Faith and HIV Poster Session

The Black Church & HIV: The Social Justice Imperative initiative invited faith leaders and community organizations around the country to share the work they have led in their communities to address HIV. Posters were collected in the following categories:

- HIV Integration Models
- Scripture Inclusion
- HIV Awareness/Communication
- Erasing Stigma
- Creating a Safe Space
- Community Organization Collaboration
- Government Organization Collaboration

The poster content was developed independently by faith leaders and community organizations from across the country and represent the work and views of the authors alone and not necessarily those of Gilead Sciences.

About The Black Church & HIV

The Black Church & HIV: The Social Justice Imperative initiative was formed as a partnership between the NAACP and Gilead Sciences to develop a national network of faith leaders, religious institutions, and community members committed to turning the tide of the HIV epidemic using social justice advocacy. We work to empower faith leaders across the nation to serve as the change agents our communities need to end the HIV epidemic in Black America.

For more information on the initiative, please visit: www.TheBlackChurchandHIV.org
Faith Leader Town Halls To Address HIV As A Social Justice Issue

The Black Church & HIV: The Social Justice Imperative initiative

African Americans are disproportionately impacted by HIV. While they make up just 12% of the U.S. population, they account for 40% of all people living with HIV. For generations, the Black Church has been a driver for social justice, and today, 75% of African Americans say religion plays an important role in their life. The Black Church & HIV was formed to create a national network of faith leaders committed to helping end the HIV epidemic in Black America by preaching about HIV as a social justice issue. A core component of its work in this regard was conducting town hall-style events in 45 cities heavily impacted by HIV. The below recommendations represent best practices for convening groups who would like to lead similar work in their cities.

FIND PARTNERS
- Narrow down individual doing HIV work in your community, you can start by talking to your local health department or AIDS service organizations.

ASSEMBLE A CORE TEAM
- Assemble a “core team” of those leading work in your community who can assist in planning and executing the event.
- The group should have varying background, including in: HIV prevention and treatment, social justice, and spiritual guidance.
  - Ex: a member of your local NAACP branch, someone from a local health clinic, a church leader, or faith leaders
- Consider having your “core team” assist in event promotion. Types of promotion may include: mailing physical letters, email invites, phone calls, etc.

FACILITATE AN IMPACTFUL EVENT
- One individual should facilitate the event. The person must be deeply involved and well-versed on the messaging, and have a tie to the African American faith community or be a trusted community leader.
- The event should be to primarily create a forum for discussion on the barriers and opportunities that exist to addressing HIV within the community.
- While numerous challenges may be identified during the discussion, the facilitator should be mindful in steering discussions towards opportunities and solutions.
- Presenting information on the epidemic in your city and community is important, but discussion should ultimately lead to why HIV ministries, or health ministries that include HIV, are vital and can make a difference in curbing the epidemic.
- Sessions should be interactive and foster dialogue between participants and focus on outcomes.
- Working in small groups and reporting out to larger groups often fosters collaboration among participants.

POSITION FOR LONG-TERM SUCCESS
- Conclude each session with a plan, listing actionable steps and/or opportunities for faith and community leaders to begin combating HIV/AIDS as a social justice issue.
- Send attainable action items or important follow up information after the event to participants to keep momentum as individuals respectively work toward the overall goal.
- Schedule a follow up discussion session with event leaders and participants to review progress on the action plan.

CONCLUSION
The Black Church & HIV successfully trained more than 2,000 faith leaders across the country on preaching about HIV as a social justice issue. This helped kick-start conversation about HIV and how the faith community can help address it in their communities through town hall-style events. There is opportunity for others to lead similar work.
**METHODS**

- Seminary Lecture (n=94)
- Event
- Faith Leader Events
- To what extent does participating in the initiative change target audience’s knowledge and awareness about HIV/AIDS as a social justice issue in year 4?
- How has participation in the Initiative contributed to integration of HIV/AIDS as a social justice issue into every level of church (or seminary) life in year 4?

**EVALUATION QUESTIONS (EQ)**

**EQ1**
- What and how are the Initiative’s core components implemented in year 4?
- How do target audiences respond to the faith leader events in year 4?
- To what extent does participating in the initiative change target audience’s knowledge and awareness about HIV/AIDS as a social justice issue in year 4?
- How has participation in the Initiative contributed to integration of HIV/AIDS as a social justice issue into every level of church (or seminary) life in year 4?

**EQ2**
- Faith Leader Event Participant Feedback

- “I liked the format of the sessions followed by Q/A, one main speaker (dynamic and informed expert) and local speakers and especially liked the intersectionality and plans for future collaborations. Follow time a bit more rigidly.”

**EQ3**
- HIV/AIDS Activities Before and After Faith Leader Event (n=94)
- HIV/AIDS Awareness Before and After the Faith Leader Event (n=94)

**EQ4**
- Faith Leader Event Participant Feedback

- “1) Approach faith communities using the materials provided, 2) Expand the conversation to other faith communities, 3) Connect with NAACP and other resources, 4) Link to Gilead to expand testing/outreach.”
- “Incorporate knowing your status in our ministry plan and set up testing opportunities. We will develop a campaign to address most pressing needs identified.”

**LESSONS LEARNED**

- **ENGAGEMENT**
  - Faith Leaders and Seminarians have high regard for sessions and increased activities and awareness after participation.

- Faith leader events should aim to be more inclusive of religious organizations and have greater representation of faith leaders and community members engaged in HIV prevention.

- **RESOURCES**
  - Keep resources dynamic, interactive and available in a variety of formats (including online!) to enhance use and dissemination.

  - Maintaining a virtual presence with updated materials can support sustainability of the Initiative.

- **SUSTAINABILITY**
  - Initiative stakeholders can continue to disseminate information and promote the work by identifying community networks or funding opportunities to sustain activities.

  - Encouraging technical assistance and networking between Initiative ambassadors/leaders, faith leaders, seminarians and community partners engaged in HIV/AIDS prevention activities can help sustain the Initiative at a grassroots level.
Seminary Integration
To Address HIV As A Social Justice Issue

The Black Church & HIV:
The Social Justice Imperative initiative

Seminaries have the capacity to lay a groundwork for future generations and raise awareness through comprehensive coursework about HIV as a social justice issue. A core component of the initiative’s work included partnering with such seminaries to lecture students as a means to educate them about HIV as a social justice issue, dispel myths, and normalize testing.

The NAACP strategically worked with seminary presidents, deans, and professors to integrate lectures in core courses that are designed to generally prepare students for ministry in areas such as counseling, pastoral care, social justice, and healthcare.

Relationships were formed with theological institutions by working closely with professors to identify relative core courses fit for integrating initiative messaging. Certain methods were more impactful in moving the needle towards the ultimate goal of getting future faith leaders invested in the initiative and its goals early in their ministerial careers. The following is meant to catalogue the best practices for communicating and partnering with seminaries.

BEST PRACTICES

• Once a targeted seminary is decided upon, identify existing required courses that provide learning objectives closely related to social justice, health and faith, health ministry, mental health, counseling, and more.
• Work closely with seminary leadership to develop custom modules that utilize established curriculum to showcase the importance of future faith leaders in addressing the severe and disparate impact of HIV on the Black community.
• Serve as a guest lecturer, providing materials and resources (i.e. Black & HIV toolkit, AIDSVu map, handouts, factsheets) to help seminarians learn about HIV, as well as how to address it as a social justice issue.
• Repeat custom modules to normalize HIV and social justice dialogue, enhancing long-term influence and sustainability among future generations of faith leaders and ministers.
• Create academic opportunities, such as scholarships, to incentivize students and teachers to implement HIV work in their respective community, as well as fully integrate HIV as a social justice issue messaging.
• Encourage seminarians to brainstorm new ways they can incorporate HIV and social justice activism within their future congregation and community.

CONCLUSION

When partnering with seminaries, remember that relationships are key to integrating messaging and resources into coursework. Seminary partnerships may be based on established relationships, while others may require additional outreach and work to establish a network. As advocates, the faith community, especially future faith leaders, are instrumental in moving the needle to address the disproportionate impact of HIV on the Black community.
Denomination Engagement
To Address HIV As A Social Justice Issue

The Black Church & HIV:
The Social Justice Imperative initiative

Historically, denominations have had significant influence on how the African-American community engaged with and responded to social justice issues. Denominations provide faith leaders with institutional structure, accountability, and supportive resources such as innovative ideas, programs, models, and strategies that help church ministries to flourish. A large number of pastors and faith leaders consider a denominational affiliation vital to their church ministries.

A core component to garnering denominational endorsement for the Black Church & HIV initiative included formalizing relationships with faith leaders who were themselves a part of a particular denomination.

For others working to establish these relationships, one may consider a top-down and bottom-up approach to enhance the implementation of their initiative on each level within the hierarchal structure of a particular denomination. Presidents or Bishops may identify and assign clergy and clergy may assign lay individuals to successfully implement the initiative in their respective churches.

Denominational endorsement may take the form of a public statement, press release, website announcement, or resolution establishing a President and Bishop’s commitment to integrating HIV advocacy into the denomination’s work.

BEST PRACTICES

• Establish a commitment from denominational leadership to participate in and support HIV as a social justice issue messaging.
• Partner with religious leaders who may provide opportunities to raise HIV awareness during their local, regional, or national workshops, plenary sessions, and annual denominational meetings.
• Assist denominational leaders in developing conferences, sessions, curricula, and other resources that they can use in an official capacity.
• Assist denominational leaders in identifying goals and strategies that can become a core component of their Church priorities.
• An official document or resolution may be helpful in solidifying the commitment as a core program and standing policy of the respective denomination.

CONCLUSION

The NAACP strategically leveraged existing relationships and formed new ones to work towards the goal of getting The Black Church & HIV’s principles endorsed by religious denominations. Certain approaches were more impactful than others in moving the needle towards the ultimate goal of getting leaders vested. It would be important to remember that each denomination features a diverse structure and variety of methods for operation, therefore it is important to be respectful of the guiding principles that most pastors either choose or are required to adhere to.
Sermons: A Simple Tool To Discuss HIV During Church Services

The Black Church & HIV: The Social Justice Imperative Initiative

Using sermons is a simple, yet powerful tool for faith leaders to address HIV in Church. Sermons can help faith leaders both introduce the topic and continuously address it during regular Church services, helping to raise awareness and break stigma. The Black Church & HIV initiative ambassadors created a one-pager with themes and scripture inspirations that they have used to effectively preach about HIV through sermons.

Themes

- Jesus lifted up the “other.” We have to lift each other up. [I Thessalonians 5:10-12]
- Jesus told the disciples to meet him in the area of Galilee where no one wanted to go and that is what we have to do – go and address the issues where others will not go. [Matthew 28]
- The Good Samaritan. Who is our neighbor? We have a responsibility to the marginalized. [Luke 10:25-37]

Scripture Inspiration

- Isaiah 41:6, “They helped everyone his neighbor; and every one said to his brother,’ Be of good courage.’”
- Jeremiah 22:3 (MSG), “This is God’s Message: Attend to matters of justice. Set things right between people. Rescue victims from their exploiters. Don’t take advantage of the homeless, the orphans, the widows. Stop the murdering!”

RESULTS

The initiative shared its “Sermon Ideas One-Pager” to its webpage for faith leaders to download and use as a resource, and has disseminated the tool at many conferences and events. Additionally, the initiative used the inspiration behind the One-Pager to host a webinar, which as attended by faith and community leaders across the nation to discuss utilizing sermons as a method to discuss HIV.

CONCLUSION

Faith leaders who have utilized sermons as a mechanism to introduce the topic of HIV to congregants have reported positive results. Their messages of hope and healing for those impact by HIV have been well-received by congregants and thus can enhance other faith leaders’ work in discussing HIV with their Churches.
7 Steps to Addressing HIV/AIDS in the Black Church

1. Educate Yourself on the Issue
Do your homework on the impact of HIV in your region to craft a focused message to your congregants. You can use AIDSVu.org to help you and your congregants visualize the HIV epidemic in your county. Additionally, you can check with your local health department for information on the epidemic, how it might be impacting your community, and what is currently being done to address it.

2. Know Your Church Context
Good messages communicated badly are received badly. You must shape messages to the interests of your congregation and communicate them in a method most appropriate in the best space and at the right time. Messages will look different in every church.

3. Leverage Technology
Make the conversation interactive by using anonymous mobile surveys and social media as a platform for your advocacy.

4. Maximize Partnerships
Utilize outside expertise by reaching out to community centers and health departments. You may even want to invite a health professional to come speak at your church.

5. Pastor, Lead from the Front
GO FIRST! Set an example by getting tested for HIV and encouraging others to do the same.

6. Learn the Systems that Feed Sickness
HIV is a social justice issue that is heavily influenced by social determinants of health feeding inequity in our communities.

7. Pray Strategically
When you tackle systemic evil, expect spiritual warfare. This work exposes painful areas in individuals and the community of faith.

CONCLUSION
Addressing HIV in churches can be challenging, but there are opportunities to take action and positively impact our communities. Faith leaders across the nation have successfully integrated HIV education into their ministries and others can follow their models of success.
Throughout the history of HIV/AIDS, few mobilization efforts have been utilized to increase HIV education and awareness to the community, specifically the “Black Church.” Only a few community based organizations, faith leaders and laity, along with health ministries within the Black Church, have advocated to address the HIV crisis in the African-American community. However, with increased HIV rates among African-American MSM’s in the Southeast, we must increase our efforts with key faith leaders, utilizing innovative strategies.

**The Vision Cathedral of Atlanta**

The goal of the Prevention from the Pulpit Initiative is to use the influence of faith leaders and influencers in the African-American community to raise awareness with people of faith about the HIV/AIDS epidemic. This initiative is a partnership between the United Progressive Pentecostal Church Fellowship, Vision Community Foundation, community-based organizations (CBO’s), and coalitions to advance the following objectives:

1. To increase the capacity of faith leaders to understand recent biomedical interventions;
2. To open and facilitate conversations among faith-based leaders to address stigma and other barriers to accessing HIV testing and linkage to care among high-risk populations within the African-American community;
3. To facilitate the mobilization of faith leaders to engage their congregations and communities, encouraging them to know their HIV status and resources for prevention and treatment tools; and
4. To utilize existing prevention education “tool kits” for Black faith communities, which include: prevention education and sermon resources and testimonials that address how faith can be utilized in confronting HIV-related stigma.

**OUR INTERVENTION:**

**Atlanta, GA**
HIGHLIGHTS/BEST PRACTICES

Prevention from the Pulpit’s signature event was its iElevate conference, held June 19 – June 24 in Atlanta, GA. The iElevate Conference was designed to offer many of the country’s great thought leaders and voices a platform to safely participate and address some of the most sensitive and salient subjects from a faith point of view. More specifically, the HIV/AIDS epidemic. The conference was one of the first and only inclusive conferences with a mission to transform, empower, and equip people of faith with the resources and tools needed to impact their immediate community and reach their goals.

RESULTS

Through Prevention from the Pulpit’s Regional Summits, its iElevate Conference, and other partnership events, it has completed prevention training for hundreds of pastors, community leaders and faith leaders with an emphasis on biomedical interventions. These trainings included information on HIV Prevention, biomedical approaches to HIV Prevention, HIV-related topics in sermons, utilization of social media, and getting key messages out to churches’ social network.

CONCLUSION and FUTURE EXPLORATIONS

Through our Prevention from the Pulpit Initiative, we have equipped faith leaders to understand the unique role and function that religious institutions have in the fight to end HIV/AIDS as well as helped to identify religious and theological stigmas that can reinforce at-risk behaviors. As we continue our efforts, we will investigate and address potential gaps in prevention methods in faith-based environments and work to better develop the capacity to communicate relevant and meaningful messages that strengthen faith-based HIV prevention programs.
Allen Temple Baptist Church AIDS Ministry

In East Oakland and the surrounding community, the HIV/AIDS epidemic continues to greatly impact the lives of African Americans at disproportionate rates. Allen Temple Baptist Church was one of the first African-American churches in the nation to openly acknowledge HIV/AIDS. Since 1987, the church’s AIDS Ministry has responded to the needs of both the local and international community by providing health education and social and medical services.

Our Approach:
We utilize federal funding and community collaborations to provide crucial services such as:

- **Congregate Meals and Medical Nutrition Therapy**: free, healthy, and hot meals for people living with HIV/AIDS (pictured below on the left) and nutrition therapy
- **Health and Living Medical Case Management**: provided in collaboration with City of Refuge United Church and the Y.A. Flunder Foundation
- **Allen Temple Manor**: HIV/AIDS housing community created in partnership with American Baptist Homes of the West (pictured below in center)

**Highlight: Global Efforts**
- Since 2000, the AIDS Ministry has supported the Mother of Peace Community by providing medical and financial support to assist persons living with HIV in Zimbabwe, Africa. As of 2018, we continue to donate life-saving HIV/AIDS medications quarterly to support this critical effort.

**RESULTS**

- Since 2000: provided services to more than 5,000 children and adults living with HIV/AIDS and volunteered more than 2,500 hours of life-giving services to persons living with HIV/AIDS in Zimbabwe.
- Since 2012: Congregate Meal and Medical Nutrition Therapy provided services to more than 1,500 people living with HIV/AIDS locally in Oakland, CA.
- Though we are not a testing provider, we regularly partner with our local HIV providers to offer HIV testing to our congregants and community.

**CONCLUSION**

For more than 30 years, the Allen Temple Baptist Church AIDS Ministry has supported those diagnosed with HIV/AIDS, as well as their loved ones, through resources and positive support. Additionally, through our prevention education and testing programs, we have helped to reduce the proliferation of the disease. We have measured our success by our ability to see and understand the local need, and to create programs in response, through collaboration at the local and federal levels, that positively impact the lives of people both at home and abroad.
Florida has the highest number of new HIV cases in the United States and African Americans account for 44% of new HIV infections (2016). The faith community rarely addresses topics such as HIV/AIDS, which allows stigma and ignorance to thrive. I created The Break Room event to raise awareness, help eliminate stigma, provide resources, and encourage attendees to get tested and know their status.

Our Method:
- The panel consisted of HIV/AIDS professionals and individuals who are HIV positive to address the medical, mental health, and social implications of HIV/AIDS
- The event included a personal testimony from the keynote speaker who is Black, Christian, and HIV positive
- The event was held in a neutral, down-to-earth environment to attract a variety of attendees and increase the likelihood of engagement in the discussion
- Attendees were given the opportunity to ask questions and speak with the panelist afterwards

RESULTS
- The event was attended by a diverse crowd including both the faith community and local residents
- Attendees were engaged in the discussion and asked questions
- Attendees received HIV/AIDS resources, educational pamphlets, and a list of local testing sites

CONCLUSION
The combination of being a Christian ministry and holding the event in a neutral environment attracted a diverse crowd, including the local community, local HIV/AIDS organizations, and faith community. Having a keynote speaker and panelist who was Christian, Black, and HIV positive allowed for the audience to connect with the topic on a personal level, and put a face to those who live with this virus.
RESULTS
We have worked with 150+ churches and church ministries that have prayed for, tested, counseled, provided Christian HIV material for, loved, and provided services for persons living with and at risk of being infected with HIV. All without judgement or harm to the people whom they served.

CONCLUSION
There are many churches who can see the devastation of HIV in individuals, families, churches, and communities and are looking for ways to have these very important conversations to have better ways of doing effective ministry for ALL members of their churches and larger communities.

Every church and or church leader will not embrace an approach to HIV prevention that is holistic in it's methods, but after 30+ years of “love the sinner hate the sin,” that has not worked. We must engage in ministry with those who will.

Providing the tools and technical support for faith-based HIV education/prevention is essential to giving the Black Church the help it needs to do what it has always done for the Black community. Be the solution for the social, economic, spiritual, and health problems that confront us.

Dolton, IL
In 2008, the Danielle Ashley Group, a Chicago-based marketing and public relations firm, partnered with Walgreens and brought together 10 local Pastors’ Wives (First Ladies) to develop a plan to confront the healthcare disparities within our minority communities. With a focus on lessoning the stigma of HIV education in the church while increasing screenings and prevention awareness, the result was the birth of the First Ladies Health Initiative. The first program to successfully marry Faith, Political, and Healthcare leaders together with a sole cause of saving lives, the initiative has since expanded to a consortium of nearly 200 First Ladies from across the U.S.

**OUR METHOD**

- On First Ladies Health Days (FLHI Days), houses of worship across all denominations open their doors to the community **on the same day, at the same time** to provide **free medical screenings and testing** for a variety of illnesses/conditions.
- FLHI Days occur annually in Chicago, Gary, Los Angeles, and Orange County, California. FLHI partners with nearly **1,000 medical professionals/volunteers** to provide each church with a full fledged health fair per market.
- FLHI partners with Political/Business Leaders, Media Outlets (TV, Radio, etc.), and celebrities to market each event.
- Each First Lady also heavily promotes the days using community/grass roots marketing (yard signs, banners, fliers, etc.)

**RESULTS**

- In 2008, 10 local Chicago First Ladies provided HIV screenings, accounting for **20 completed tests**. During this time, there was still heightened stigma surrounding HIV discussions, testing, and awareness within Church and faith communities.
- 2009-2014 saw a steady increase in FLHI activity, with **more First Ladies participating and pushing awareness** in a more welcoming society.
- In 2015, BioLytical challenged FLHI Chicago to test 800 on Health Day using their Rapid HIV Kits. They matched each kit by donating a kit to the Bishop Desmond Tutu HIV Foundation in South Africa. **In one day, the First Ladies tested 1,200+ people.**
- 2016-present, First Ladies are bold advocates for HIV. Many **publicly test during Sunday morning Church services**. Others ask their Pastors to integrate HIV stats into Sunday sermons. HIV is now our highest requested screening at each church/health day.
- In 2016, FLHI received the Public Health Champion Award from the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH)
- In 2016, the FLHI Los Angeles Chapter was featured in CDC’s National HIV Awareness **“We’re Doing It!”** print campaign
- Since 2008, FLHI expanded to include **150,000+ screenings for cancer, diabetes, blood pressure, etc.**
- FLHI is primed for expansion and unlimited opportunity for growth with First Ladies across the U.S. requesting chapters.

**CONCLUSION**

First Ladies have great potential to influence the attitudes, beliefs, and messages of their husbands (the Pastors), Churches, and communities. In addition the First Ladies themselves are more confident, self-assured and knowledgeable about HIV and other health disparities, thus expanding the field of advocates. As faith institutions continue to serve a critical role in communities of color, this model may be a useful framework in cities across the US.

*Note: 2018 data only includes testing numbers from Los Angeles and Orange County, CA. Chicago and Gary, IN Health Days will happen in Fall 2018.*
The First Ladies Health Initiative

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“I’M A STIGMA BUSTER!”
Building Community Capacity to End AIDS

Men & Women In Prison Ministries (MWIPM)

Stigma is a barrier to ending the HIV epidemic in communities of color. For 36 years, MWIPM has been working under the leadership of Reverend Doris Green to assist the incarcerated and previously incarcerated in rebuilding their lives and communities. Intersecting stigmas—including HIV, sexuality, and criminalization—cripple our communities ability to live and thrive. This intervention aims to build capacity to fight stigma, thereby empowering community members to be leaders in ending AIDS.

Our Intervention:

- Launched the “Stigma Stops with Me” campaign through a faith-based community health fair that integrated HIV prevention, testing, and treatment services in a jubilant atmosphere of “taking it to the streets.”
  - Initiated health conversations during activities at the health fair like, face painting for children, visiting vendor booths, preforming spoken word, and line dancing.
  - Supported individual health awareness through access to HIV and HCV screenings and subsequent linkage to care.
  - Hosted a press conference for legislators to commit their ongoing support and resources.

RESULTS

- More than 100 community members were engaged, the majority of which felt that their understanding of HIV and their ability to address stigma had increased after attending “Stigma Stops with Me.”
- HIV and HCV testing reached high-risk populations. Of 10 HIV tests conducted, we identified 1 positive. Of the 24 HCV tests conducted, we identified 2 positives. Both represented very high incidence rates of 10 percent.
- Together, we initiated a plan to build a year-long campaign to End Stigma. Future activities will include testing, outreach, and trainings to recruit at least “50 Stigma Busters” to lead education and programming in their communities.

CONCLUSION

Centering stigma in messaging and program design is an effective method for providing HIV prevention, testing, and treatment services to high-risk populations. By “taking it to the streets” and empowering community members to be “Stigma Busters,” faith-based events designed to expand access to individual health services can also become vehicles for identifying community-level goals to end AIDS and restore the networks hardest hit by mass incarceration.
In light of the increasing rates of HIV infection in African Americans, it is essential that black faith leaders become more proactive in the fight against the epidemic. The study aim was to engage faith leaders in a sustainable partnership to increase community participation in preventive HIV vaccine clinical research while improving their access to and utilization of HIV/AIDS prevention services.

Our Method:
- Leadership Development Seminars were adapted for faith leaders in Rochester, NY, with topics ranging from the importance of preventive HIV vaccine research to social issues surrounding HIV/AIDS within a theological framework.
- Seminars were taught by field-specific experts from the black community and included the development of action plans to institute HIV preventive ministries.

RESULTS

- 19 faith leaders completed the intervention. In general, the majority of clergy felt that their understanding of HIV vaccine research and its goals had increased postintervention.
- Subsequent formation of the Rochester Faith Collaborative by participating clergy seeking to sustain the collaborative and address the implementation of community action plans.

CONCLUSION

Providing scientific HIV/AIDS knowledge within the context of clergy members’ belief structure was an effective method for engaging black Church leaders in Rochester, NY. Collaborative efforts with various local institutions and community-based organizations were essential in building trust with the faith leaders, thereby building bridges for better understanding of HIV/AIDS prevention efforts, including HIV vaccine research.
Applying the Social Justice Framework to Ministry

The HUB

The HUB is an Integrated Care Ministry, under the Visionary Leadership of Pastor Will Francis. It transforms Ministry, Minds, Lives, and Souls in order to change communities and the world in which we live.

The HUB’s H3 Model

Each ministry RETHOUGHT how it was doing ministry and how it could apply a social justice framework to what it was currently doing in terms of outreach. Leadership at The HUB asked each ministry leader if what they were doing was helping The HUB or hurting the community The HUB serves (ex: Is your activity about ministry promotion or ending hunger? The HUB then adopted a new mindset for doing ministry, the H3 Model.

- **HELP**: Provide the immediate need, whether it’s food, clothes, prayer, shelter, or support.
- **HOPE**: Discover the “Why?” behind the need. “I need something to eat because…!
  - “I need shelter because…”
  - “I need an HIV test because…”
- **HEAL**: Offer Christ-centered, compassionate, and Kingdom-focused solutions

RESULTS

- The HUB now serves more than 1,500 guests per month since its changed its “ministry model.”
- The HUB has expanded ministry capacity to include emergency, temporary, and short-term housing, workforce development, and life skills training.
- The HUB is working on opening a Wellness Center.

CONCLUSION

By applying a social justice framework and principles learned through The Black Church & HIV: The Social Justice Imperative initiative to ALL areas of The HUB’s ministry, it began seeing and hearing God’s heart differently and ultimately began truly transforming the lives of those it serves. It was through the lens of social justice that The HUB finally began to see the invisible, expect the incredible, and achieve the impossible.

-Pastor Will Francis, Lead Servant, The HUB
END HIV Houston: Using Faith-Based Partnerships to End the Epidemic through Social and Racial Justice

The Windsor Village Church Family

Every year, Houston reports approximately 1,200 new HIV diagnoses, ranking the metropolitan 10th in the nation for new cases.1,2

In 2016, Houston community leaders from areas of health care, research, policy, and criminal justice came together to look at what is driving the HIV epidemic from an intersectional perspective. They formed the END HIV Houston coalition to develop a plan that will end the HIV epidemic in Houston/Harris County. They concluded that social and racial injustices are at the root of the city’s epidemic. Key drivers included stigma, poverty, institutional and structural racism, discrimination, lack of access to culturally competent health care, homophobia, transphobia, mass incarceration, and trauma. Their recommendations advise a failure to address these issues will continue to produce negative health outcomes, especially in communities of color.

In the END, Everyone Plays a Role

Historically, members of the clergy have served on the frontlines of social and racial justice in America, especially in the south. This year, the Total Temple Transformation (T3) Health & Wellness Ministry hosted The Health Justice Symposium at the Windsor Village Church Family. This forum brought together community, clergy, and civic leaders to start discussing the connection between racial and social injustice and the negative health outcomes it produces. Among these topics were HIV criminalization.

NEXT STEPS

We have the medical and scientific knowledge to end the epidemic, but to reach our goal of reducing new HIV diagnoses by 50% over the next five years, we must engage both traditional and non-traditional HIV partners. As a result, END HIV Houston and T3 Health & Wellness Ministry’s HOPE through Justice Outreach initiative will begin hosting table talks about HIV criminalization, HIV as a matter of racial and social injustice, and the link between trauma and HIV to increase the public’s understanding and show how churches can work to destigmatize HIV in the African-American community.

1. Houston Health Department, HIV Surveillance Program. HIV Infection in Houston: An Epidemiologic Profile (2010-2014)