

ZERO PINELLAS: A COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP COMMITTED TO ZERO NEW HIV INFECTIONS IN PINELLAS COUNTY

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q. What makes Zero Pinellas unique?

A. Zero Pinellas is a multi-system, multi-sector collaborative working collectively toward a shared goal of at least a 50% reduction in new HIV infections. The partnerships exponentially elevate the community's response to HIV by unifying their expertise and experience to broaden outreach, treatment and care.

Q. What are the participating organizations?

A. AIDS Healthcare Foundation, The AIDS Institute, BayCare, Empath Health and EPIC, Florida Department of Health in Pinellas County and Metro Wellness and Community Centers

Q. How did this initiative begin?

A. The Foundation for a Healthy St. Petersburg held community listening sessions before its first round of funding solicitations in 2016, and the HIV epidemic in Pinellas County continually surfaced as critical public health issue. The Foundation brought HIV organizations together based on their majority control of the current HIV funding and contracts, as well as their role within the HIV Continuum of Care. The organizations were funded over an 18-month period to problem-solve and work toward a unified approach to reducing HIV infection rates in the county.

Q. What will be the impact of Zero Pinellas?

A. The vision of Zero Pinellas is to achieve zero new HIV infections in Pinellas County. The current goals for Zero Pinellas are: 90% of Persons Living with HIV know their status; 90% of persons diagnosed with HIV are linked to care and retained in antiretroviral therapy; and 90% of persons retained in treatment have a HIV suppressed viral load. The culminating result of the 90-90-90 cascade will be a 50% reduction of new HIV infections in three years.

Q. Has this model been implemented elsewhere?

A. Yes, multiple cities and states have adopted this model or one very similar. Most often, the model is referred to as: "Getting to Zero"; 90-90-90; or "Ending the Epidemic." These models seek to implement a test and treat strategy with the recognition that treatment is prevention. These models have been implemented in New York, Seattle, Denver, Baltimore, and several other cities. Similar to Washington, D.C., Zero Pinellas also highlights the ultimate goal of a reduction in new HIV infections with the inclusion of 90-90-90-50.

Q. What are the main strategies for achieving the goals of Zero Pinellas?

A. Zero Pinellas is a holistic, multi-pronged strategy enlisting outreach, awareness, and education as a cornerstone. Rapid testing accelerated linkage to care, intense service coordination, and ongoing treatment delivery will comprise a continuum of streamlined care. Advocacy and policy changes will also be explored as part of the Zero Pinellas collaborative.

Q. How many persons currently infected with HIV in Pinellas County know their status?

A. According to the Florida Health Department's 2016 HIV Care Continuum, 4,594 persons are living with HIV.

Q. What is the current number of persons in care and retained in antiretroviral therapy?

A. 3,366 persons are currently retained in ART or only 73%. Zero Pinellas will increase the number retained in ART to 4,135 to achieve the 90-90-90 goal.

Q. What is the current number of persons retained in treatment with a suppressed viral load?

A. 3,025 persons currently have a suppressed viral load. Zero Pinellas will increase the number of persons with suppressed viral load to 3,722 to achieve the 90-90-90 goal.

Q. What is the current number of new HIV infections?

A. 174 persons were newly infected with HIV in 2016. Zero Pinellas will reduce the number of persons with new HIV infections to 87 in three-year to achieve the 90-90-90-50 goal.

Q. How do I or my organization become part of Zero Pinellas?

A. Zero Pinellas is comprised of HIV stakeholders. If you or your organization would like to become involved with Zero Pinellas, please, contact a stakeholder to discuss your desire. The stakeholders will seek to find alignment of efforts and determine how individuals and organizations can best participate in Zero Pinellas.

Q: How is this initiative being funded?

A. The Foundation for a Healthy St. Petersburg is providing \$2,207,694 over a period of three years to support the Zero Pinellas initiative.