

Community Health Improvement Initiative (CHII)

African American MSM

This initiative is sponsored by The Community Action Groups of Indiana, The Midwest AIDS Education and Training Session, and The Health Foundation of Greater Indianapolis. It is implemented by The State Department of Health in collaboration with Brothers United Inc, and The Health Foundation of Greater Indianapolis.



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Initiative Overview

According to the 2017 Census Bureau population estimates, the Indiana population is (85.0%) White and Non-Hispanic, (9.7%) Black/African American, and the rest is comprised of Asian/Pacific Islander or American Indian/Alaska Natives. The Indiana population is largely Non-Hispanic (93.0%), with Hispanic minority of (7.0%).

In 2018 there were 522 people diagnosed with HIV in Indiana. Black individuals accounted for 45% of those new diagnoses, while Whites accounted for 39.7%. The rate of new HIV diagnoses among Black/African American Individuals (36.2/100,000) is eight times higher than the rate for Whites (3.6/100,000). When new diagnoses are broken down by risk factor, men who have sex with men (MSM) have the highest rate of new diagnosis (5.9/100,000). In 2018, White MSM made up (42.0%) of new HIV infections among MSM, Black MSM accounted for (37.9%), and Hispanic MSM totaled (14.9%) of new MSM infections. Geographically, the HIV/AIDS prevalence rate among Blacks is highest in Marion County, while Lake and St. Joseph counties in Northern Indiana comes in close seconds of one another.

Purpose

The CHII: AFRICAN AMERICAN MSM (AAMSM) is a 13-month initiative that brings together HIV treatment and prevention organizations, as well as other community based organizations that serve AAMSM, in an effort to reduce HIV disparities experienced by AAMSM. Learning will take place in the form of teaching conducted by subject matter experts, engaging activities planned by the learning initiative faculty to reinforce learning, and assistance with planning the implementation of applying best practices identified during the initiative.

Aim

The aim of the CHII: AAMSM is to reduce HIV-related disparities experienced by African American MSM in Indiana in an effort to end the epidemic.

HRSA Key Strategies to End the Epidemic

The efforts will focus on four key strategies that together can end the HIV epidemic in the U.S.

1. **Diagnose** all people living with HIV as early as possible after transmission.
2. **Treat** HIV rapidly and effectively to achieve sustained viral suppression.
3. **Prevent** HIV transmission among people at highest risk with Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) and prevention education.
4. **Respond** rapidly to detect and respond to HIV clusters and prevent new HIV infections.

Goals

CHII: AAMSM is driven by the above mentioned overarching aim and is tied to four subsequent goals:

1. Increase the cultural mindfulness of service providers who work with AAMSM
2. Engage and retain AAMSM individuals in HIV services/prevention
3. Employ evidence-based practices for AAMSM in Indiana
4. Increase collaboration among providers statewide

Each goal has several indicators to mark progress in achieving the goals. Some indicators lend themselves to quantitative analysis, while others are qualitative. Over the course of the initiative,

faculty will leverage information from participant-submitted surveys to follow overall progress in achieving CHII goals and its ultimate aim.

Participants

The initiative seeks to engage HIV care and treatment centers and community based organizations who work with African American MSM living with HIV or at high risk of acquiring HIV. Participants should have a role at their agency that influences the services that are being delivered to AAMSM. Direct service providers and individuals that are involved with organizational hiring procedures are the preferred participants. A range of activities will be offered to support participating agencies, including learning sessions and webinars.

Expectations

- Submit a letter of commitment signed by the organization's executive director that names the team of individuals at the organization who will participate in the initiative, and provide their contact information
- Commit to the overall aim of the learning initiative
- Have active participation in all of the meetings.
 - Send two employees to face-to-face Learning Sessions
 - These two employees will also attend webinars
- Be willing to deploy learned information and apply it to serve the needs of African American MSM in your community.
- Completing a capstone project to present improvement processes utilized at agency to better serve AAMSM.
- Engage in learning initiative communication

Benefits to Participation

There are great benefits to participants, agencies and the clients served, including:

- Opportunity to learn about ways to decrease HIV related health disparities in your community
- Being part of exciting growth and change processes directly impacting Indiana HIV services
- Becoming good stewards of programmatic dollars focused on African American MSM
- Networking and face-to-face interaction at trainings with organizations who serve similar communities
- Opportunities to learn from subject-matter experts
- Hands-on learning and sharing of best practices during learning sessions
- Opportunity to stand out among HIV organizations in Indiana
- Extensive networking and peer engagement on multiple levels beyond training

Initiative Activities

Structure

The Institute for Healthcare Improvement Breakthrough Series (Figure 1) involves cycles of group learning across participating teams and within individual teams testing change ideas in their home organizations. We will make some edits to this model to align with the purposes of CHII. We will not require the collection of data from agencies during the time of the initiative, however participants will receive coaching, encouragement, and support needed to make incremental changes at their

organizations throughout the initiative to best serve the AAMSM in their regions.

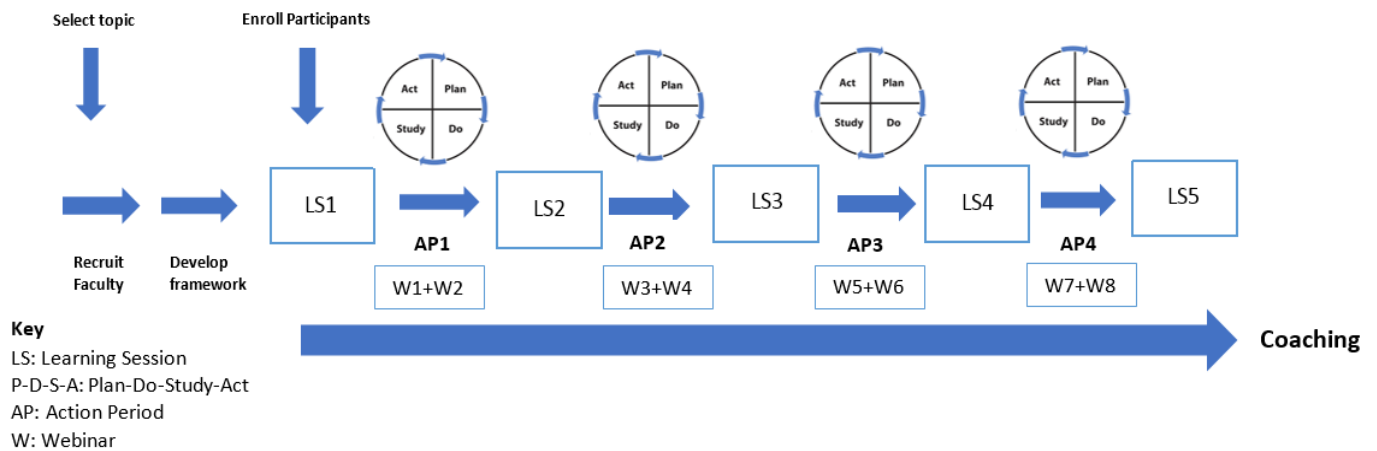


Figure 1

Learning Sessions

Participants will come together face-to-face every four months for Learning Sessions for a total of 5 face-to-face sessions. Learning Sessions are an opportunity to learn from subject matter experts about topics that align with the overall aims and subsequent goals and objectives for CHII: AFRICAN AMERICAN MSM, for intensive sharing of best practices, and for networking with other participants.

Webinars

Webinar activities are intended to continue the work of the learning sessions, introduce new topics through presentations by subject matter experts, and allow for information exchange from participants.

Coaching

Each site will be assigned a practice facilitation coach. Coaches are trained in building organizational capacity for change and supporting meaningful quality improvement in diverse agencies. The coach's focus is on system's change necessary to support implementation and sustainability of programming for African American MSM. Coaches will have frequent contact with the sites providing a strengths-based approach to capacity building that develops their core competencies and addresses areas for improvement. Participants will each be assigned an expert coach to use as a sounding board and a source of guidance. Initial interactions between coaches and participants will include a review of current program efforts, hopes and fears for agency change, and the establishment of goals to best serve African American MSM in their communities.