

# Revisiting the Invisible Latino HIV Crisis: Examining Progress and Identifying Remaining Gaps in the National Response

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# Disclosures

Dr. Guilamo-Ramos reports grants and personal fees from ViiV Healthcare; and he serves as a member of the US Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS, as member of the CDC/HRSA Advisory Committee on HIV, Viral Hepatitis and STD Prevention and Treatment, as the Vice Chair of the Board of Directors of the Latino Commission on AIDS, and as member of the Board of Directors of the HIV Medicine Association.

# Presentation Overview



**The Latino HIV Epidemic in the United States:  
Progress and Remaining Gaps**

**Latino Prevention and Treatment Disparities:  
Implications for the EHE Initiative**

**The Latino Community Response to HIV:  
Four Priority Areas for the National Strategy**

# Presentation Overview

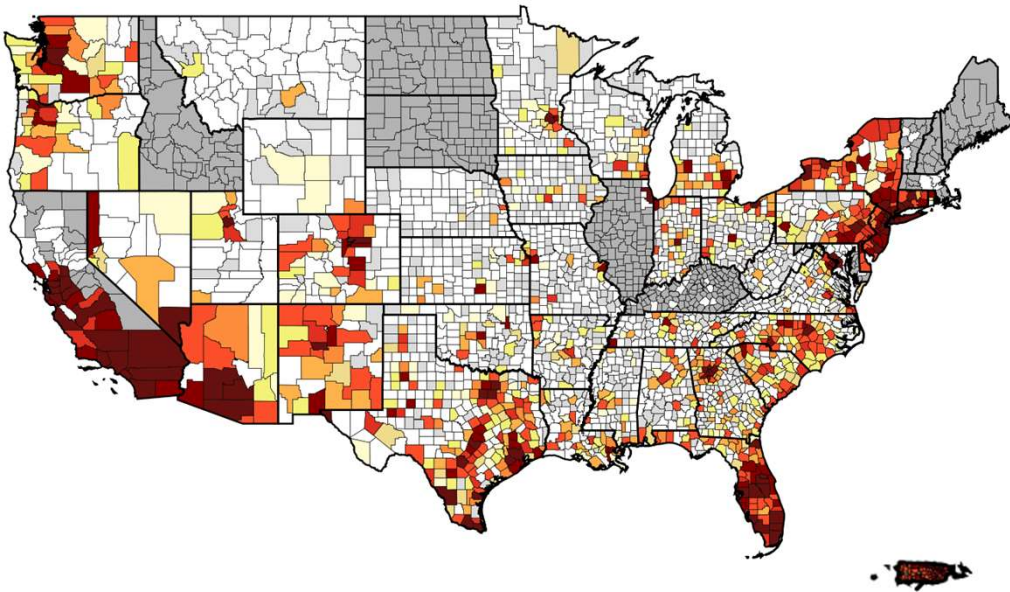
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**The Latino HIV Epidemic in the United States: Progress and Remaining Gaps**

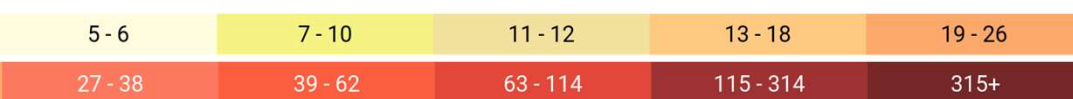
# HIV among Latinos in the United States

**294,200** Latinos in the United States are estimated to be living with HIV.

**48,200** are estimated to not be aware of their HIV status.



Number of Latinos living with diagnosed HIV:



Sources: AIDSvu, [aidsvu.org](http://aidsvu.org); CDC Atlas, [cdc.gov/nchhstp/atlas/index.htm](http://cdc.gov/nchhstp/atlas/index.htm); CDC HIV Surveillance Supplemental Report 2021;26(No. 2)

In 2019,

**10,112**

Latinos were newly diagnosed with HIV, and

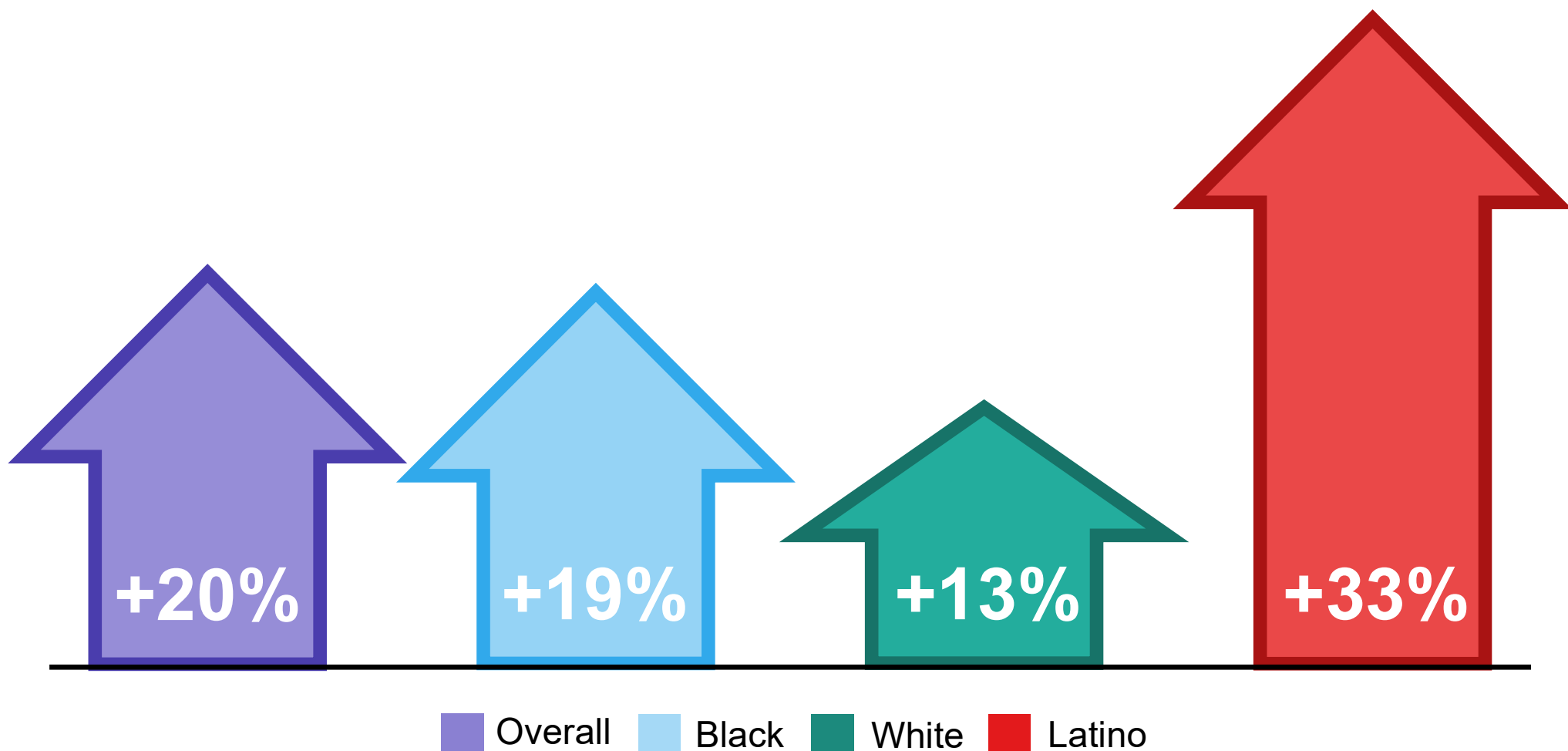
**2,702**

Latinos living with HIV died.



# Latinos are a Fast-Growing Priority Population in the U.S. HIV Epidemic

Increase in the Estimated Number of People Living With HIV 2010–2019 (Diagnosed and Undiagnosed), Overall and by Ethnic/Racial Group





# Latino HIV Disparities in the Last Decade: The Invisible HIV Crisis Among Latinos in the U.S.



AJPH ENDING THE HIV EPIDEMIC

## The Invisible US Hispanic/Latino HIV Crisis: Addressing Gaps in the National Response

The federal government has proposed an end to HIV transmission in the United States by 2030. Although the United States has made substantial overall progress in the fight against HIV/AIDS, data released by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have raised concerns about widening, yet largely unrecognized, HIV infection disparities among Hispanic and Latino populations.

This commentary identifies underlying drivers of increasing new HIV infections among Hispanics/Latinos, discusses existing national efforts to fight HIV in Hispanic/Latino communities, and points to gaps in the federal response. Consideration of the underlying drivers of increased HIV incidence among Hispanics/Latinos is warranted to achieve the administration's 2030 HIV/AIDS goals.

Specifically, the proposed reinforcement of national efforts to end the US HIV epidemic must include focused investment in four priority areas: (1) HIV stigma reduction in Hispanic/Latino communities, (2) the availability and accessibility of HIV treatment of HIV-positive Hispanics/Latinos, (3) the development of behavioral interventions tailored to Hispanic/Latino populations, and (4) the engagement of Hispanic/Latino community leaders. (*Am J Public Health* 2020;110:27–31. doi:10.2105/AJPH.2019.305309)

Vincent Guilamo-Ramos, PhD, MPH, LCSW, ANP-BC, AAHIVS, Marco Thimm-Kaiser, BA, Adam Benzekei, MS, Guillermo Chacón, Oscar R. López, Luis Staccabarozzi, MPH, and Elena Rios, MD, MSPH

See also Kapadia and Landers, p. 15; and the *AJPH* Ending the HIV Epidemic section, pp. 22–68.

In his February 5, 2019, State of the Union Address, President Trump promised to reinforce national efforts to end the US HIV/AIDS epidemic by 2030. However, the national public health agenda has neglected the accelerating HIV/AIDS crisis in Hispanic/Latino communities. Progress in the fight against HIV is reflected in aggregate data for the United States, but data released by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) raise alarming concerns about widening, yet largely unrecognized, HIV infection disparities among Hispanics/Latinos.<sup>1–3</sup>

### THE INVISIBLE HIV CRISIS AMONG HISPANICS/LATINOS

Although progress in reducing HIV incidence and new diagnoses has been achieved for specific Hispanic/Latino subpopulations, increases among key transmission and age groups reflect a largely unrecognized Hispanic/Latino HIV crisis.<sup>1–3</sup> CDC estimates of HIV incidence suggest that the number of new HIV infections in Hispanic/Latino communities is escalating.<sup>1</sup> Although estimated HIV incidence in the United States has declined overall by 6% since 2010, it has increased among Hispanic/Latino populations by 14% or more.<sup>1</sup> Similarly, surveillance data show that the annual number of Hispanics/Latinos newly diagnosed with HIV has

increased by 7% between 2012 and 2016, in contrast to overall annual new HIV diagnoses in the United States, which have decreased by 4% (Figure 1).<sup>2</sup> The increase in estimated HIV incidence and new diagnoses among Hispanics/Latinos is best elucidated by considering the specific Hispanic/Latino populations most heavily affected by HIV/AIDS—namely, men who have sex with men (MSM; in particular, young Hispanic/Latino MSM), transgender Latina females, and recent Hispanic/Latino immigrants.

MSM represent the largest affected population in the current Hispanic/Latino HIV crisis, accounting for approximately 80% of estimated HIV incidence among Hispanics/Latinos.<sup>1</sup> Alarmingly, since 2010, the estimated number of new annual HIV infections has increased by 30% for Hispanic/Latino MSM and, notably, by 68% for Hispanic/Latino MSM aged 25 to 34 years (Figure 2).<sup>1</sup> Similarly, since 2012, annual new HIV diagnoses for young Hispanics/Latinos aged 13 to 24 years have remained constant, whereas overall new diagnoses for youths aged 13 to 24

years declined by 10% over the same period.<sup>3</sup> Pronounced HIV disparity among transgender Latinos was reported in a recent systematic review and meta-analysis.<sup>4</sup> It is estimated that roughly one in four transgender Latinos is HIV positive, with estimates of HIV prevalence in the included studies ranging from 8% to 60%.<sup>4</sup> In addition, individuals born outside the continental United States accounted for at least one in three new HIV diagnoses for Hispanics/Latinos in 2017,<sup>2</sup> representing a frequently overlooked key population affected by the Hispanic/Latino HIV epidemic. Importantly, it has been suggested that the majority of foreign-born Hispanics/Latinos living with HIV acquired the infection in the United States.<sup>5</sup> Recent Hispanic/Latino immigrants face several challenges related to language barriers, immigration status, differences between host culture and that of their country of origin, and distinct social norms regarding health care seeking and utilization, exacerbating their vulnerability to HIV infection and limiting their access to prevention and treatment services.

### ABOUT THE AUTHORS

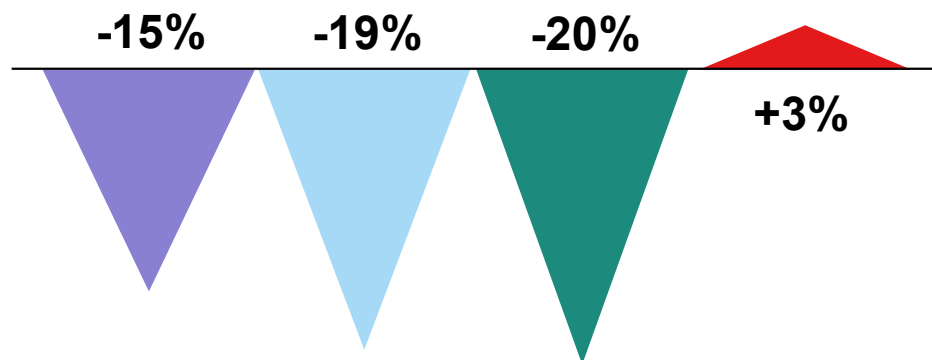
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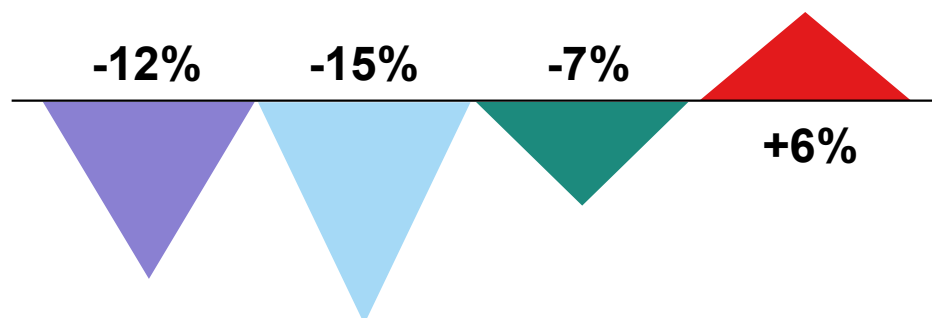
This article was accepted July 21, 2019. doi: 10.2105/AJPH.2019.305309

## CDC HIV Data 2010–2019

### Change in Annual New HIV Diagnoses



### Change in Estimated Annual New HIV Infections



Legend: Overall (Purple), Black (Light Blue), White (Green), Latino (Red)



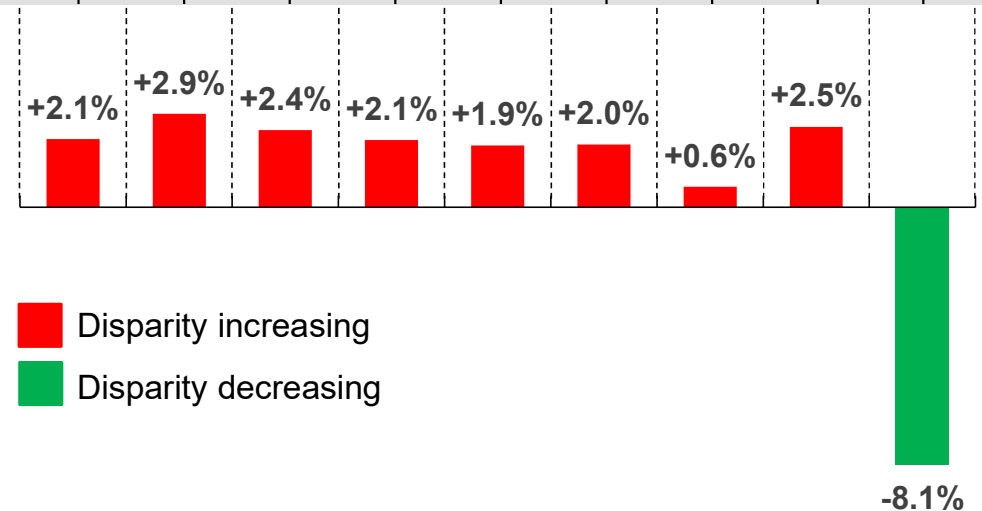
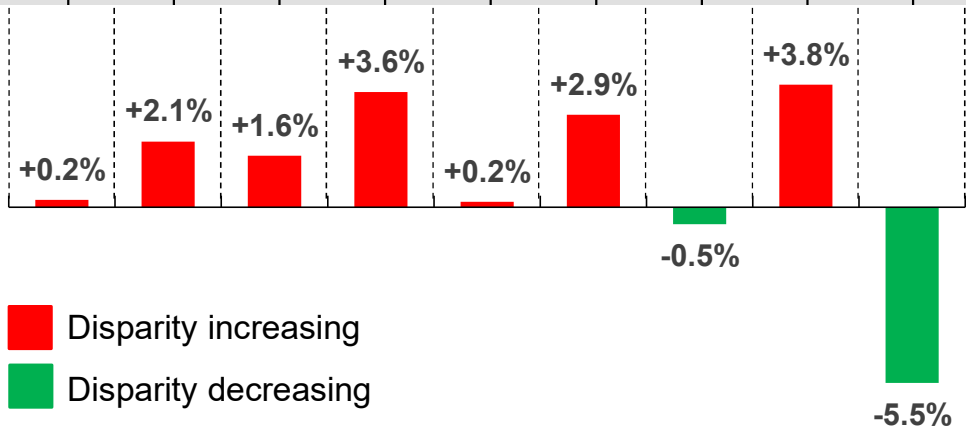
# Latinos Continue to Experience HIV Disparities Despite Progress Reflected in Data for 2019

Year-to-Year Change in Disparity, Latino vs. Overall HIV Diagnosis Rate

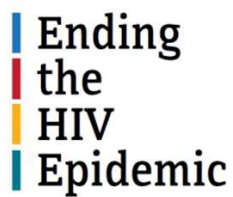
Year-to-Year Change in Disparity, Latino vs. Overall Estimated HIV Incidence Rate

Latino rate per 100,000 population
  Overall rate per 100,000 population
  Latino vs. Overall disparity

2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
25.8	24.6	24.3	23.6	24.3	24	24.1	23.2	22.9	21.5	25.2	24.7	24.8	24.3	24.6	24.7	24.8	24.0	23.8	21.7
16.7	15.9	15.5	14.9	15.0	14.8	14.6	14.1	13.6	13.2	15.4	14.9	14.7	14.2	14.2	14.1	14.0	13.5	13.2	12.6
54.5%	54.7%	56.8%	58.4%	62.0%	62.2%	65.1%	64.5%	68.4%	62.9%	63.6%	65.8%	68.7%	71.1%	73.2%	75.2%	77.1%	77.8%	80.3%	72.2%



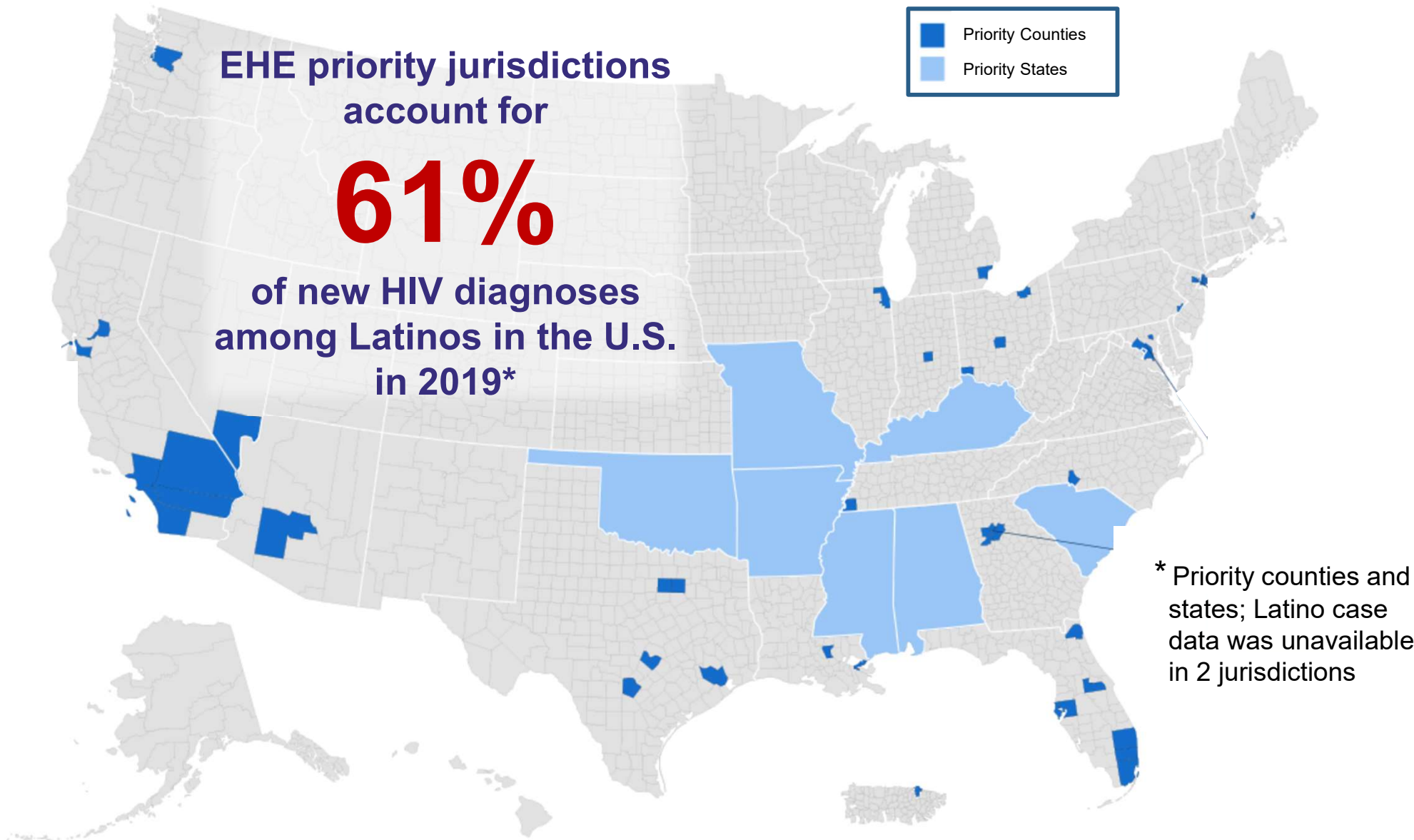
Source: CDC Atlas, [cdc.gov/nchhstp/atlas/index.htm](http://cdc.gov/nchhstp/atlas/index.htm)



Notably, the federal *Ending the HIV Epidemic Initiative* was launched on February 5, 2019.



# Alignment of EHE Priority Jurisdictions and the Latino HIV Epidemic

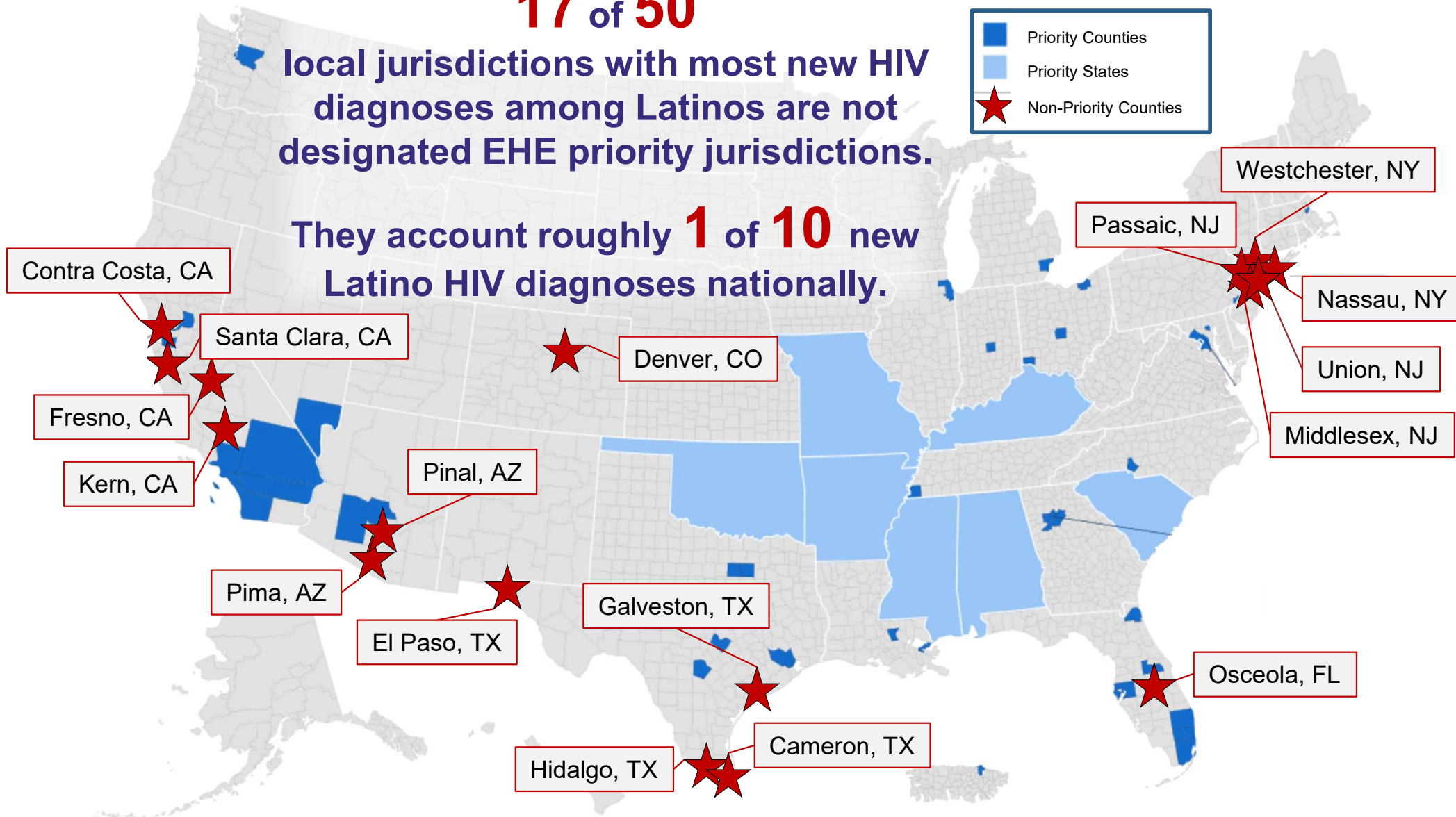
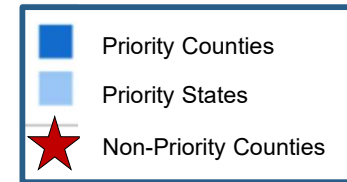


# Hotspots in the Latino HIV Epidemic Outside of EHE Priority Jurisdictions, 2019

**17 of 50**

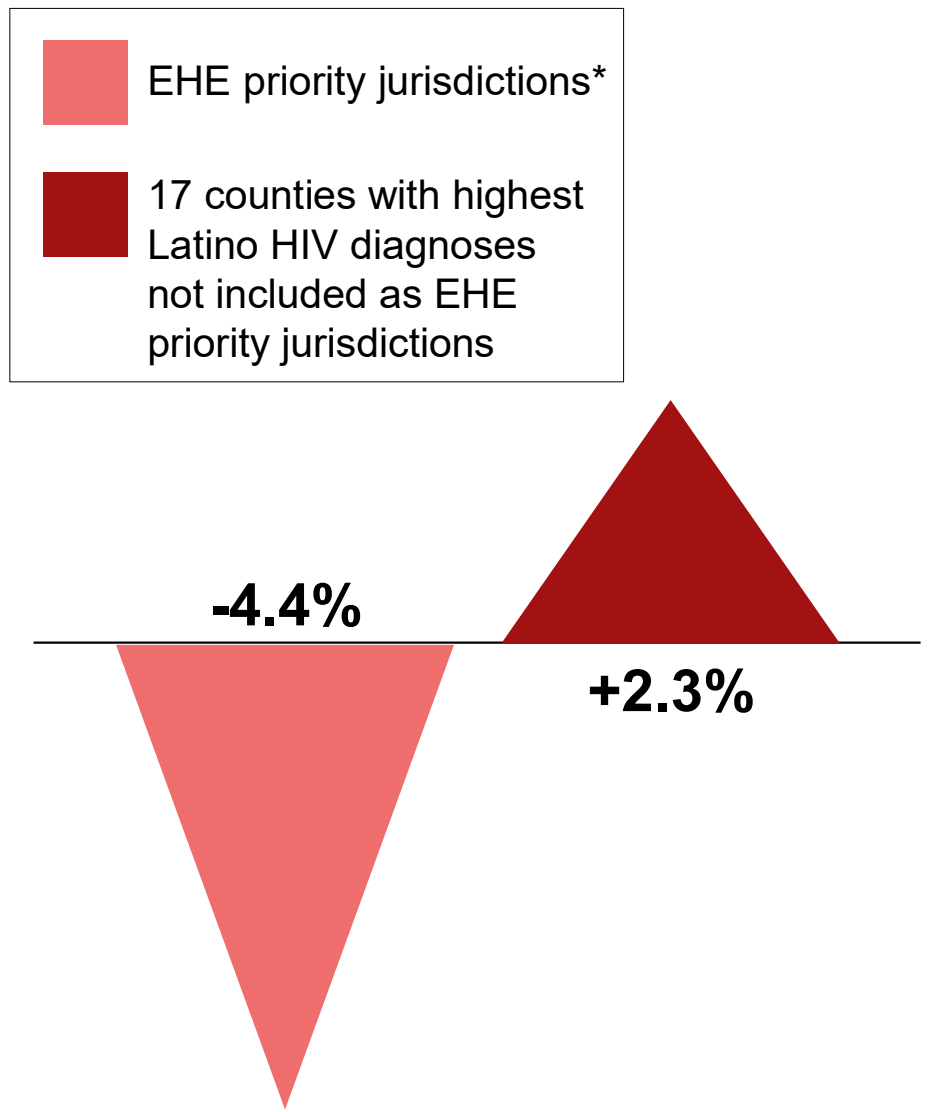
local jurisdictions with most new HIV diagnoses among Latinos are not designated EHE priority jurisdictions.

They account roughly **1 of 10** new Latino HIV diagnoses nationally.

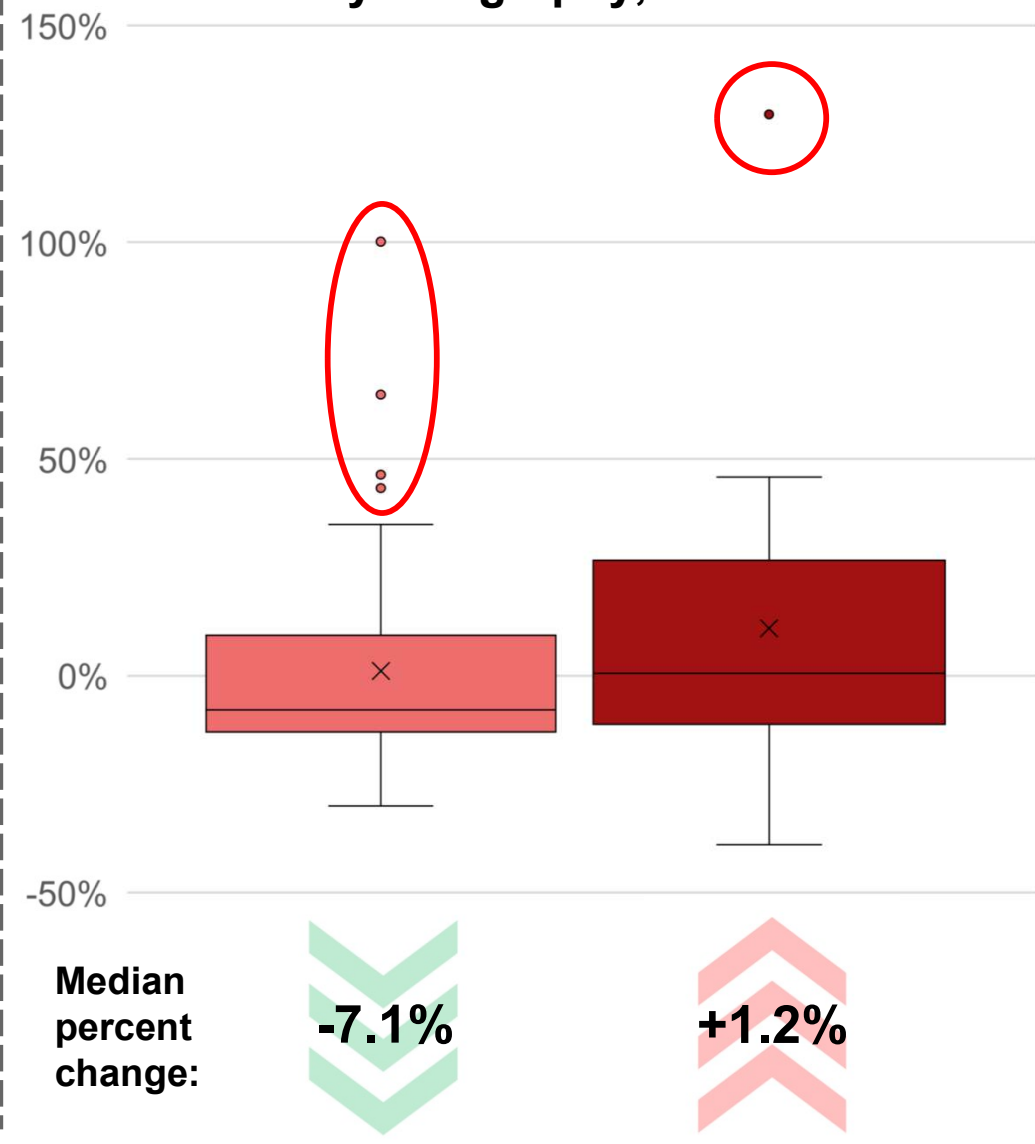


# EHE Priority Jurisdictions vs. Non-EHE Latino Priority Geographies: Heterogeneity in 2018–19 Change of New HIV Diagnoses among Latinos

**Change in Aggregate New HIV Diagnoses among Latinos, 2018–2019**



**Change in New HIV Diagnoses among Latinos by Geography, 2018–2019**



Source: CDC Atlas, [cdc.gov/nchhstp/atlas/index.htm](https://cdc.gov/nchhstp/atlas/index.htm)

\*Calculations for EHE priority jurisdictions based on 47 EHE counties and 7 priority states due to missing or suppressed data for Latino populations.

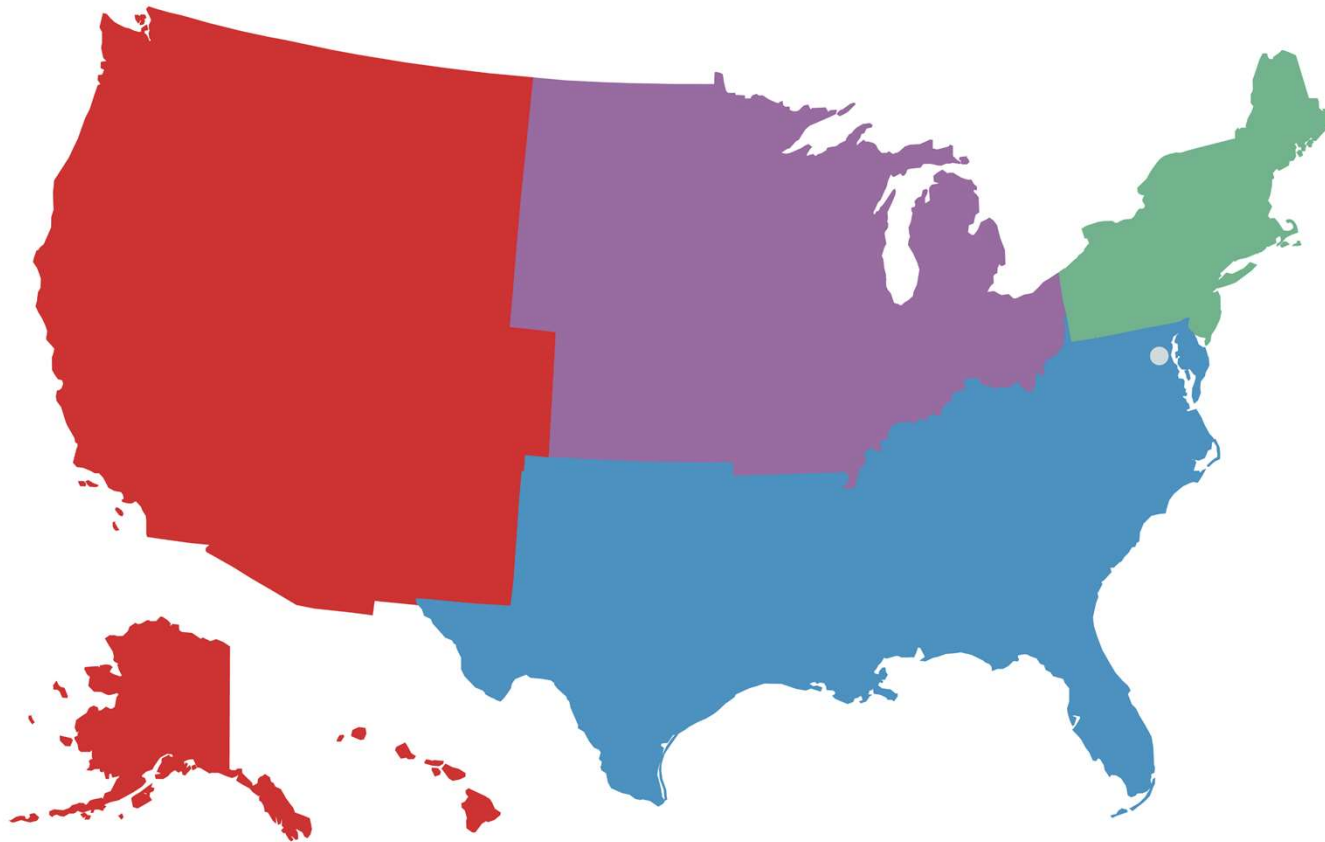
# Outlier Counties With Large Increases in 2018-19 HIV Diagnoses among Latinos

Five counties (4 EHE, 1 non-EHE) represent outliers of significant 2018-19 increases in HIV diagnoses among Latinos.

County, State	Number of 2018 Cases, Latinos	Number of 2019 Cases, Latinos	2018-19 Change, Latinos	2018-19 Change, Non-Latinos
<b><i>EHE Priority Jurisdictions</i></b>				
Mecklenburg County, NC	21	42	+100%	+2%
Prince George's County, MD	20	33	+65%	-14%
Shelby County, TN	15	22	+47%	-13%
Gwinnett County, GA	39	56	+44%	+39%
<b><i>Non-EHE Counties</i></b>				
Pinal County, AZ	24	55	+129%	+38%

# HIV High Transmission Clusters Have Been Linked to Spikes in Local Transmission Dynamics Across the US

## Molecular HIV Surveillance by Census Region, 2018-2019



West (n= 4 States)

Northeast (n= 3 States)

South (n=10 States)

Midwest (n=2 States)

The CDC reported the identification of

**136 high HIV transmission clusters**

across 19 U.S. states from 2018-2019.

Priority clusters were defined as those with  $\geq 5$  diagnoses in the preceding 12 months

# HIV Transmission Rates in High Transmission Clusters

## Normal HIV Transmission Rate



## HIV Transmission Rate in Rapid Transmission Clusters



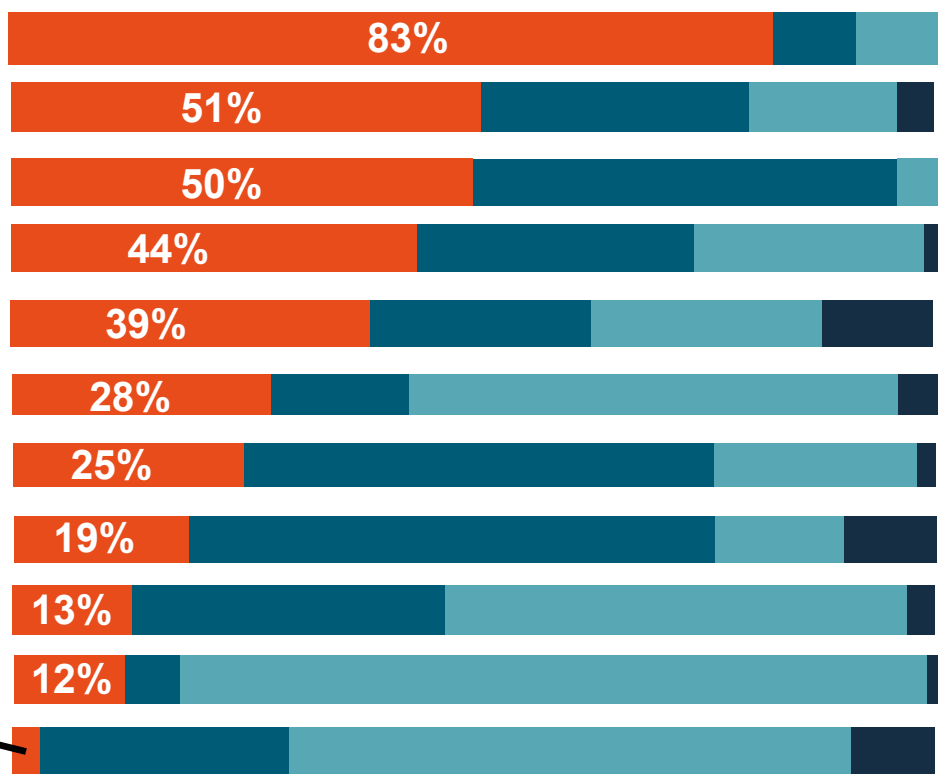
Prior research showed transmission rates **substantially above** the national average in high transmission clusters.



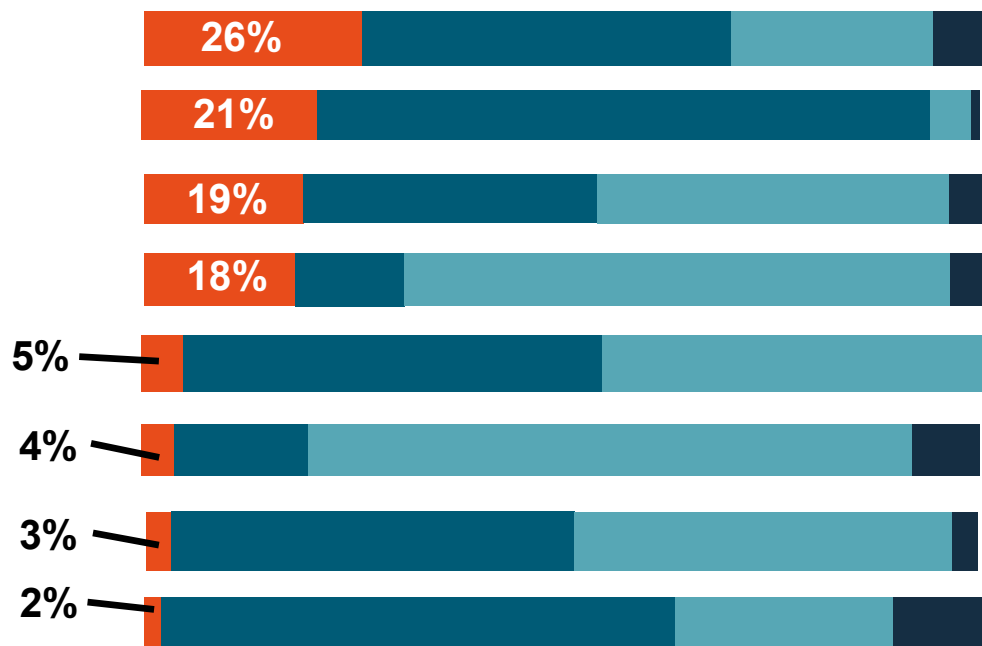
# Ethnicity/Race of People in HIV High Transmission Clusters 2018-2019, by State

In 11 out of 19 states (58%) where HIV high transmission clusters were identified in 2018-19, Latinos were overrepresented\* among people in high transmission clusters.

## States Where Latinos are Overrepresented\* in Clusters (n=11 states)



## States Where Latinos are Not Overrepresented\* in Clusters (n=8 states)



\*As compared to Latino proportion of all HIV diagnoses in state.

Source: Oster AM, et al. Viruses. 2021;13(4):577



# Revisiting the Invisible Latino HIV Crisis: Progress and Remaining Gaps

1

***Latinos are a fast-growing priority population in the U.S. HIV epidemic.***

2

***Latinos have experienced HIV disparities over the past decade, despite accelerated progress in 2019.***

3

***EHE priority jurisdictions account for >60% of new HIV diagnoses among Latinos, but some hotspots in the Latino HIV epidemic have not been designated priority jurisdictions.***

4

***Reductions in new HIV diagnoses among Latinos are geographically heterogeneous, but greater in EHE priority jurisdictions than in important non-priority jurisdictions.***

5

***Latinos are overrepresented in HIV high transmission clusters in the majority of states where clusters have been identified.***

# Presentation Overview



## Latino Prevention and Treatment Disparities: Implications for the EHE Initiative

# Key Strategies for Ending the Epidemic by 2030 from a Latino Perspective

The federal Ending the HIV Epidemic initiative outlines **5 key strategies** in the fight against HIV until 2030, which **warrant consideration from a Latino perspective**.

## Ending the HIV Epidemic

### 5 Key Strategies:



Diagnose



Protect



Treat



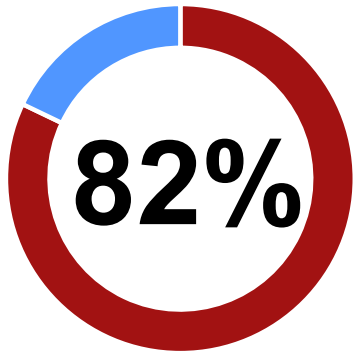
Respond



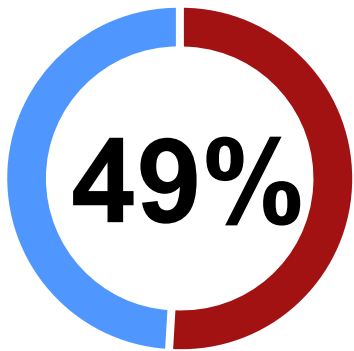
Workforce Development



# Diagnose all people with HIV as early as possible after infection.



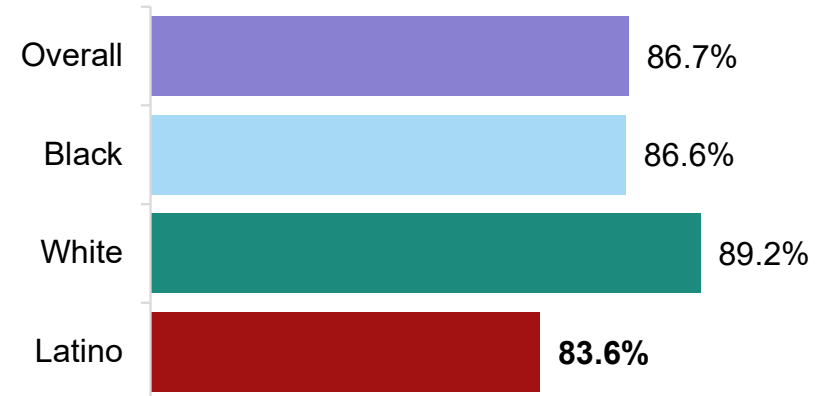
Of Latinos have not tested for HIV in the *past 12 months*



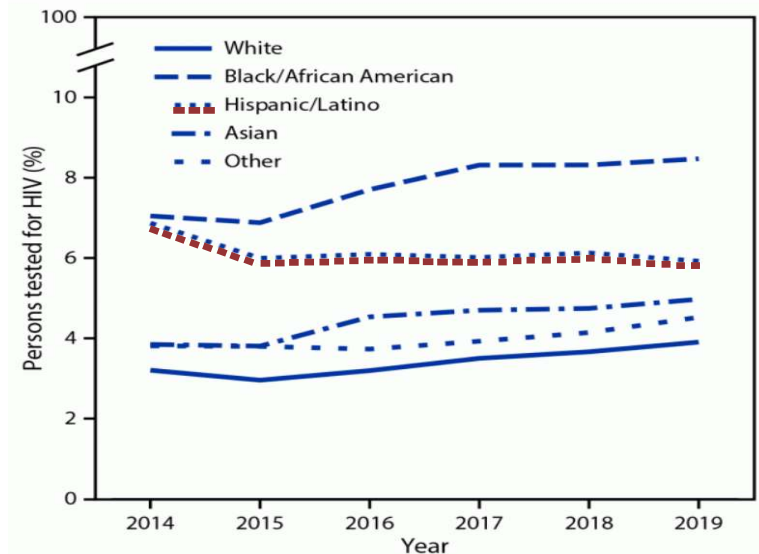
Of Latinos have *never been tested* for HIV

Among Latinos who have never tested for HIV, **1 in 3** report **never having been offered** a test (no perceived risk was the most common reason for never testing, ~60%).

### Knowledge of HIV Status, 2019

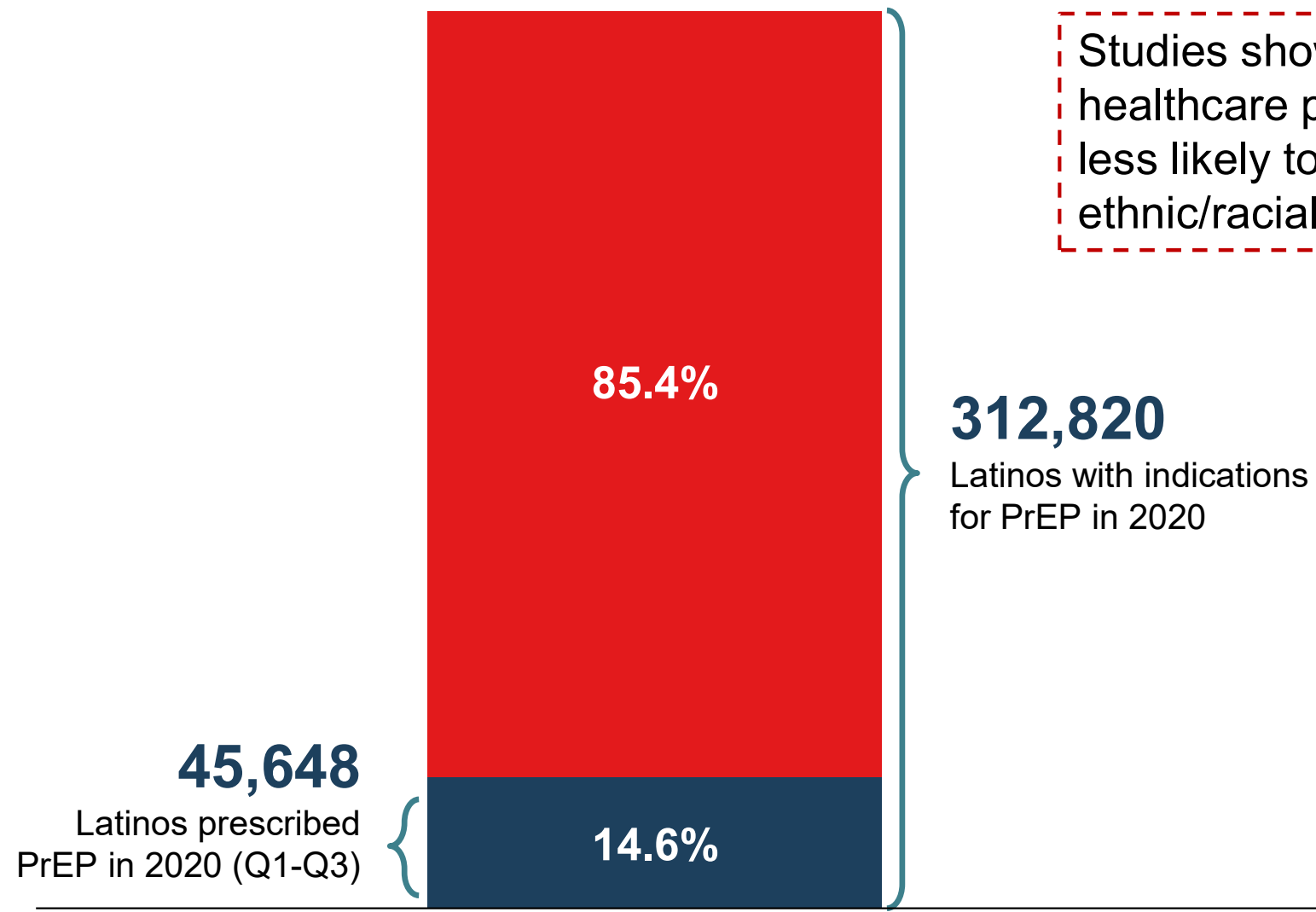


### % of Persons with Medicaid who Received HIV Testing in the past year by Ethnicity/Race





**Protect** people at risk for HIV using potent and proven prevention interventions, including PrEP, a medication that can prevent HIV infections.



Studies show that healthcare providers are less likely to offer PrEP to ethnic/racial minorities

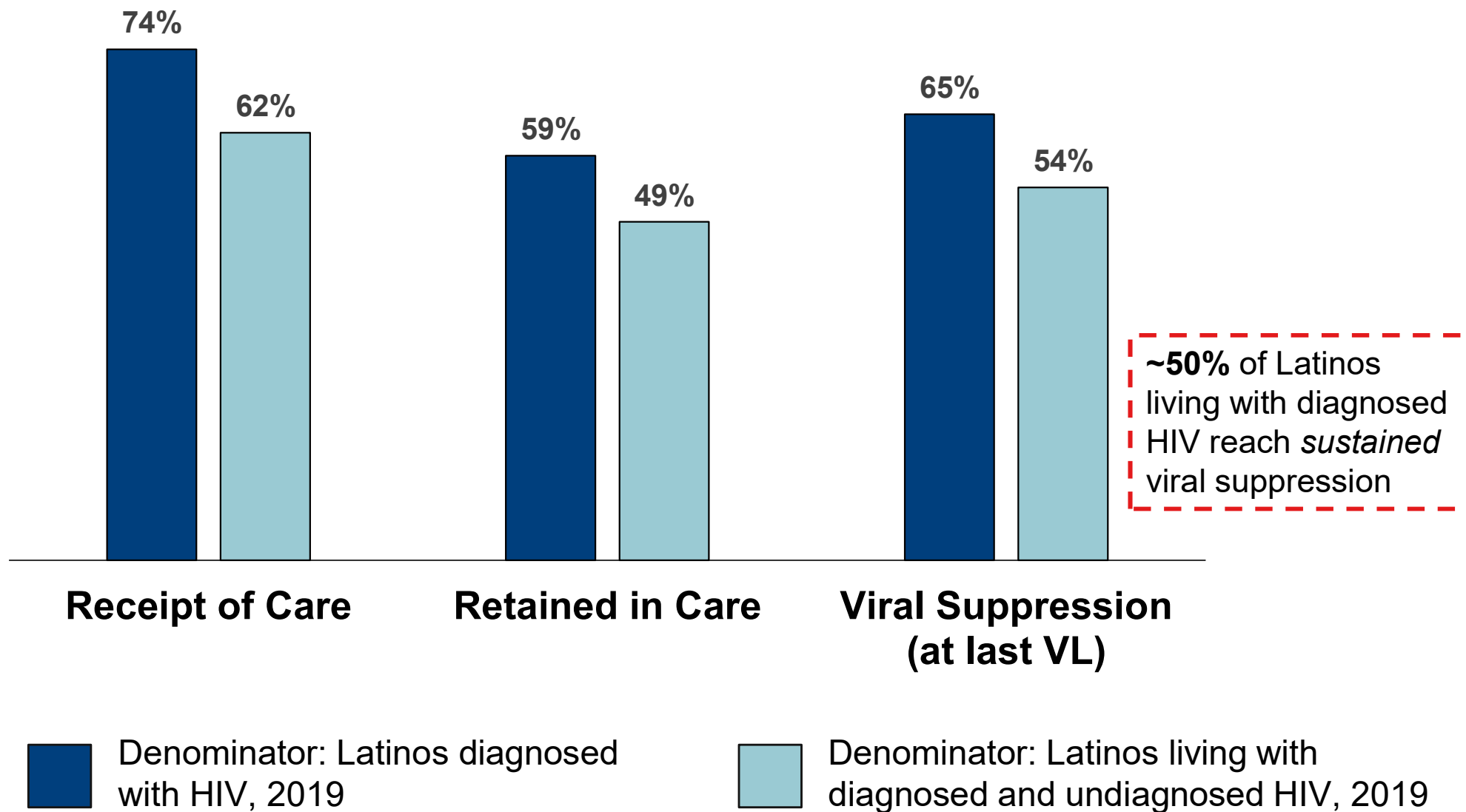


Sources: CDC Atlas, [cdc.gov/nchhstp/atlas/index.htm](https://cdc.gov/nchhstp/atlas/index.htm); Calabrese SK, et al. AIDS and Behavior. 2014;18(2):226-40.





**Treat** the infection rapidly and effectively to achieve sustained viral suppression.



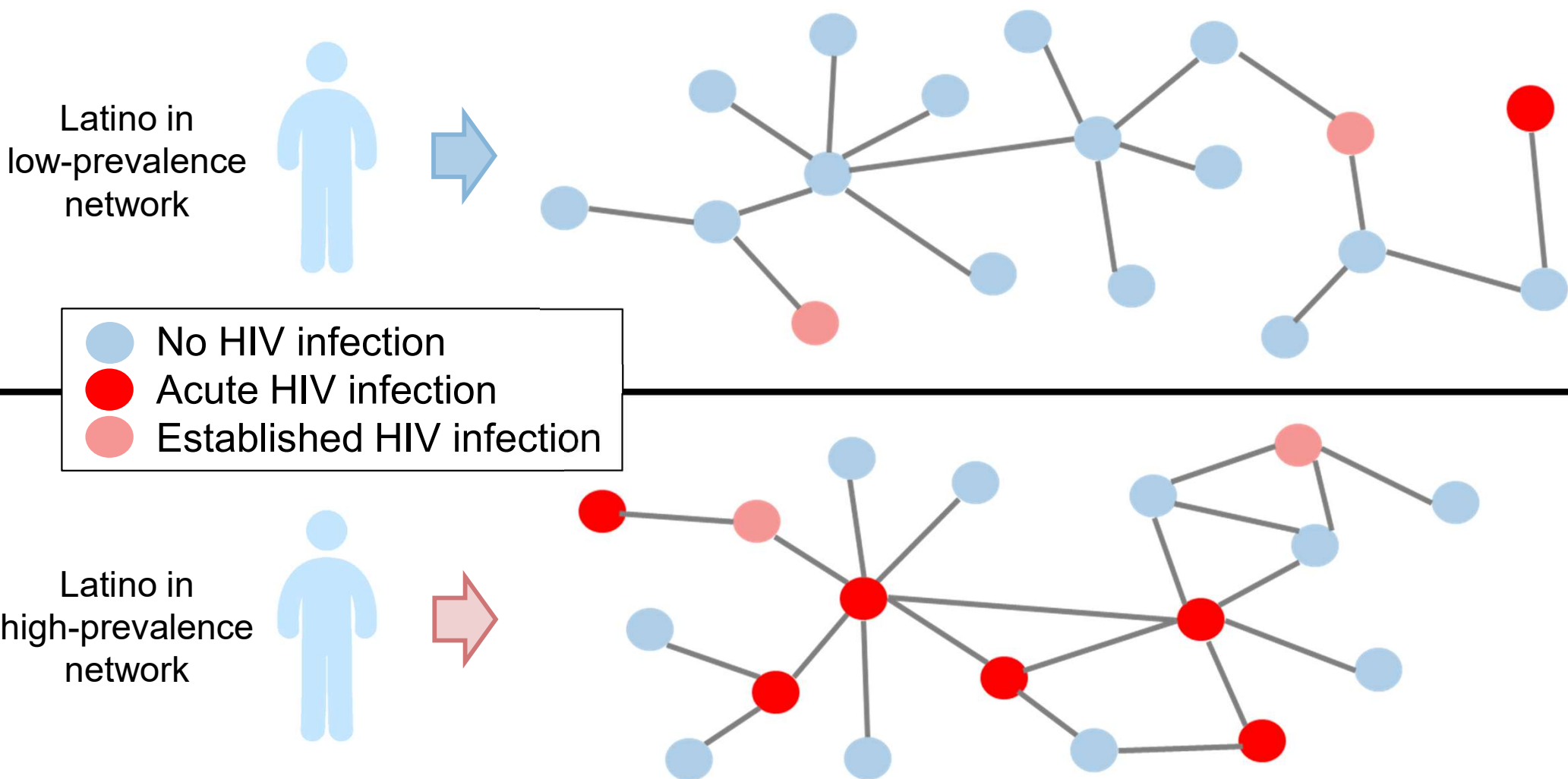
Sources: CDC HIV Surveillance Supplemental Report 2021;26(No. 2);  
Crepaz N, et al. 2014. *MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep.* 2018;67(4):113-118.



**Respond** quickly to potential HIV outbreaks to get needed prevention and treatment services to people who need them.



Latinos are overrepresented in HIV high transmission clusters in most states where 2018-19 clusters have been identified, **indicating elevated network prevalence.**



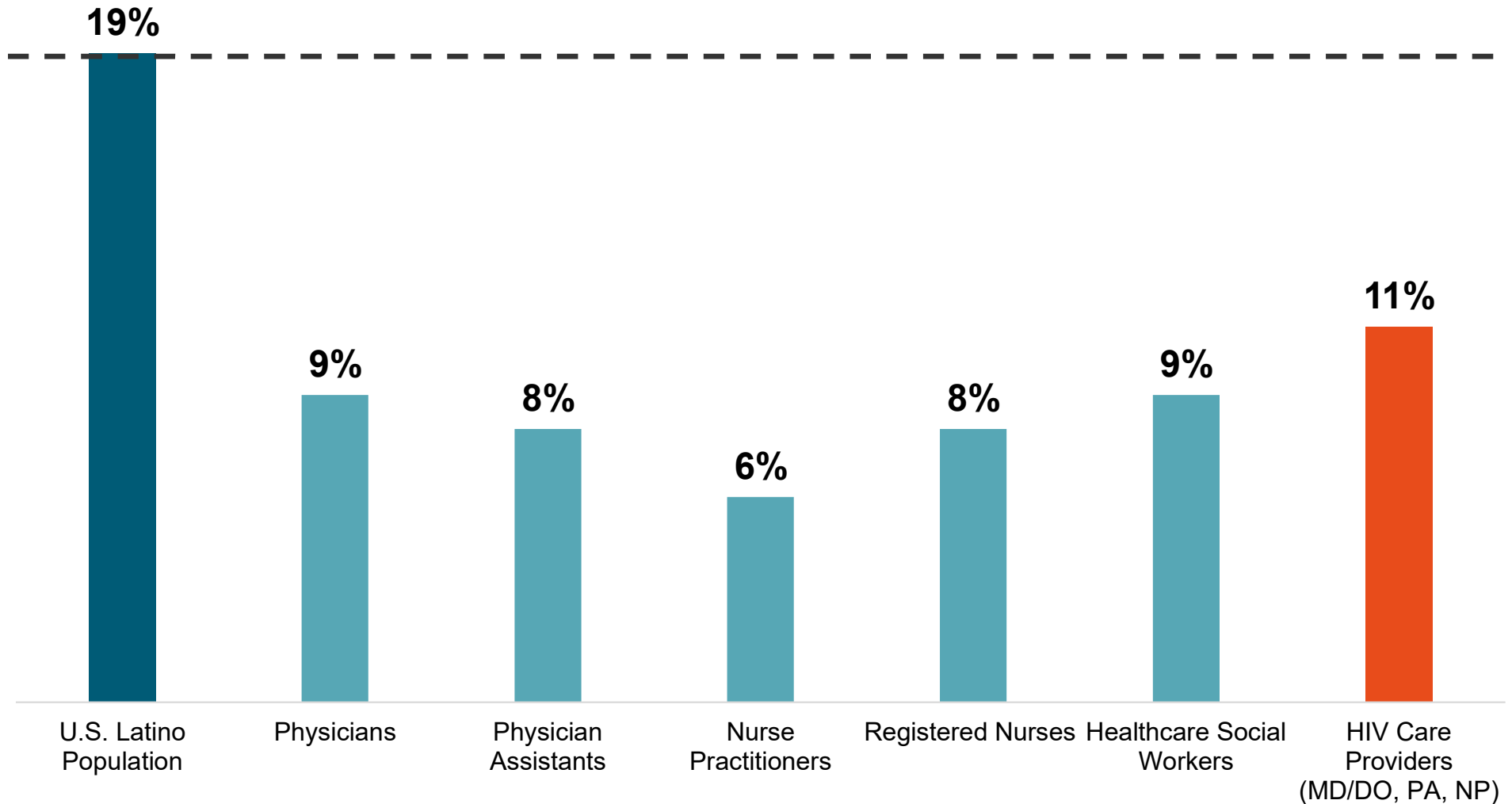
Sources: France AM, et al. Rapidly Growing HIV Transmission Clusters in the United States, 2013–2016. Presented at CROI 2018; Boston, MA.; Oster AM, et al. *Viruses*. 2021 Apr;13(4):577.





**HIV HealthForce** will establish local teams committed to the success of the Initiative in each jurisdiction.

## Latino Healthcare Workforce in the U.S.



Sources: U.S. Census Bureau. 2020 Census Results.; U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Employed persons by detailed occupation, sex, race, and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity, Labor Force Statistics from the Current Population Survey, 2020.; Weiser J, et al. Clinical Infectious Diseases. 2016;7(1):966-75.



# Presentation Overview



## The Latino Community Response to HIV: Four Priority Areas for the National Strategy

# Latino Community Mobilization: The Foundation for Accelerated 2019 Progress in the Fight Against HIV

In response to the US HIV epidemic among Latinos,

**More than 100 Latinos health and social service organizations nationwide convened a community consensus building process in 2018.**



Guilamo-Ramos, et al. American Journal of Public Health. 2020;100:27-31.



## HISPANIC/LATINX CALL TO ACTION



# August 2018 Meeting Between the Latino Community and the CDC



## HISPANIC/LATINX CALL TO ACTION

The National Hispanic Medical Association facilitated a consensus-building meeting between the ***Hispanic/Latinx Delegation on HIV/AIDS*** and the **CDC** that was initiated in August 2018 to establish open channels of communication and collaboration between federal Latino community stakeholders.





# Priority Areas for Improving the National Response to HIV in Latino Communities

The steering committee of the Hispanic/Latinx Delegation on HIV/AIDS identified **four priority areas** for increased national efforts by the CDC and federal, state, and local partner agencies.

1

Stigma  
Reduction

2

Prevention &  
Treatment

3

Hispanic/Latino  
Specific Research

4

Hispanic/Latino  
Community  
Engagement



# Duke University School of Nursing

## Center for Latino Adolescent and Family Health

The Center for Latino Adolescent and Family Health (CLAFH) at Duke University School of Nursing (DUSON) has ongoing projects addressing the four priority areas.

1

Stigma  
Reduction

2

Prevention &  
Treatment

3

Hispanic/Latino  
Specific Research

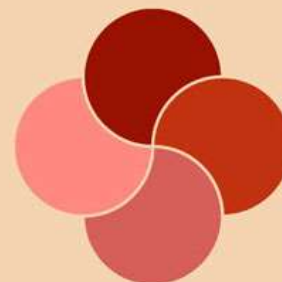
4

Hispanic/Latino  
Community  
Engagement

**NO FEARS:**



Nurturing **O**urselves:  
Family **E**ducation and  
Activities to **R**educe **S**tigma



**Instituto  
DILES**

DILES (TELL THEM) INSTITUTE



# CLAFH Project #1: NO FEARS – A family-based stigma reduction intervention

# NO FEARS



**N**urturing **O**urselves:  
**F**amily **E**ducation and  
**A**ctivities to **R**educe **S**tigma

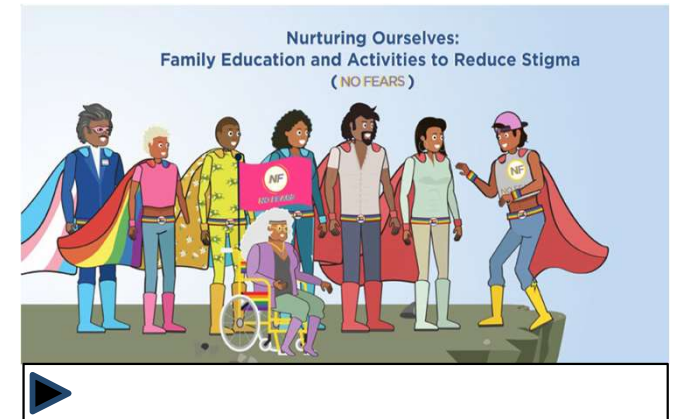
HIV Stigma Reduction in  
Latino Communities



## NO FEARS Intervention Components:



Family Workbook



Supplemental Online Videos

The NO FEARS intervention program provides Latino adolescents and young adults living with HIV and their families with:

- Guidance on how to **support stigma reduction** and antiretroviral medication adherence
- Strategies for **supporting youth development** into healthy, fulfilled adults.

# CLAFH Project #1: NO FEARS – A family-based stigma reduction intervention



The logo features a yellow circular emblem with the letters 'NF' in blue. Below it, the words 'NO FEARS' are written in a bold, blue, stylized font with a yellow outline. Underneath that, the word 'Video' is written in a similar blue, stylized font with a yellow outline.



Look out for the release of all segments of the **NO FEARS** workbook and video series and at:  
<https://clafh.nursing.duke.edu/>



# CLAFH Project #2: DILES Institute – Latino Leadership Development in HIV



**Instituto  
DILES**

DILES (TELL THEM) INSTITUTE

The Instituto DILES is a 12-month program that builds leadership skills among fellows in order to drive meaningful change in their communities toward ending the HIV epidemic for Latinx men.

Curriculum for DILES fellows consists of several components:

- Webinars with expert speakers on HIV topics and areas of leadership
- Individualized mentoring sessions
- Leadership resources
- Real-world applied leadership projects

Fellows' applied leadership projects will focus on **prevention/treatment**, **research**, or **advocacy** projects in their local communities.

**Applications are  
now open!**

 **Duke** University School of Nursing  
Center for Latino Adolescent and Family Health



Instituto Latinx de **D**esarrollo  
**I**ntegral de **L**ideres  
**E**mpoderados contra el **S**IDA

Prevention  
&  
Treatment

Targeted  
HIV  
Research

Community  
Engagement

in Latino Communities



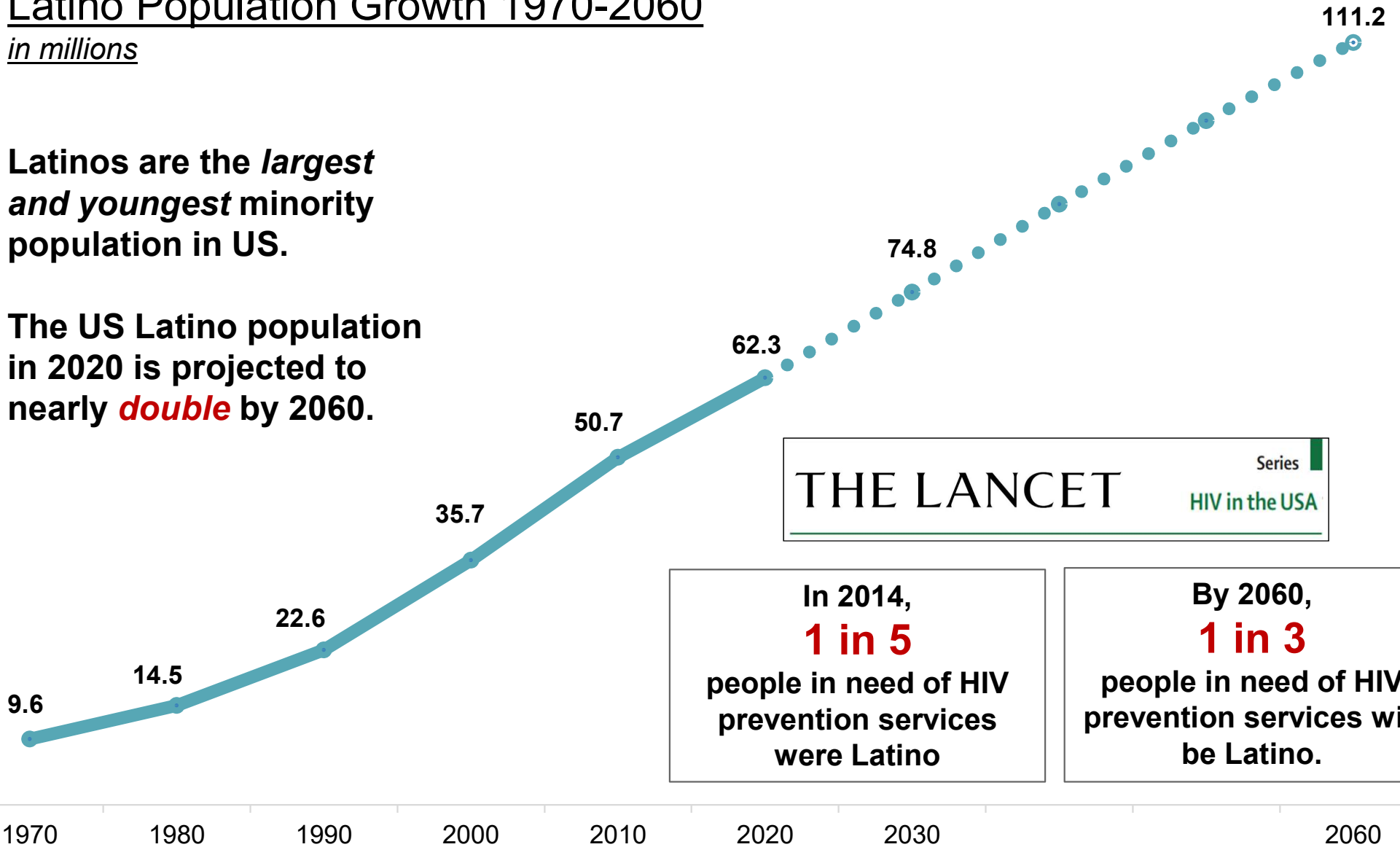
# Why Does This All Matter?

## Latino Population Growth 1970-2060

*in millions*

Latinos are the *largest and youngest* minority population in US.

The US Latino population in 2020 is projected to nearly **double** by 2060.



In 2014,  
**1 in 5**  
people in need of HIV  
prevention services  
were Latino

By 2060,  
**1 in 3**  
people in need of HIV  
prevention services will  
be Latino.



# Thank You!

*Vincent Guilamo-Ramos*

Please send any questions to:

[vincent.ramos@duke.edu](mailto:vincent.ramos@duke.edu)



**Duke University School of Nursing**

Center for Latino Adolescent and Family Health

Visit: <https://clafh.nursing.duke.edu/>



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