



AT THE FOREFRONT

**UChicago  
Medicine**



# CHICAGO CENTER FOR HIV ELIMINATION (CCHE)

2024 ANNUAL REPORT

**CCHE**

**5837 S. Maryland Ave., Chicago, IL 60637**

**1525 E. 55th St. Suite 205, Chicago, IL 60615**

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



2024

# CCHE QUICK FACTS

CCHE's mission is to eliminate new HIV transmission events over the **30 years** from its inception (2011-2041) by using network analysis and intervention to target and integrate prevention as well as create structural and community-specific interventions.

CCHE's values:

## ACCOUNTABILITY

We acknowledge the University of Chicago's long-standing history of racist practices. We pledge to strengthen our relationship and build trust with the surrounding community through collaboration, advocacy and transparency.

## ANTI-RACIST

We pledge to engage anti-racism as an ethic of care for the community we serve by deconstructing historical and present-day racist practices, namely the traumas and abuses perpetrated by institutions, systems, unethical research practices, and individuals. We commit to working against anti-Blackness such as disposability, dehumanization, and misrepresentation. We value Black thought, Black voices, and Black life.

## CULTURAL HUMILITY

We pledge to do the work to grow through both our conscious and unconscious biases in understanding our community. We will strategize ways to create accountability as an organization and on the individual level.

## ETHICS

We pledge to engage in thought-leading research and services that benefit the community we serve and addresses community needs and input. We will protect participants' rights, safety, self-worth, integrity and autonomy.

## HARM REDUCTION

We pledge to provide non-judgmental, accessible and quality approaches to care that meet participants' needs on their own terms, while supporting autonomy and choice.

## MENTAL WELLNESS

We pledge to make every effort to equip participants with tools/resources/structures to thrive by offering creative, judgment-free, and culturally responsive approaches to wellness.

## PRO-BLACK

We pledge to unapologetically celebrate intersectional Blackness while cultivating space that supports Black lives, Black wellness, Black joy, Black love and pleasure.

In light of recent developments under the new administration, CCHE affirms our **unwavering commitment** to the core values that define our organization. Our core focus is to **positively contribute to the well-being of the communities we serve, and our resolve is unwavering**. We continue to advocate for the **health, rights, and dignity of every person**, no matter who they are and the obstacles placed before us.

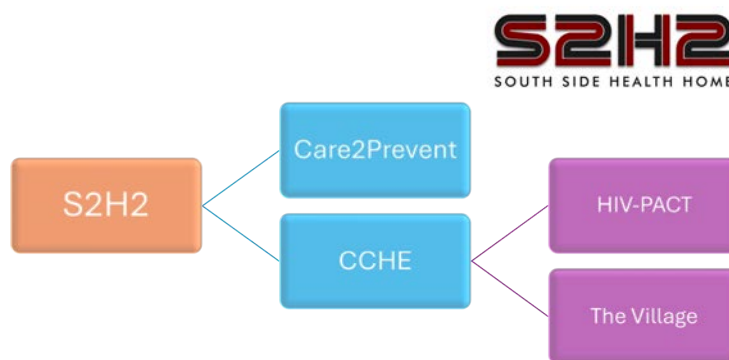
In solidarity,  
CCHE

# SOUTH SIDE HEALTH HOME

## Introduction

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 **644 individuals living with HIV in 2024**. Of the 644 people living with HIV, **88% are currently retained in care (seen in the last six months, a 29% increase from 2023), and 89% are virally suppressed (VL<200)**. Additionally, Care2Prevent provided HIV care to **106 unique individuals** in 2024. Our additional S2H2 physicians providing care for an **additional 938 clients at local federally qualified health centers** including **Howard Brown Health Clinic, Friend Health Center, and Chicago Family Health Clinic**.



## Care2Prevent

Care2Prevent (C2P) contributes to the mission of S2H2 by **focusing on pediatric, adolescent, and young adult populations** who possess unique needs in terms of sexual and reproductive health interventions. In addition to extensive wraparound services with a client engagement specialist and in-clinic peer support, our providers are specially trained in HIV/STI treatment and prevention for the youngest members of our community.

## 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 for individuals living with HIV and outreach to community members who are hospitalized, lost to follow-up, and/or newly diagnosed with HIV. The PACT team **leads efforts in the Adult and COMER Emergency department to routinely screen people for HIV and HCV, and link those who screen positive to care, as well as provide comprehensive STI follow-up in the Sexual Wellness Clinic**.

## The Village

The Village provides **accessible HIV testing and linkage to care**, working closely with other S2H2 partners to ensure seamless connections to treatment and support. With a focus on **low-barrier services**, it offers resources like transportation, housing, mental health support, and financial assistance to remove obstacles to care. By addressing social and emotional barriers, The Village helps community members stay engaged in treatment, prioritize their health, and maintain long-term well-being in the fight against HIV.

# SERVICE

## The Chicago Center for HIV Elimination (CCHE) Service Arms Overview

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.

At CCHE, our two arms of service have worked diligently to create a streamlined workflow that ensures seamless support for our shared clients across both locations. By meeting community members in the Emergency Department during a medical crisis, we provide immediate intervention and support. Our efforts also focus on increasing access to essential medical care and prescribed medications. Through collaborative case management, we guarantee wraparound care, coordinating resources and services to address all aspects of their well-being and ensure ongoing support throughout their journey.

In 2024, CCHE (HIV-PACT and The Village) served a combined **2,113 unique clients with 7,110 encounters**. Check out our impact below!



## HIV Prevention & Care Team (HIV-PACT)

HIV-PACT provided supported services to **1,079 unique clients, a 67.5% increase since 2023, with 2,937 encounters in 2024**. Majority of participants (n=740) received non-medical case management, offering care coordination, health education, mental health support, referrals, and more. Another 644 individuals received early intervention services, which are more targeted support offerings for individuals newly diagnosed with HIV or re-engaging with HIV care. The remaining 100 participants were a part of outreach efforts to re-engage individuals in care.



## The Village

In 2024, **The Village served 1,034 unique clients, marking a 17% increase from 2023. These clients had 4,173 encounters at the Village, reflecting a 56% rise from 2023.** Clients visited CCHE on an average of 11 times throughout the year, ranging from 1-86 visits per client. Resource counseling (n=1,600), mental health services (n=1,225) and research (n=1,091) were the most requested services in 2024. Testing, outreach events, and substance use resources (namely safer use kits and referrals for treatment) were also among services rendered (n=934, n=156, and n=59, respectively).

# SERVICES

## HIV-PACT & The Village: Supportive Services

The Supportive Services team, which is comprised of social workers, case managers, and mental health counselors, across both programs (HIV-PACT & The Village) **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.

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.

## The Village: Supportive Services

In 2024, The Village Supportive Services team served **316 unique clients at The Village, with 57 individuals receiving therapy services and 259 receiving case management**. The team provided over **\$18,110 in resources to community members in 2024**; 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.

There has been a significant increase in the number of clients who were street based and unstably housed since 2023; With the hopes of better supporting those clients, the program added microwavable food and other snacks for clients who drop in, and 7-day bus passes for safer sleep/transportation to the service offerings. In 2024, every client who came to The Village for research, services or use of the drop in space received a snack pack. **Our goal for 2025 is to ensure the snacks we deliver are substantial enough to curb hunger pains and offer nutritional options.**

## HIV-PACT: Supportive Services

In 2024, HIV-PACT delivered non-medical case management services to **740 unique community members, with a total of 1,709 encounters**. Notably, PACT distributed **\$9,110 in grocery store gift cards** to enhance food security for clients. Additionally, **PACT provided 270 one-day bus passes** to eliminate transportation barriers, ensuring continued access to treatment and services. These efforts reflect PACT's commitment to addressing the social determinants of health and ensuring that clients have the resources they need to maintain consistent care.

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

In February 2025, the HIV-PACT team celebrated the **6th 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**.



# SERVICES

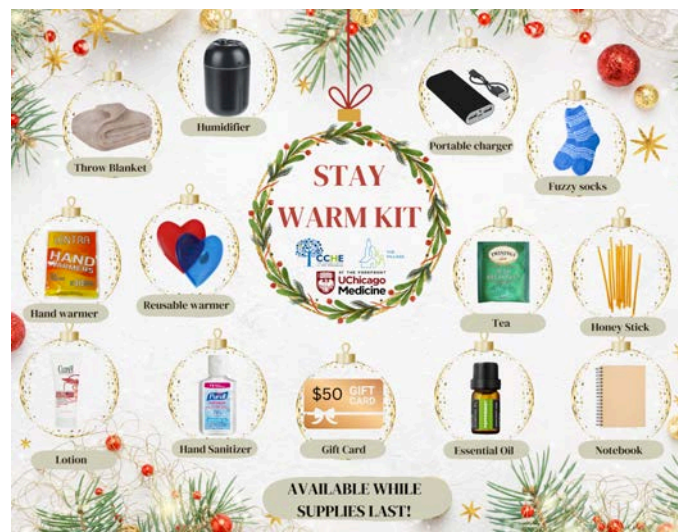
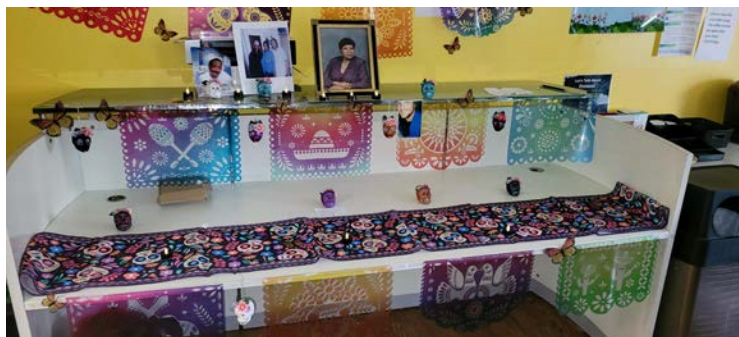
## HIV-PACT & The Village: Supportive Services

### The Village: Front Desk Special Projects

In 2024, the team noted that there was an increase in the number of community members accessing our space to sleep, stay cool/warm, and hang out when awaiting services and research offerings. With the hopes of better supporting those clients, the **CCHE Admin Team** spearheaded several community-centered services, including:

1. **Enhanced Snack Packs:** 200 snack packs filled with 16 items and over 60 grams of protein, packaged in a reusable bag, distributed during the holiday season.
2. **Stay Warm Kits:** 200 kits containing warming and wellness resources, designed to bring hugs and joy to our community members, acknowledging the challenges of the holiday season.
3. **Fidget Library:** A variety of fidget toys made available to help ease tension and anxiety for our community members.
4. **Reusable Earplugs & Noise-Canceling Headphones:** Offered take-home earplugs and over-ear noise-canceling headphones for those feeling overstimulated.
5. **Día de Muertos altar:** The Admin team created an ofrenda (altar) for staff and clients to honor those we have lost by welcoming their spirits back for a brief reunion through offerings and personal mementos.

These initiatives reflect our **commitment** to supporting the wellbeing of our community throughout the year.



# SERVICES

## The Village: Community-Based Testing

The Village offers community-based, low-barrier, free HIV and STI testing. Once results are processed, the Testing Team provides results notification, linkage to care and works with our Supportive Services team at The Village and HIV-PACT to support retention in care efforts. In 2024, **The Village Testing Team performed nearly 2,104 HIV and STI tests, a 250% increase from 2023.** Most notably, positive syphilis results **increased by 39% and active syphilis infections that are eligible for treatments increased by 54% in 2024** compared to 2023.

## HIV-PACT: ED-Based Testing

The University of Chicago Medicine (UCM) 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 2024, University of Chicago Medicine performed **39,343 HIV tests (up 6% from 2023) and identified 39 individuals newly diagnosed with HIV.** Dr. Kimberly Stanford, MD, MPH, Director of Emergency Department (ED) HIV/STI Testing, has worked closely with the HIV-PACT team to increase routine HIV and STI screening in the ED. In addition to routine HCV tests, the UCM ED also made syphilis screening available in the ED in 2024 and found **227 active infections** that were eligible for treatment. HIV-PACT also provides linkage to care services for people diagnosed with Hepatitis C who are eligible for treatment.

HIV: 745 tests performed; 604 unique community members tested

47.2%

47.2% of unique community members tested had a positive HIV result.

1.3%

1.3% of unique community members tested for HIV received an HIV diagnosis for the first time.

Gonorrhea & Chlamydia: 698 tests performed (multi-site); 601 unique community members tested

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

12%

12% of unique community members tested had a positive Gonorrhea result.

12.8%

12.8% of unique community members tested had a positive Chlamydia result.

Syphilis: 661 tests performed; 572 unique community members tested

50.7%

50.7% 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.

58.2%

58.2% of those tested for syphilis were experiencing an active infection and eligible for treatment

HIV: 39,343 tests performed at UCM (all departments, including ED performed @ UCM ED only)

39 PEOPLE

39 community members tested for HIV at UCM received an HIV diagnosis for the first time.

23 PEOPLE

23 community members tested for HIV in the UCM ED received an HIV diagnosis for the first time.

HCV Testing at UCM

40,524 TESTS

40,524 HCV tests were performed throughout all of UCM

17,936 TESTS

17,936 HCV tests were performed at UCM ED

Syphilis: 12,637 tests performed @ UCM ED

12,637 TESTS

12,637 syphilis tests were performed at UCM ED

Syphilis: 227 active syphilis infections identified at UCM ED

1.8%

227 of those tested for syphilis were experiencing an active infection and eligible for treatment





FB: CCHEvillage IG: villageCCHE X: CCHEvillage

# SERVICES

## Outreach & Partnerships

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. Here are some highlights of our 2024 outreach efforts:

- **Community Advisory Board:** To ensure community support and relevance, CCHE worked to relaunch the Center's Community Advisory Board (CAB). The CAB will now support S2H2 partnerships: Care2Prevent, HIV-PACT and The Village. The CAB application process is being finalized and will launch in 2025.
- **AIDS Run/Walk 2024:** CCHE raised **\$15,570 for service programming**. As a community direct partner, 90% of funds raised were returned to CCHE to support 2025 programming. Typically, these funds are supporting annual events, client emergency requests and other programming needs.
- **Digital outreach efforts:** CCHE revamped all social media in 2023 and have quickly (re)built our following in 2024, most notably, our instagram followers increased by 138%. We hope to continue our reach in 2025- follow us!

In 2024, CCHE supported several external events through our sponsorship efforts, including:

- **Space support:** The Village's community space is offered to our community partners for events, meetings and community-centered programming. In 2024, we worked with five community partners to establish regular use of our space:
  - **Adodi**, a brotherhood organization for same-gender-loving men of African descent)
  - **People Advocating Change (PAC)**, a monthly group for Black men
  - **Black Alphabet**, an organization prioritizing the visibility of Black LGBTQ+ artists
  - **Ch@city's**, a live stream show for Black sexual and gender diverse individuals
  - **Santa Lucia Food Safety Training and Consulting, LLC**, an organization offering food safety certification training to community members. If referred by CCHE, the fee is waived
- **Community education offerings:** CCHE provided HIV education to Phoenix Recovery Support Services team and residents, totaling 60 attendees! We hope to expand our educational offerings in 2025.





# EVENT SPOTLIGHT

## CCHE Community Event Sponsorships

Event sponsorship: CCHE supported 8 community-led events in 2024, providing \$14,500 of funding.

Community Organization	Event name	Date
PAC	PAC's Memorial Day Softball/ Kickball Game	9/15/24
Casa Esperanza Project	Casa Esperanza's 30 - Year of Service Gala	10/25/2024
IRENE	IRENE Senior Education Seminar	11/16/2024
SHARP	New Directions Ball 2024	11/16/2024
My Grandma's Place	Heaven Ignites Visions	12/1/2024
Lace to Liberation	Red Lace celebration	12/8/2024
Mr. Dad's Father's Club	Real Dads Stay Safe	12/12/2024
Restored Hope	Trivia night	12/21/2024

## BIA's Cocktails & Collaboration 2024 Networking Event

In May 2024, **Black Incubator & Accelerator (BIA)**, a capacity-building program designed to support grassroots nonprofits on the South and West sides focused on HIV, hosted its inaugural networking event. **Cocktails & Collaboration** aimed to connect HIV investigators with service organizations for recruitment, referrals, and collaborative events. The event was attended by **40 individuals**, resulting in the establishment of numerous new partnerships.



# EVENT SPOTLIGHT

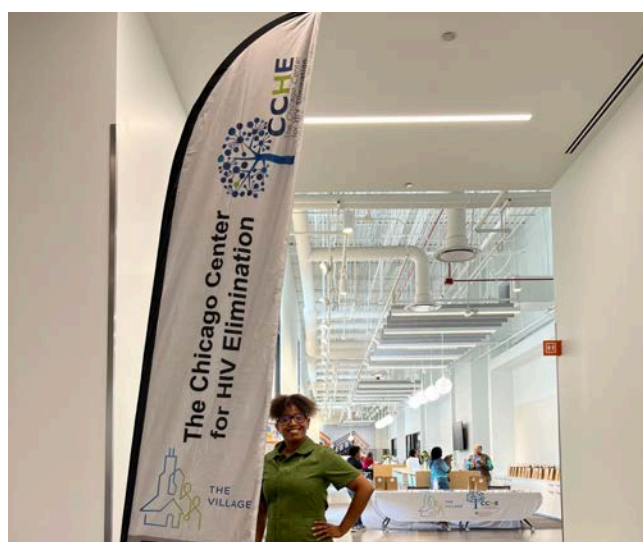
## Liberating Love: A Juneteenth Celebration of Black Sexual Health

In June of 2024, CCHE was awarded a diversity grant through the Office of the Provost to host a Juneteenth event for the community we serve. *Liberating Love: A Juneteenth Celebration of Black Sexual Health* was our first annual Juneteenth event at The Village. We had about 15 participants and aim to reach at least 30 participants in 2025!



## My Community, My Voice

In June of 2024 the CCHE Research Department hosted its first research dissemination event titled, *My Community, My Voice*. The intent of this event was to share the work being done at CCHE with community; engage with the community in which we serve; leverage networking opportunities; and facilitate study recruitment. This was the first event CCHE has hosted of this nature and was set to address feedback we received from research participants wanting to learn more about the impact of their involvement within the Center's research projects.





# EVENT SPOTLIGHT

## World AIDS Day Event

CCHE proudly hosted our inaugural Center-wide **World AIDS Day** event in December 2024, marking a significant milestone for our organization. With over 100 attendees, it was our largest and most impactful event of the year!



Guests were greeted with an array of offerings, including delicious food, thoughtfully curated gift bags, exciting incentives, vibrant music, and valuable resources, creating an unforgettable experience for all involved.



# 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.

Check out C2P events here:  
<https://care2prevent.com/events/>

Over the last year, our outreach and prevention team has **increased its presence in South Side communities** both with the mobile medical unit, offering routine HIV/STI testing and safer sex and harm reduction supplies, as well as by engaging adolescents at Excel Academies located in the Roseland, South Shore, and West Garfield Park neighborhoods. In addition, we have sought new and continued partnerships with community-based organizations to include **Deborah's Place, Sanctuary Place, Covenant House of IL, and Southwest Chicago Homeless Services** to ensure routine testing services are accessible to unhoused populations. Our team has created a Wind Down support group for youth with HIV, is collaborating with Gender Productions for a quarterly gender-bending and affirming open mic night with HIV/STI testing, as well as spearheading our own events in South Side neighborhoods to bring health, employment, and other resources to our patients, clients, and communities.

**"In order to successfully reach Health Equity, we have to meet people where they are."**

— Gamal Williams, Linkage to Care Specialist





# SERVICES

## Service Spotlight: BIA

In 2021, ViiV Healthcare's Amp Grant funded CCHE's **Black Incubator & Accelerator (BIA)** project, a micro-granting and capacity-building program designed to strengthen grassroots HIV service efforts on the South and West sides of Chicago. BIA aims to: 1) **build organizational resilience and programmatic strength** among South and West BSGD-led organizations, 2) **cultivate Black local leadership**, and 3) **foster a healthy ecosystem** of Black-led HIV service organizations that promote innovation, the development of culturally relevant programs, and collaboration across agencies. These objectives are achieved through individualized needs assessments, tailored capacity building, seed funding, access to University of Chicago resources, and peer networking, among other strategies.

From 2021 to 2024, BIA piloted its project, partnering with 4 organizations in Year 1, 12 in Year 2, and 21 in Year 3, with a total of **23 organizations** engaged in the program over the three year project periods.

Key accomplishments from the 2021-2024 cycle include the submission and successful securing of **7 501(c)(3) applications**, the **acquisition of new fiscal agents by 2 organizations**, and the **establishment of new spaces for 12 organizations**. Additionally, **32 new grants were funded, resulting in \$985,500 in leveraged funding**. The cohort also formed 269 new partnerships, further strengthening the collective impact of the initiative.

BIA has been re-funded through Viiv Healthcare's Amp Grant for another three-year cycle and currently has 13 organizations in the 2025 cohort. For more information on BIA, application cycles and resources visit us here: <https://www.hivelimination.uchicago.edu/bia>



# RESEARCH

## Overview

CCHE researchers and staff continue to explore critical topics that will play a key role in **eliminating new HIV infections**. The research team offers project management, administrative, and technical support for recruitment, retention, data collection, and regulatory compliance, ensuring the seamless execution 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 (Project nGage)	Alida Bouris, PhD, MSW	IRB11-0654
Case management dyad (CM2)	Alida Bouris, PhD, MSW	IRB22-0600
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 (JRISE)	Russell Brewer, DrPH, MPH	IRB23-1495
Investigating Foundational Ethical Supports for Engaging People with Mental Illnesses in Biomedical HIV Prevention Research (Fordham Study)	Anu Hazra, MD	<u>IRB24-1499</u>
Mapping Activity and Transmission Relationships in Sex (MATRIX)	Anu Hazra, MD	<u>CIRB24-1611</u>
Computational modeling to evaluate socio-structural interventions for HIV and substance use	Anna Hotton PhD, MPH	IRB23-1398
Community-Engaged Modeling and Implementation Science to Develop Re-Linkage Interventions for Black Sexual Minority Men with HIV (HIS-LINK)	Anna Hotton PhD, MPH	IRB24-1098
Structural Intervention to Promote HIV Care in Black Sexual Minority Men (Work2Prevent Plus)	Darnell Motley, PhD	IRB22-0783
We Realize and Prioritize: A Zine-based Intervention for Young Black Sexual Minority Men (YBSMM) and Their Medical Providers (WRaP)	Jade Pagkas-Bather, MD, MPH	IRB22-0857
Examining the Acceptability, Feasibility, and Appropriateness of Pharmacy-led PrEP Starts and Management Within The Population Centered Health Home (Chicago One Step PrEP)	Jade Pagkas-Bather, MD, MPH	<u>IRB23-0594</u>
BIG Chicago Pilot	Jade Pagkas-Bather, MD, MPH	IRB23-1707



# RESEARCH

Title	PI	IRB#
Promoting remote harm reduction and secondary services in rural settings (PROMOTE)	Mai Pho, MD, MPH	IRB22-1415
Identifying Community-Informed DoxyPEP Implementation Strategies to Guide Equitable Delivery of Syphilis Prevention (iDISTILL)	Moirra McNulty, MD, MS	IRB23-1310
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 (ePORTAL HIV-S)	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. (POWER Up)	Jessica Ridgway, MD, MPH	IRB21-1035
Clinical Phenotyping for Prediction of Retention in HIV Care	Jessica Ridgway, MD, MPH	IRB23-0597
Marijuana Effects and Executive Function Pilot Among Young Black Men Who Have Sex With Men (fMRI)	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 (Networks and Neighborhoods, N2P2)	John Schneider, MD, MPH	IRB16-1419
Understanding HIV/STD Risk and Enhancing PrEP Implementation Messaging in a Diverse Community-Based Sample of Gay, Bisexual, and Other Men Who Have Sex with Men in a Transformational Era (MIC-DROP)	John Schneider, MD, MPH	CIRB23-1124
Methodology and Advanced Analytics Resource Center (MAARC) 2.0	John Schneider, MD, MPH	IRB19-1081
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.**



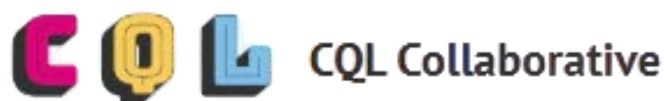
# RESEARCH



## Third Coast Center for AIDS Research

The Third Coast Center for AIDS Research (TC-CFAR) mission is to catalyze cross-institutional and cross-disciplinary HIV research collaborations with a broad scope and major impact on the HIV epidemic in Chicago. The University of Chicago, and specifically the Chicago Center for HIV Elimination, is a **trusted partner within TC-CFAR alongside Northwestern University**. One of CCHE's roles within TC-CFAR is to support the dissemination of HIV research and engagement between community members and investigators through Community Dissemination Awards (CDA).

Through this mechanism, the TC-CFAR **funded 11 organizations totaling \$19,000 in 2024**. We are the extremely honored to work side by side with our community dissemination awardees, who support the community in providing safe and welcoming spaces, vital resources, and access to research outcomes. Our 2024 Community Dissemination Awardees were:



### Congrats to all the 2024 Awardees!

The TC-CFAR will issue a new RFA in the Spring of each calendar year and applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis unless otherwise specified. For more information about CDA or other TC-CFAR funding opportunities and resources, please visit the main [TC-CFAR website](https://www.tc-cfar.org)



# 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 CCHE. Our team's expertise includes **statistics, epidemiology, computational modeling, and qualitative, quantitative, and mixed methods research**. We provide support for service provision as well as biobehavioral and clinical research projects, including **observational cohort studies, randomized controlled trials, and mathematical modeling**.

In 2024, we transitioned into a **recharge system** for faculty investigators inside and outside CCHE to utilize Biostatistics services. We assist 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**. For more information in the services we provide, as well as our rates, please click here: [CCHE Biostatistics Laboratory Support](https://www.hivelimination.uchicago.edu/cche-biostatistics-laboratory-support).

If you are interested in a free consultation to discuss your analytic needs, please submit your request here: <https://wkf.ms/45Grznf> and an analyst will get to you.

**CHECK OUT BIOSTATS  
OFFERINGS:  
[HTTPS://WWW.HIVELIMINATION.UCHICAGO.EDU/CCHE-BIostatistics-LABORATORY-SUPPORT](https://www.hivelimination.uchicago.edu/cche-biostatistics-laboratory-support)**

### How do I request support from the Biostats team?



Our team has expertise in biobehavioral, clinical, quantitative and qualitative data analysis.

#### Study Design

We can support with grant development, power calculations, survey development, and NIH Data Management and Sharing Plans (DMP).

#### Data Collection

We can design a REDCap/Qualtrics survey, create recruitment lists, generate quality assurance (QA) reports for real-time feedback for staff, and automate stakeholder reports.

#### Data Analysis

We provide support for abstracts and manuscripts to assist in dissemination of study findings for internal and external audiences.

#### Data Sharing

We assist with preparation of Data Usage Agreements (DUAs), data abstractions from Release of Information (ROIs), and data sharing via secure platform.

Learn more about our services here: [CCHE Biostatistics Laboratory Support](https://www.hivelimination.uchicago.edu/cche-biostatistics-laboratory-support)

# RESEARCH

## Faculty Spotlight: Jack Flores, MD

**John Flores (or as he likes to go by, “Jack”)** is in his final year of a four year infectious diseases (ID) fellowship at University of Chicago, where he is receiving a combined training in both adult and pediatric ID training. While clinically Jack enjoys treating all infectious diseases among all ages, his research interests include topics related to **HIV, HIV prevention, and other Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) with a particular focus on the adolescent/young adult & maternal-fetal dyad populations.** He is also very passionate about health care advocacy, particularly when it comes to **LGBTQ+ populations, pediatrics, and optimizing optimal health care for birthing/pregnant individuals.** Jack has had the honor and privilege to work with many of the faculty attending physicians through CCHE, including his primary mentor **Dr. John Schneider**, who has guided the majority of his research projects over the last four years. Under the guidance of Dr. Schneider, Jack has



completed multiple projects including investigating **barriers to health care for priority Latinx LGBTQ+ individuals throughout the Chicagoland area, the geospatial impact of violent crime on HIV related outcomes among Sexual Minority individuals in Chicago, and a large population based study investigating the intersection of stigma and methamphetamine use throughout the USA.**

Jack's primary research though has been investigating factors related to the **rise of congenital syphilis, the transmission of the STI syphilis from a pregnant individual to their infant.** His most recent work involved an in depth qualitative study interviewing prenatal providers, and individuals who delivered infants with congenital syphilis, to gather their perspectives on the disease process and attempt to identify barriers to diagnosis and treatment of syphilis before the infant could be born with disease. In addition to Dr. Schneider, Jack was able to work closely on this project with fellow CCHE team members **Dr. Jessica Ridgway, Jackson Montgomery, Ellen Almirol, and Alicia Dawdani.** As a team they were able to identify various factors associated with the rise of congenital syphilis including transportation limitations of patients, clinical appointment burden, stigma, poor communication between providers & their patients, and other factors that may be targets for future interventions.

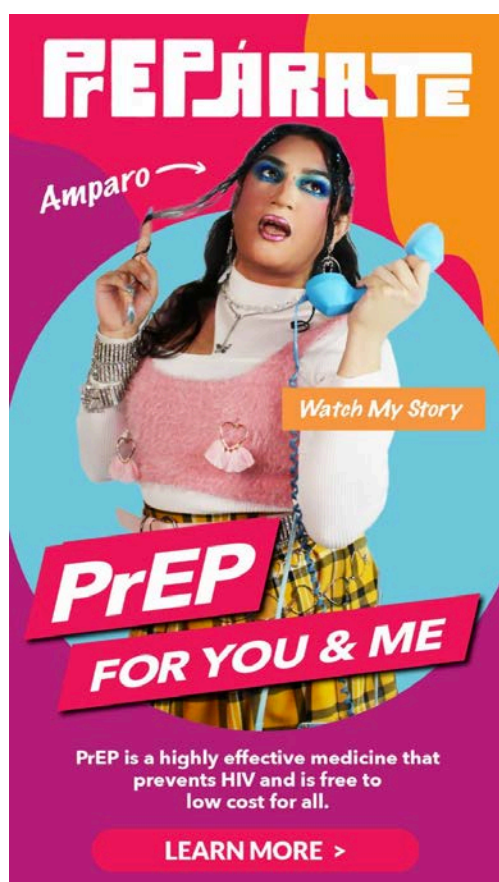
Jack plans on continuing his career this summer at University of Chicago as a Clinical Instructor, and looks forward to continuing to collaborate with the CCHE on various projects related to HIV and other STIs. His ultimate goal, under the guidance of **CCHE providers Dr. John Schneider and Dr. Mai Pho,** is to receive extramural funding to support a project where community health workers may engage with birthing individuals and their social networks to reduce the incidence of HIV and other STIs.



# RESEARCH

## Faculty Spotlight: Harita Shah, MD

**Dr. Harita Shah**, Assistant Professor in Internal Medicine and Pediatrics, is a primary care physician and researcher who focuses on community-engaged interventions to improve access to HIV prevention. Dr. Shah has mainly focused on **addressing unmet HIV prevention needs in Latino communities, including for LGBTQ+ individuals and for Spanish-speaking immigrants**. Dr. Shah's work has been informed by barriers her primary care patients faced in accessing preventive care and through partnerships with community based organizations.



### PrEPárate: A Social Marketing Campaign to Promote PrEP

Dr. Shah was awarded an Ending the HIV Epidemic Supplement Award and a CTSA KL2 Award to develop, pilot test, and evaluate a social marketing campaign to promote PrEP among Latino sexual and gender minority individuals. Dr. Shah worked in partnership with the Chicago Queer Latine (CQL) Collaborative, a group of local Latino leaders representing HIV-focused community-based organizations. Based on formative input from the CQL Collaborative and community members, the team created a social marketing campaign called **PrEPárate**, meaning "be PrEPared" in Spanish. The PrEPárate campaign included culturally tailored materials, created by local Latino artists and designers, to effectively communicate information about PrEP among Latino audiences. Campaign messages were distributed on social media and through in person venues across Chicagoland. A mixed methods evaluation showed that **exposure to the PrEPárate campaign was significantly associated with increased PrEP awareness and PrEP use**. Qualitative interviews with community members showed that the colorful logos and featuring of local recognizable influencers from the community

were key to success. Qualitative interviews with community partners showed **they had interest in continuing this work and expanding reach to Latino youth and Spanish-speaking immigrant populations**.

In 2024, **Dr. Shah was awarded a K23 Award from the National Institute of Mental Health to build on this work**. Under the mentorship of Dr. John Schneider, Dr. Shah will build skills in social network analysis to understand how social networks shape PrEP use among Latino youth and young adults, with dedicated recruitment of immigrant individuals. **These findings will inform a multilevel intervention that builds on the PrEPárate campaign with a peer-navigation component**.

# SUMMARY

## A Note of Appreciation

None of our work would be possible without the invaluable support of both the community and our dedicated CCHE team.

### To the Community:

We are deeply inspired by the passion and unwavering support you have shown us over the years. Your dedication to improving the lives of those affected by HIV in Chicago and beyond is truly commendable. We are profoundly grateful for your role in making this work possible.

### To the CCHE Team:

Your exceptional hard work and commitment have not gone unnoticed. Thank you for creating a safe, supportive environment where our clients can access vital resources. We deeply appreciate your tireless dedication to both the community and one another, always going above and beyond to serve with compassion and excellence.

## Meet the Team

Check out our [team page](https://hivelimination.uchicago.edu/about/who-we-are/people/) here: <https://hivelimination.uchicago.edu/about/who-we-are/people/>

## Follow us on social media

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

Facebook:

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

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

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

Linktree: [https://linktr.ee/cche\\_thevillage?utm\\_source=linktree\\_profile\\_share&sid=91f7558b-b2f8-4e60-9d9e-cb3bd3e850d3](https://linktr.ee/cche_thevillage?utm_source=linktree_profile_share&sid=91f7558b-b2f8-4e60-9d9e-cb3bd3e850d3)

**CCHE's mission**

**CCHE**  
The Chicago Center  
for HIV Elimination

**AT THE FOREFRONT**  
**UChicago Medicine**

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