

# Community Approaches to Reducing STDs (CARS): 2014-2017 Highlights

PS14-1406 (Phase 2)

## By the numbers

**4** CARS Awardees

AIDS Foundation Chicago

Baltimore City Health  
Department

Philadelphia Health Management  
Corporation

University of Michigan



**87.5%**

Community Advisory Board (CAB)  
members reflect the target  
community



**\$391,556**

Total partner dollars leveraged



Memorandum of  
Understanding (MOU),  
Memorandum of Agreement  
(MOA) and contracts  
executed with

**85%** of partners

## Key social determinants of health

- Fear and stigma for testing and treatment
- Lack of provider support, not youth-friendly
- Lack of sexual health education and information
- Limited access of sexual health (SH) services

## Program activities

- Hosted youth SH town hall meetings and community events to disseminate SH education materials and address fear and stigma concerns
- Conducted provider cultural competence and humility training
- Connected young people to youth-friendly providers experienced in working with young women of color
- Linked youth with programs and resources that address transportation and medical service barriers
- Worked with partners to conduct STD screening in community and scale-up partner organizations' screening

## Successes

- 83% of youth CAB members felt that they had decision making power
- 77% CAB meeting participation
- Over 70 advocacy trainings provided
- Expanded testing positivity rates: 16% Chlamydia (CT); 5% Gonorrhea (GC); 2% HIV
- Mobile testing CT and GC positivity rates: 12.2%

## Facilitators

- Effective continuous quality improvement (CQI) and group facilitation techniques used for CAB decision-making and intervention design
- Program staff valued youth CAB members' lived experienced as experts
- Utilized mixed mode communication methods to communicate with CAB
- Strategic partnerships and regular meetings with partners

## Lessons Learned

- Streamline the CAB recruitment process
- Include more CAB training at the beginning of the program
- Clearly communicate role and benefit expectations for CAB and partners
- Emphasize the CAB-led nature of the program to partners
- Engage appropriate partners that will provide access to target community and provide in-kind support to the program