

Georgia Department of Community Health
Atlanta MSA Enhanced Comprehensive HIV Prevention Plan (ECHPP)
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2010, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention dispersed funding to 12 metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs) to develop an Enhanced Comprehensive HIV Prevention Plan. The Atlanta MSA comprises approximately two thirds of all newly diagnosed cases of HIV in Georgia. The counties of Fulton and DeKalb account for over 50% of newly infected cases. To this end, the Georgia Department of Community Health (Georgia DCH) will focus its Atlanta MSA Enhanced Comprehensive HIV Prevention Plan (ECHPP) on 5 counties that collectively account for 63% of the state's total HIV/AIDS morbidity; Fulton, DeKalb, Cobb-Douglas, Clayton and Gwinnett counties respectively.

Atlanta ECHPP details a concise description of efforts to address HIV and AIDS in the Atlanta MSA. It highlights conditions and a combination of strategies related to scaling up certain activities including HIV testing in clinical and nonclinical settings, linking HIV positive persons to care and treatment services, medical and treatment adherence interventions for persons who are HIV positive, partner services and condom distribution. This plan also highlights activities that will remain at current levels of support including HIV prevention interventions for persons who are negative and at high risk of HIV infection. Georgia DCH recognizes that current conditions relating to funding, staffing, infrastructure, and other internal and external factors influence how the state funds and supports HIV programs, HIV surveillance data is collected, analyzed and redistributed, partnership and collaborative efforts are established, and resources are leveraged. However, service delivery across the state, including the Atlanta MSA is steady.

The Georgia DCH convened 2 diverse groups of stakeholders representing 15 organizations to provide Georgia DCH with recommendations and feedback for Atlanta's enhanced comprehensive HIV prevention plan to ensure the HIV prevention and service needs of metro Atlanta are met. Key themes from these meetings are in line with the National HIV/AIDS Strategy including a combination of strategies that will reduce the number of new HIV infections in the Atlanta MSA, increase access to and utilization of HIV care and treatment services by those who are HIV positive, and reduce health disparities among populations and subgroups most affected by HIV disease. These approaches also illustrate Georgia DCH's commitment to partner and collaborate with local and federal partners to ensure individuals affected by HIV can access and receive a continuum of prevention, care, and treatment services.

Following the synthesis of the stakeholders recommendations, the plan was developed. The GA DCH has focused scaling up 12 of central areas including HIV testing, the provision of PEP, prevention strategies for HIV positive persons, partner services, community mobilization, and condom distribution. Georgia DCH was able to scale up these activities without the need to reduce or scale back efforts or activities that target high risk populations.

Through Atlanta ECHPP, Georgia DCH will be able to take advantage of best practices including working with county health departments, Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), and other community partners in the delivery of HIV prevention, care and treatment programs. The plan will also provide Georgia DCH a greater chance to refocus HIV prevention strategies, increase communication and coordination of activities between community partners, planning groups, and funding agencies. As a result, Georgia expects to increase the number of people tested for HIV, increase the number of those person who are HIV positive and are enrolled into primary care services, reduce the number of people who do not have access to antiretroviral treatment options, and improve the overall health outcomes for people with HIV.