



## 2019 Report

We are in a key moment in the four-decade-long history of the HIV epidemic! Medical breakthroughs allow people living with HIV to lead long, healthy lives. People living with HIV who have a suppressed viral load cannot transmit HIV sexually (U=U: Undetectable=Untransmittable). People vulnerable to HIV are able to protect themselves from contracting the virus sexually by taking PrEP, just one pill per day.

**Today, it is possible to end the HIV epidemic in Illinois. Getting to Zero Illinois (GTZ-IL) is an ambitious plan and statewide project to do just that by 2030.**

## 2019 Milestones

### February - April

The GTZ-IL Steering Committee incorporates community feedback and completes final draft of the GTZ-IL plan and website

### May

The final plan is launched and endorsed by Illinois Gov. JB Pritzker

### July

GTZ-IL partners with Project RSP for a 5-series PrEP and U=U education and training program

### September

GTZ-IL representatives present at the U.S. Conference on AIDS (USCA) to share lessons learned from the GTZ-IL planning process

### September

More than 40 people from the HIV, public health, medical care, insurance, LGBTQ+ and social service sectors gather for the inaugural GTZ-IL Implementation Council meeting

### October

Implementation workgroups begin to meet and plan

### November

GTZ-IL representatives highlight the connection between housing, health and HIV at statewide supportive housing conference

### December

Co-chairs for six implementation workgroups are on board and ready to collaborate in 2020!

## Implementation Council

On Thursday, Sept. 19, the 40 members of the GTZ-IL Implementation Council met for the first time. Members include community-based providers and legislators as well as representatives of associations, state and federal agencies, county health departments and health care entities. These members will provide strategic direction and oversight of plan activities, and they will ultimately shift paradigms and processes to make real changes in Illinois to advance GTZ-IL.



## Implementation Workgroups

GTZ-IL is a comprehensive and ambitious plan that will depend on workgroups of Illinoisans with lived and professional experience in the plan's focus areas. Workgroups dedicated to PrEP, STIs, long-term survivors, research and data, communications and routinizing HIV testing have co-chairs and planned their initial calls. Their work began in fall 2019 and will continue throughout the next decade.

## Gov. Pritzker's support for GTZ-IL

On May 14, Governor JB Pritzker, along with key GTZ-IL partners including the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH), the Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH) and the AIDS Foundation of Chicago (AFC), officially unveiled the five-year comprehensive plan to end this HIV epidemic in our state. "After taking steps to end the HIV epidemic during my first weeks in office, today I'm proud to say we have a five-year plan to get to zero in Illinois," said Gov. JB Pritzker.



## First mayoral endorsement

On September 23, the mayors of Champaign and Urbana, Deborah Frank Feinen and Diane Wolfe Marlin, joined together and officially declared their cities' support for GTZ-IL. The mayors acknowledged the long history of leaders in the Champaign-Urbana public health field, who have provided care, treatment and advocacy for people living with and vulnerable to HIV in the region since the 1980s.



## World AIDS Day

From Chicago to Bloomington, Peoria to Champaign-Urbana, GTZ-IL partners across the state commemorated World AIDS Day on Dec. 1 by highlighting the success of and upcoming plans for the GTZ-IL initiative. During the first week of December, GTZ-IL partners hosted events that brought together community members to encourage spreading knowledge about HIV and prevention, speaking out against stigma and the continuing efforts to achieve the GTZ-IL plan to end the epidemic by 2030.



## Our sincerest thanks

GTZ-IL is so grateful to the dedicated people across Illinois, including our community partners, members of the Implementation Council, all of the co-chairs who volunteer to lead and manage our workgroups, the GTZ advisory group and all Illinoisans who have created the Getting to Zero project together.





## HIV in Chicago: 2019 report

- Chicago has hit a record low number of new HIV diagnoses, continuing a trend of four consecutive years of declines. **A total of 734 new HIV diagnoses were reported among Chicago residents in 2018 — the lowest number since 1988.** This represents a 60% reduction in new annual cases since 2001 and a 19% reduction since 2014.
- CDPH's 2019 HIV/STI Surveillance Report shows that a total of 23,580 individuals in Chicago were living with HIV through the end of 2017, the year for which most current data are available.
- In 2018, individuals aged 20-29 years old represented 43% of all new HIV diagnoses.
- HIV continues to disproportionately impact certain groups more than others, including men; gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men; and Black communities.
- Other sexually transmitted infections (STIs) are at an all-time high across the nation, and Chicago mirrors that trend. Numbers reported to CDPH in 2018:
  - ◊ 30,608 chlamydia cases (the highest to date)
  - ◊ 12,679 gonorrhea cases (the highest since the early 2000s)
  - ◊ 877 primary and secondary syphilis cases

## HIV in Illinois: 2019 report

- **Between 2008 and 2017, new HIV cases dropped by an average of 2.6% per year.**
- However, the number of diagnoses among people in the 20-29 age category increased by 3.5% each year on average between 2008-2017. Significant decreases were observed among people in the 30-39 and 40-49 age categories.
- As of December 2017, there were 38,564 people diagnosed with HIV in Illinois. However, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention suggests that there were approximately 7,600 people living in Illinois with undiagnosed HIV, bringing the total to about 46,000.
- Of those diagnosed with HIV in Illinois:
  - ◊ Nearly half are Black
  - ◊ Nearly half are age 50 and older
  - ◊ 80% are men
  - ◊ More than three-quarters of new HIV cases diagnosed among men were among gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men
  - ◊ Nearly three-quarters of cases diagnosed among women were attributed to sexual contact