

Our Vision: The JACQUES Initiative (JI) Journey Center, a program of the Institute of Human Virology (IHV) at the University of Maryland School of Medicine, aims to be an internationally recognized community-based venue where individuals gather in fellowship to be the greatest expression of themselves—ultimately promoting wellness, health equity, inclusiveness, and social justice. Well positioned as IHV’s JACQUES Initiative headquarters, our Journey Center seeks to intentionally integrate wellness and prevention into our community engagement model to address the local HIV and Hepatitis C virus (HCV) epidemics.

Mission: Provide comprehensive HIV & HCV prevention services through a holistic approach to community members in need

2018 Program Goals:

- Support 15,000 HIV and HCV screening tests in clinical and community settings
- Identify 800 persons at high risk for HIV
- Provide risk reduction counseling to 240 persons at high risk for HIV
- Navigate 135 individuals to Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) or Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP)
- Engage 600 University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) students in interprofessional education and service-learning through the Preparing the Future Program
- Link 90% of persons newly diagnosed with HIV to care within 30 days
- Link 60% of persons with chronic HCV to care within 90 days

Staff: 2 Program Managers, 2 Program Specialists, and 8 Community Health Workers

Data—July 2017
to June 2018

286 persons
identified
with chronic
Hepatitis C

persons
navigated **80**
to HIV prevention
(PrEP & PEP)

81% persons
successfully
navigated to PrEP
by JI staff

persons
tested **6%**
for HIV & HCV
who were black
men who have
sex with men

9,520
number
of service-
learning hours
performed by
UMB students

Our HIV and HCV Prevention Toolkit has Expanded: We are currently in a new era in HIV Prevention and Hepatitis C treatment, with the availability of new programs and medications that can help our community stay healthy. Science has empowered us with medications that prevent HIV and cure Hepatitis C. We also know that when someone who is HIV positive is successfully treated with HIV, they will not spread the disease sexually. Persons at risk or living with HIV and Hepatitis C now need to be empowered with this knowledge and engaged in services.

A Holistic Model: The JI Prevention Team works to engage community members and create personalized care plans according to the member’s needs, not only those needs that are disease specific. In line with this holistic approach, JI staff recruit community members from clinical and community settings in order to engage them in program services, focusing on improving health outcomes. JI focuses on key populations to include sexual and gender minorities, youth ages 13-24 and African-Americans.

Strategies: Interventions include personalized care plans, community engagement and the development of infrastructure in healthcare settings to address gaps in the HIV and HCV continuums of care. Interventions are carried out through peer navigation; linkage to pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP), post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP); health education and risk reduction; non-medical case management; screening for HIV, HCV and sexually transmitted infections (STIs); social networking & community engagement; capacity building with future and current clinicians and service providers.

Key Partners: State of Maryland-Department of Health’s Prevention & Promotion Administration, Baltimore City Health Department, ViiV ACCELERATE!, University of Maryland, Baltimore, University of Maryland Medical Center-Downtown & Midtown Campuses, University of Maryland AIDS Education and Training Center, University of Maryland Center of Addiction Medicine

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