



Before we dive into this year's highlights, AIDSVu wants to extend our sincere appreciation to everyone whose dedication and collaboration continue to drive progress in addressing the HIV epidemic. As the year comes to a close, we hope you find time to rest, recharge, and take a moment for yourself. Have a great holiday season!

Looking back on 2025, we reflect on the significant contributions made by public health professionals, organizations, and communities to address the HIV epidemic and raise awareness of the ongoing challenges facing affected populations.

Below, we highlight notable projects, initiatives, and collaborations that have driven progress in the fight against HIV and worked to improve health outcomes for those impacted. As we look toward 2026, we continue to recognize the collective effort required to advance public health and combat this epidemic.

## AIDSVu's 2025 Highlights

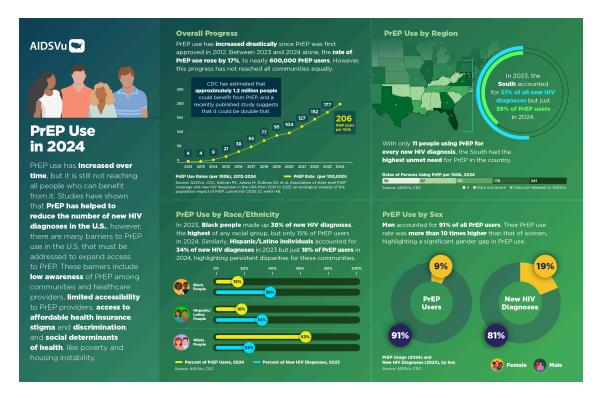


To provide a granular view of how the HIV epidemic affects cities and neighborhoods across the U.S., we released updated 2023 ZIP Code-level HIV data and interactive maps for 60 cities. This year, we added El Paso, Texas, and Riverside County, California, to our list of featured cities.

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In 2025, we launched the <u>HIV Impact Calculator</u>, an interactive decision-support tool designed to help policymakers, public health professionals, advocates, and communities to model how changes in PrEP coverage and viral suppression rates can impact new HIV infections and overall healthcare costs. These insights support evidence-based decision-making and advocacy for sustained or increased investments in HIV prevention and care.



We continued our focus on PrEP usage by releasing <u>updated pre-exposure</u> <u>prophylaxis (PrEP) use data</u> for 2024. These data shed light on significant gaps in PrEP utilization, particularly among among Black, Hispanic/Latino, young, female, and Southern populations.

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## **Learn From Experts**

To highlight the role of policy and community leadership in shaping HIV outcomes, AIDSVu spoke with Dafina Ward, JD, former Executive Director of the Southern AIDS Coalition earlier this year, about the South's disproportionate HIV burden. Ward discusses how crossmovement solidarity and amplifying community-led solutions are central to



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To examine the worsening HIV crisis facing Latino communities, AIDSVu spoke with Dr. Vincent Guilamo-Ramos, Executive Director of the Institute for Policy Solutions. Dr. Guilamo-Ramos describes how harmful narratives and policy inaction have created a "cascading disaster" for Latino HIV outcomes, and outlines the urgent actions needed to reverse growing gaps in prevention, care, and viral suppression.



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To close out the year, AIDSVu spoke with one of our fellows, <u>Dr. Chen Zhang</u>, Assistant Professor at the University of Rochester School of Nursing, on how social and structural barriers shape HIV prevention and care. Dr. Zhang explains that structural disadvantage strongly influences the front end of the HIV care continuum, specifically HIV testing and PrEP uptake, underscoring the need for more targeted resource allocation.