Use** combines methods from epidemiology, agent-based modeling, and robust decision-making to understand the potential impact of structural interventions for reducing substance use, overdose, and HIV transmission among Black sexual minority men and transgender women. The study will conduct simulated experiments to compare the impact of combinations of socio-structural and biomedical interventions on HIV and substance use outcomes across a range of scenarios with varying assumptions about the underlying model structure and uncertainty in the input parameter values. This study will address an important scientific gap by improving our understanding of the potential impact of structural interventions for HIV and substance use prevention for Black sexual and gender minorities.



Anna Hotton, PhD, MPH  
IRB23-1398



Jessica Ridgway, MD, MPH  
IRB21-1035

**ePORTAL HIV-S: Achieving Equity in Patient Outcome Reporting for Timely Assessments of Life with HIV and Substance Use** aims to improve digital health equity among Black people living with HIV (PLWH). ePORTAL aims to decrease barriers to SUD screening (clinic-based, in-person) and treatment (referral-focused). The study will use a randomized controlled trial to assess the effectiveness of population-health substance use screening. Additionally, ePORTAL will implement and evaluate multi-level interventions, including electronic patient portals for SUD screening and the Collaborative Care Model for SUD treatment to decrease structural barriers to SUD care. ePORTAL will work with a community health worker and community advisory board to guide the intervention. The ultimate goal is to achieve health equity in SUD screening and treatment among Black PLWH.



# SUMMARY

## A Note of Appreciation

None of the work we do could be possible without the support of the **community** and **our CCHE team**.

**To community:** *We are inspired by the passion and support received from you all over the years. We sincerely appreciate your role in improving lives of those affected by HIV in Chicago and beyond. We would not be here without you.*

**To the CCHE team:** *Your hard work and dedication has not gone unnoticed. Thank you for ensuring our clients have a safe and grounding space to go to for resources and support. We sincerely appreciate your commitment and willingness to go above and beyond for the community and each other.*

## Meet the Team

Check out our **team page** here: <https://hivelimitation.uchicago.edu/about/who-we-are/people/>

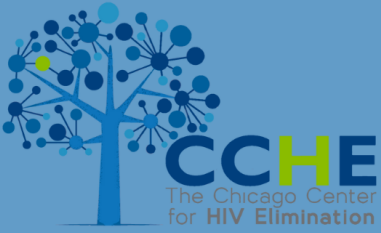

## Follow us on social media

Website: <http://hivelimitation.uchicago.edu>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/villageCCHE>

Instagram: [@villageCCHE](https://www.instagram.com/villageCCHE)

X: [@CCHEvillage](https://twitter.com/CCHEvillage)

<p><b>CCHE's mission</b></p>	
	<p>CCHE's mission is to <b>eliminate new HIV transmission events over the 30 years</b> from its inception (2011 to 2041) by using <b>network analysis</b> and structural, <b>community-specific</b> interventions.</p>