

Wednesday November 15
10 AM - 11:30 AM ET

HPTN 096: Building Equity Through Advocacy
An Integrated, Status-Neutral, Approach for
Ending the Epidemic Among **Black Gay Men** in the South

Thank you for joining us today.



co-sponsors:
PrEP in Black America
Federal AIDS Policy Partnership Research Working Group



HIV prevention research - a new forum
for advocacy on the latest

avac.org/project/choice-agenda



TODAY'S PLAYLIST

- Tired of Being Alone
Al Green
- AH TXE TXE
GIANT & TYSON
- Old Town Road
Lil Nas X
- Heela
Elemotho
- Erotic City
Prince and the Revolution

**Thank you to
our co-sponsors!**

PrEP in Black America

**Federal AIDS
Policy Partnership
Research Working Group**





Prof. LaRon E. Nelson
Yale School of Nursing;
HPTN 096 Protocol Co-Chair

Christopher Hucks Ortiz
HPTN Black Caucus Chair

Dr. Cedric Pulliam
HPTN 096 Community Strategy Group

Abraham Johnson
HPTN 096 Research Advisor

Moderators:
Riko Boone/TAG and John Meade/AVAC



HPTN 096: Building Equity Through Advocacy

An Integrated Status Neutral Approach to Ending
the Epidemic among Black Gay Men in the South

LaRon E. Nelson, PhD, RN, FNP, FNAP, FAAN,
Yale University

November 15, 2023



2005: 46% is unacceptable!

- **Research on Black MSM should be:**
 - Timely
 - Primarily designed, implemented, and interpreted by Black men researchers
 - Conducted across diverse sociodemographic groups
 - Funded by multiple sources at levels sufficient to sustain research efforts with genuine potential to impact epidemic.
 - Conducted in partnership with Black LGBT organizations and individuals



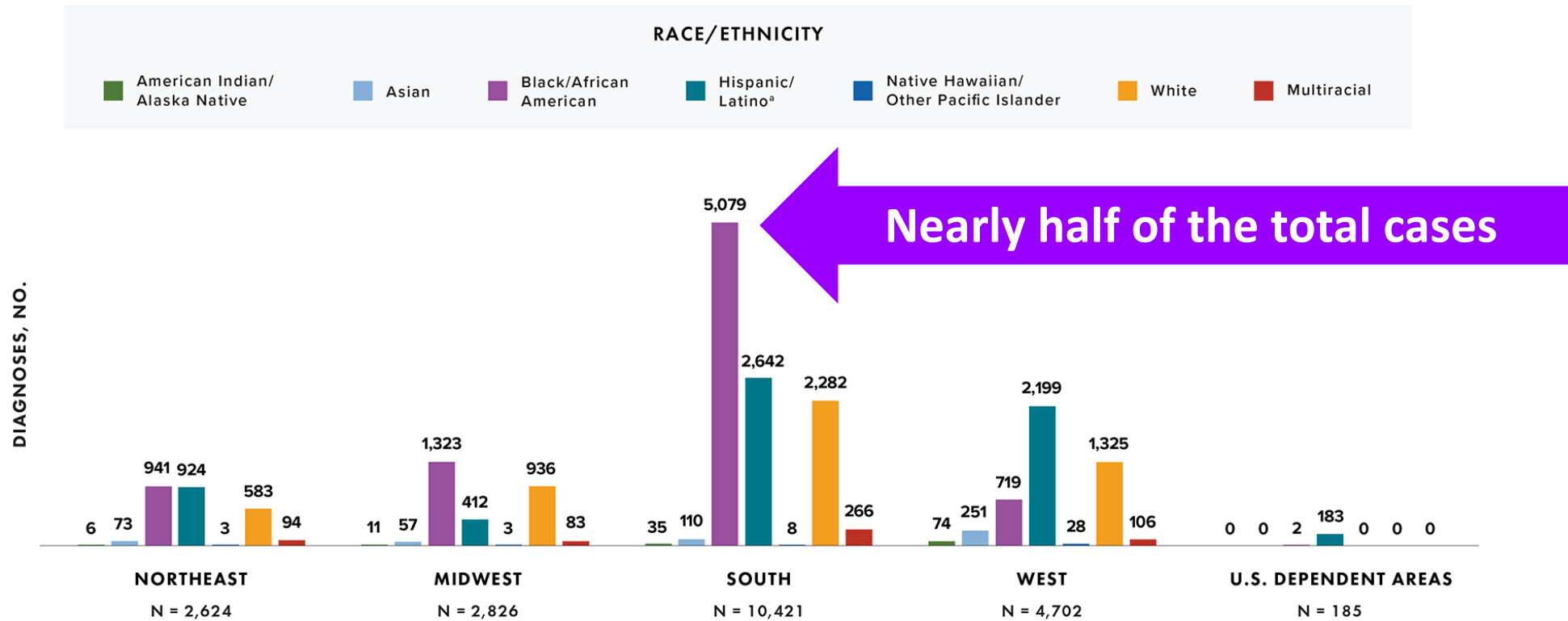
A NATIONAL BLACK GAY RESEARCH AGENDA

June 2007

2020: 48% is unacceptable

FIGURE 14

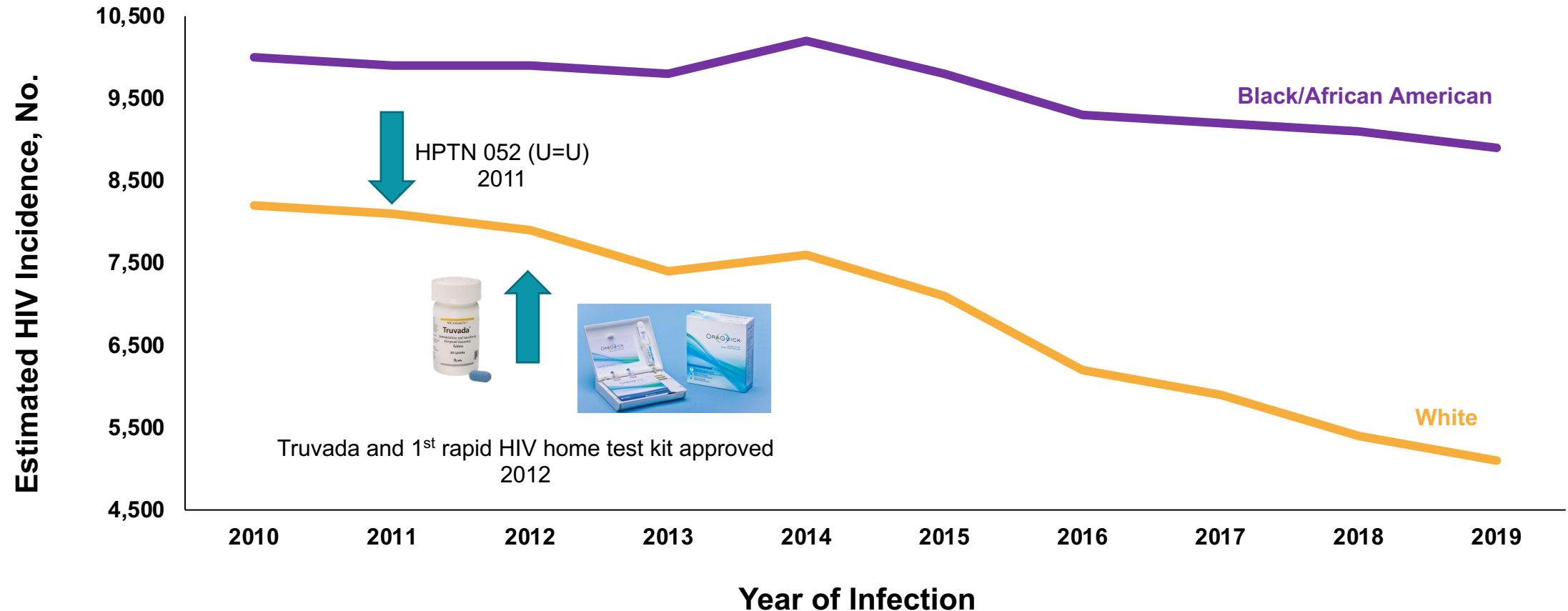
Diagnoses of HIV infection among men who have sex with men, by region of residence and race/ethnicity, 2020 (COVID-19 Pandemic)—United States and 6 dependent areas



NOTE. Data have been statistically adjusted to account for missing transmission category. Data for 2020 should be interpreted with caution due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on access to HIV testing, care-related services, and case surveillance activities in state/local jurisdictions. *Hispanic/Latino persons can be of any race.

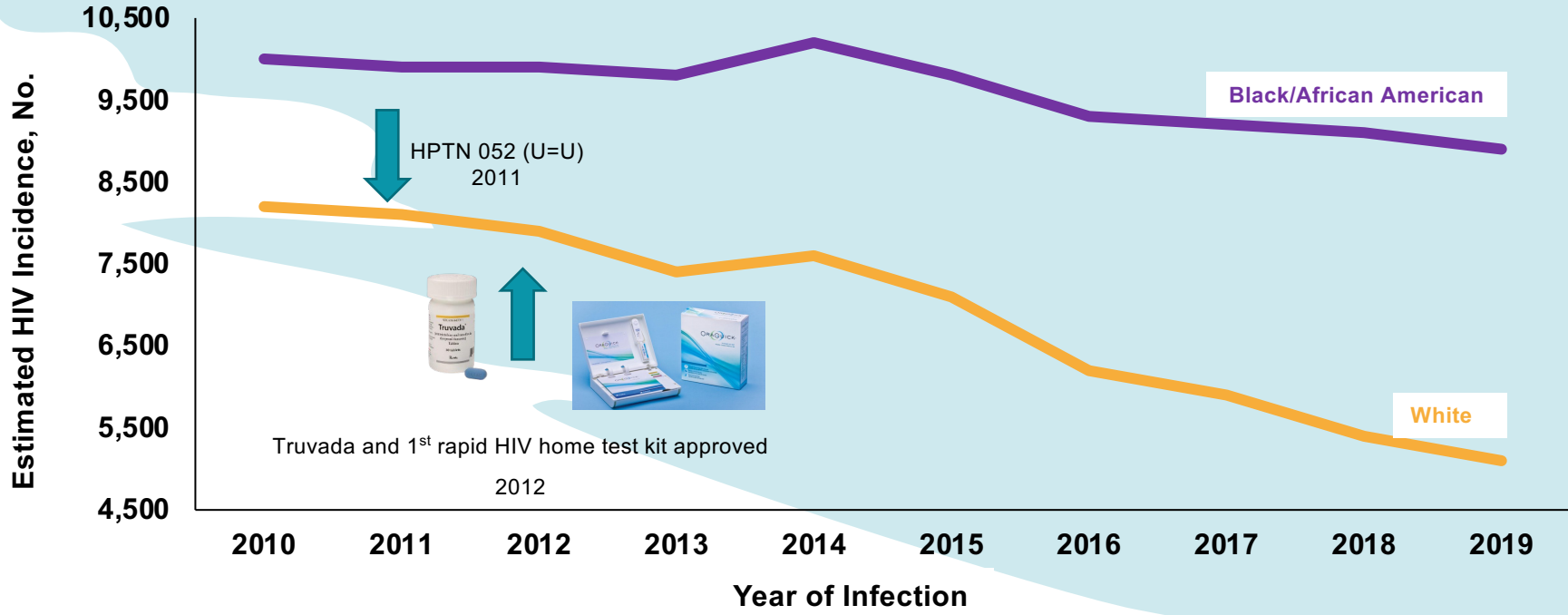


HIV incidence among Black MSM has remained stubbornly high despite biomedical advances



Estimated HIV Incidence among MSM Aged ≥ 13 Years by Race (United States, 2010-2019)

Impact-Focused Research Question: What does it take to stop the spread of HIV in Black MSM?



Estimated HIV Incidence among MSM Aged ≥13 Years by Race (United States, 2010-2019)

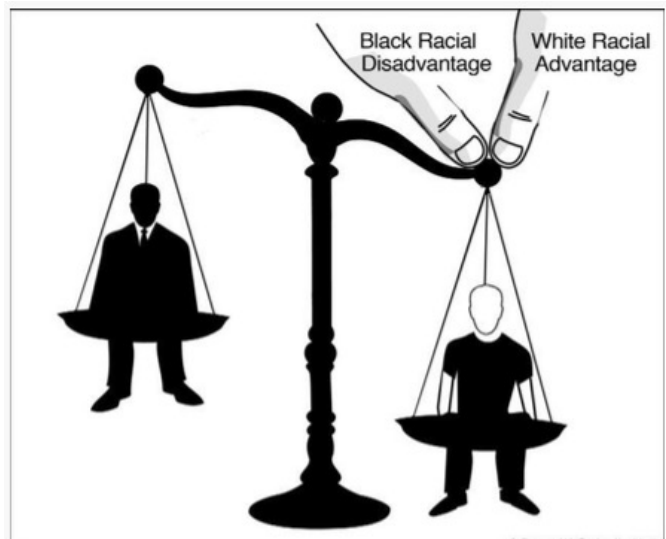
CDC, Estimated HIV Incidence and Prevalence in the United States 2015-2019, May 2021

CDC, Estimated HIV Incidence and Prevalence in the United States 2010-2015, March 2018

Racism is Systematically Underdeveloping Black Communities in the South

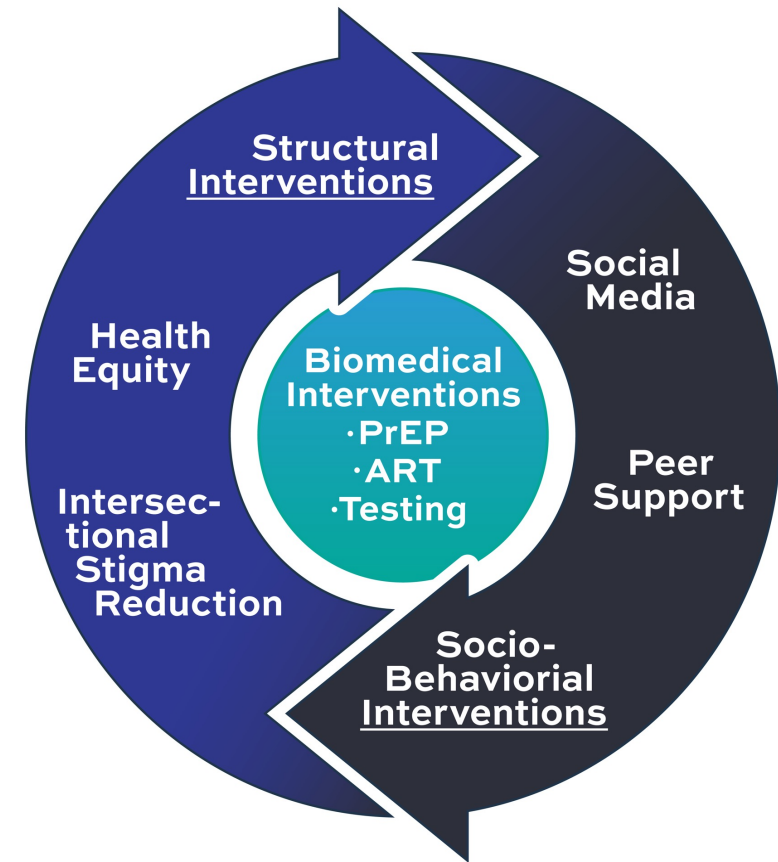
Organizations that serve Black MSM work within an environment of systemic racism

- Limited funding opportunities
- Less resources / stressed capacity
- Less prior research investments
- Newer organizations not fully established
- Bias in public perception
- Staff recruitment and retention
- Stigma and discrimination faced by staff and clients

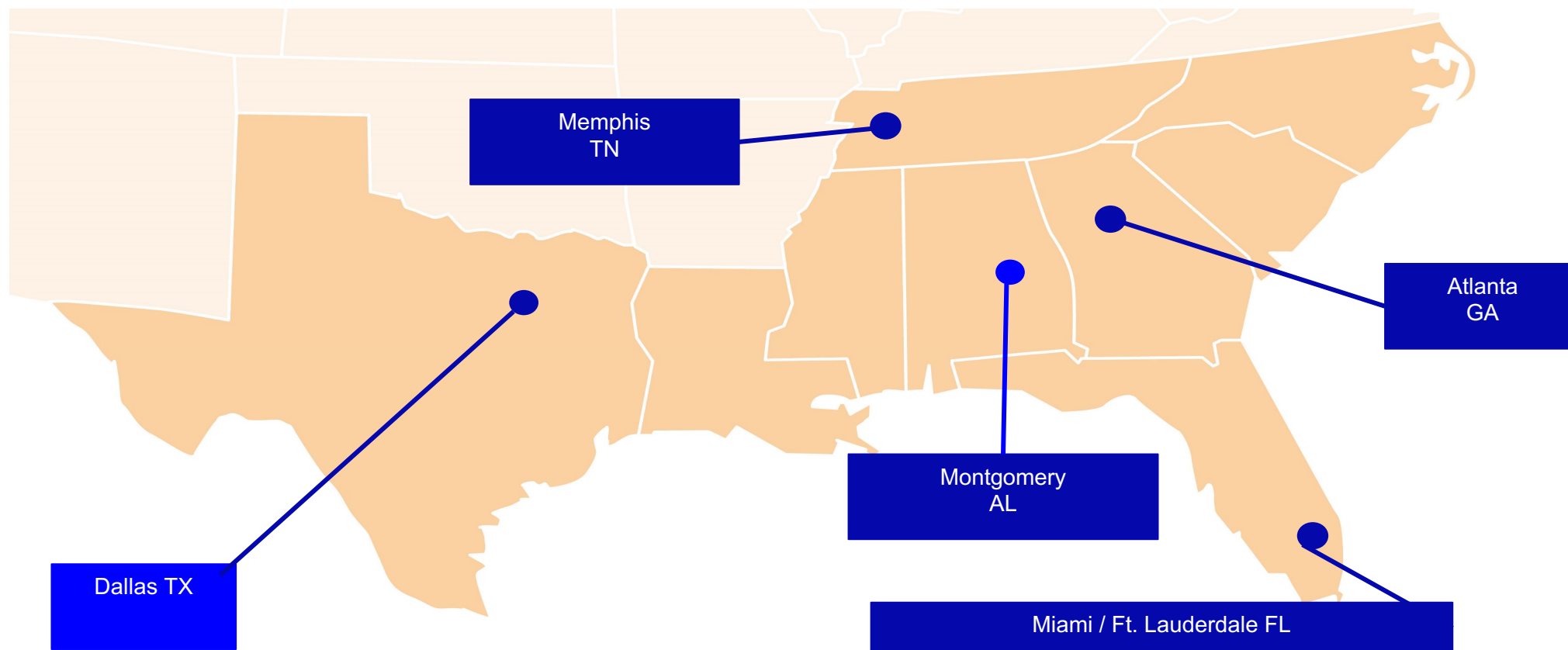


HPTN 096 Integrated Strategy

- HPTN 096 is testing an integrated strategy to prevent HIV among Black MSM in the US South
- The study partners with organizations that are Black-led and those that and that serve Black MSM



Study Communities



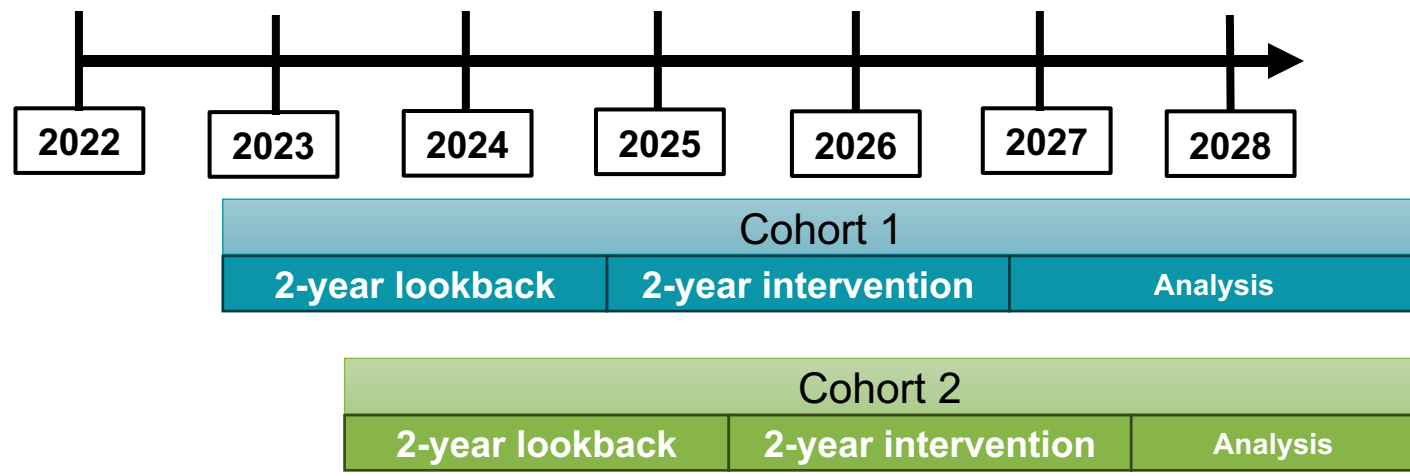
Revised design includes all states in which a study community was originally randomized to the intervention

Study Design – Interrupted Time Series

5 Communities in the Southern United States



INTERVENTION In 5 Communities
health equity, social media, peer support and CRISP



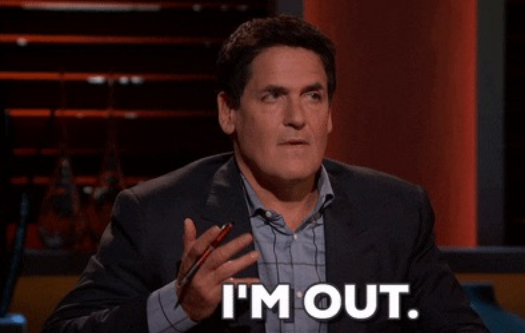
Co-Primary Endpoints:

- Number of Clients
- Retention in care
- PrEP uptake

at CRISP facilities

ITS TIMEPOINTS

A Big Bet?!?!?!?!?

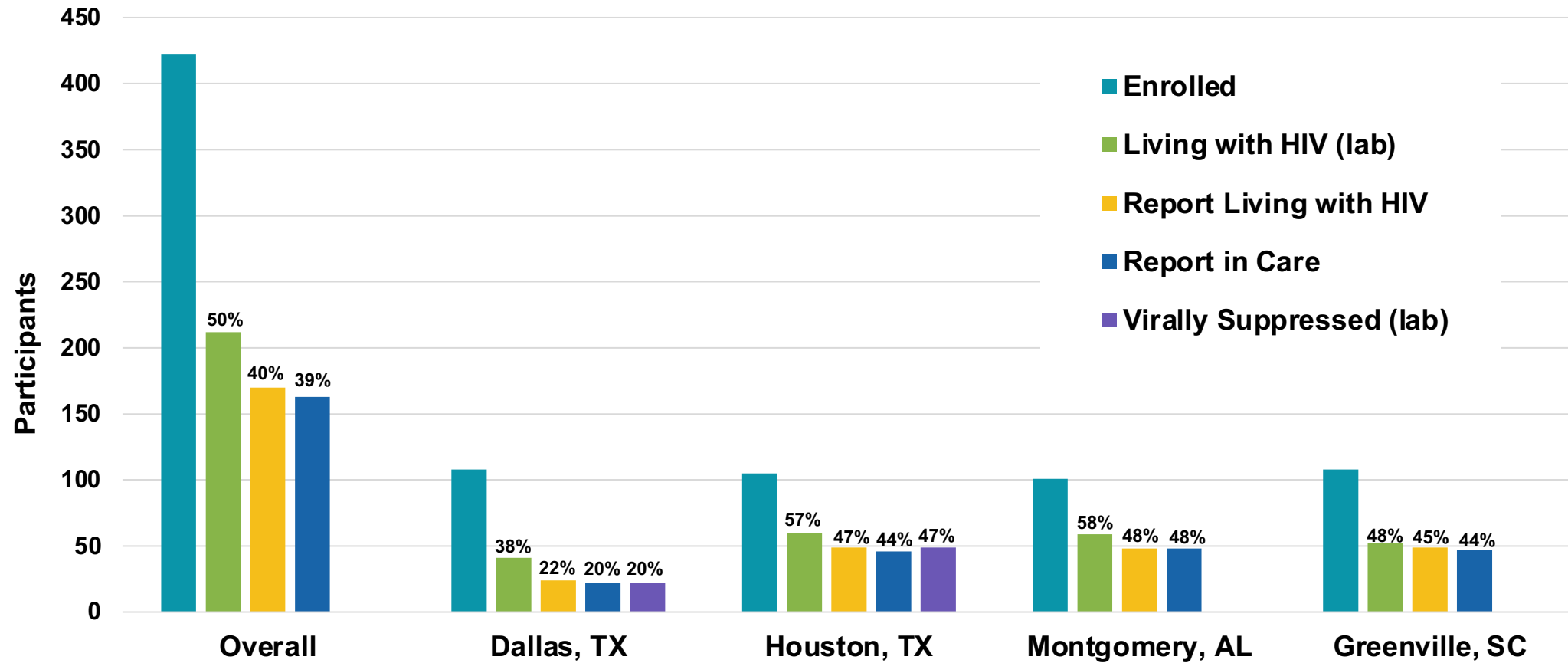


Unforeseen Circumstances in HPTN 096

- Local Black community input and advocacy led us to reshape (improve) the health equity component of the integrated strategy.
- Financial crises led to takeover and streamlining of two major HIV service provider in one community.
- The chief executives of two Black organizations died unexpectedly during course of the study.
- HIV prevalence in cross-sectional sample of Black MSM in pilot cities already extraordinarily high

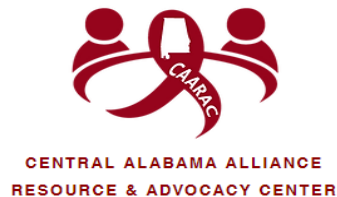


Baseline CSA: Living with HIV



Health Equity

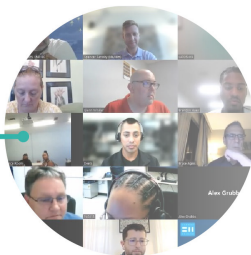
- **Coalitions** are established and active in Dallas and Montgomery
- Community development program for Black gay men
 - Leadership, personal, and work skills development
 - Entrepreneurial principles and skills (economic justice)
 - Position to contribute to the local HIV epidemic response



Data Collection
(Client Surveys)

Components

Activities



CRISP - Description

- A package of training, skills building, and quality improvement activities implemented at **healthcare facilities** to optimize cultural responsiveness of HIV PrEP and treatment service delivery to Black MSM.

CRISP – Implementation Progress



Healthcare Facility	CRISP Activity						
	Baseline Client Surveys	Baseline Client Observer Visits	Foundation Training	ECHO Trainings	Client Instructor Coaching	QI Activities	Client Surveys (T2)
Abounding Prosperity (Dallas)	Completed	Completed	Completed, Goal Met (30/36, 83% coverage)	6/6 Sessions Completed	Completed	Initiated	Initiated
Parkland Hospital (Dallas)	Completed	Completed	Completed, Goal Met (70/91, 77% coverage)		Completed	Initiated	
MAO – Copeland Care Clinic (Montgomery)	Completed	Completed	Completed, Goal Met (34/34, 99% coverage)		Completed	Initiated	
MAO –Wellness Center (Montgomery)	Completed	Completed	Completed, Goal Met (18/18, 99% coverage)		Completed	Initiated	

← Recruitment of HCFs in non-pilot communities →

- Synergized federal resources from NIMH PRISM and HPTN
- R21MH121313, PI: Lisa Bowleg
 - *Developing and validating new measures of multi-level intersectional stigma to improve the HIV continuum among young Black gay, bisexual and other MSM in the south*
- **Multi-level intersectional stigma scale**
 - 8 dimensions
 - 54 items
 - Reliability ranged from 0.81 – 0.92

- **Where there is a will, there is a way!**
 - The will to win reflects the urgency of the HIV epidemic in their region and their determination to tackle it using science as a valuable tool.
- **Centering community expertise and input at every level of 096**
 - They know how to keep on course amid unexpected turbulence
 - They are teaching HPTN 096 how to be agile in this environment
- Supporting community stability and resilience through relationship-focused vs. transaction-focused engagement
- **Building capacity advances equity in how we conduct the research process, not just in how we measure the outcome**

Conclusions

- Implementing an integrated HIV prevention strategy for Black MSM must **acknowledge, anticipate, and respond** to the realities of anti-Black racism and anti-LGBTQ stigma and discrimination
- Local communities, institutions, and the study team are resilient and adaptable – making success possible!





Thank you

