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HIV CARE CONNECT

Reducing Disparities in HIV Care

Principal Investigator's Welcome



It was amazing to spend time with so many HIV Care Connect partners in person in Birmingham for the annual meeting! It was wonderful to see old friends, meet new ones, celebrate successes, and strategize on how we might address and overcome shortcomings... There has been so much change and so many transitions during the life course of the HIV Care Connect program. One constant has been the enthusiasm, dedication, and compassion of team members at each site for those they look to support, serve, and empower across Miami, Montgomery, and Jackson via each unique program. As we enter the home stretch of the project, we are excited to partner with you as the NPO to share program findings and make plans for sustainability, mindful of the enduring impacts we all hope HIV Care Connect will have on our agencies and region.

Onward,

Mugs

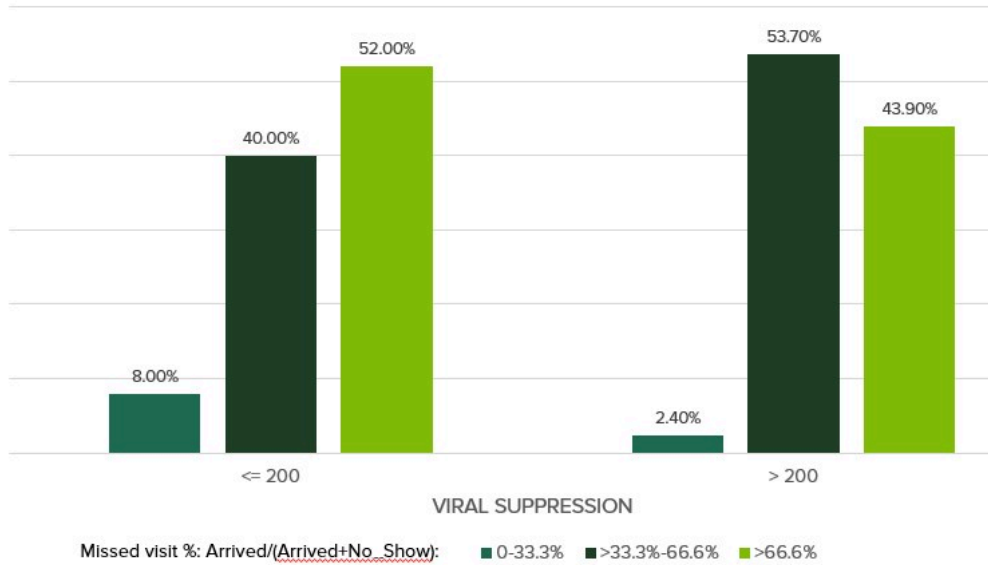
All Grantee Meeting

On March 8th, the National Program Office hosted our 4th Annual All-Grantee Meeting at the 1917 Clinic in Birmingham, AL, our *first* in-person team gathering since February 2020! Held at UAB's 1917 Clinic, representatives from all three sites and the Merck Foundation came out to discuss project and cross-site evaluation updates. The meeting also allowed opportunity to hear from some experts in the field. Dr. Emma Kay, Director of the Magic City Research Institute, presented on community-engaged approaches to ending the HIV epidemic, calling on examples from her own work with Birmingham AIDS Outreach (BAO). Similarly, Dr. Gabriele Oates, Associate Professor in the UAB Department of Pediatrics, presented on utilizing social determinants of health (SDOH) in HIV outcomes research. We hope you all enjoyed hearing from each other and from our wonderful guest presenters as much as we did! Sadly, we did not all get a picture together, but you can check out the meeting recording and all presentations on the [Community of Practice](#).

Data Overview :

As the National Program Office for [HIV Care Connect](#) (HCC), the University of Alabama at Birmingham's Research and Informatics Service Center (RISC) is responsible for conducting ongoing evaluations for the funding organization, the Merck Foundation, in order to measure the effectiveness HCC interventions across all three sites. As part of these efforts, we collect clinical data on a quarterly basis from the sites. The below data illustrates viral suppression against several demographics for our latest data upload!

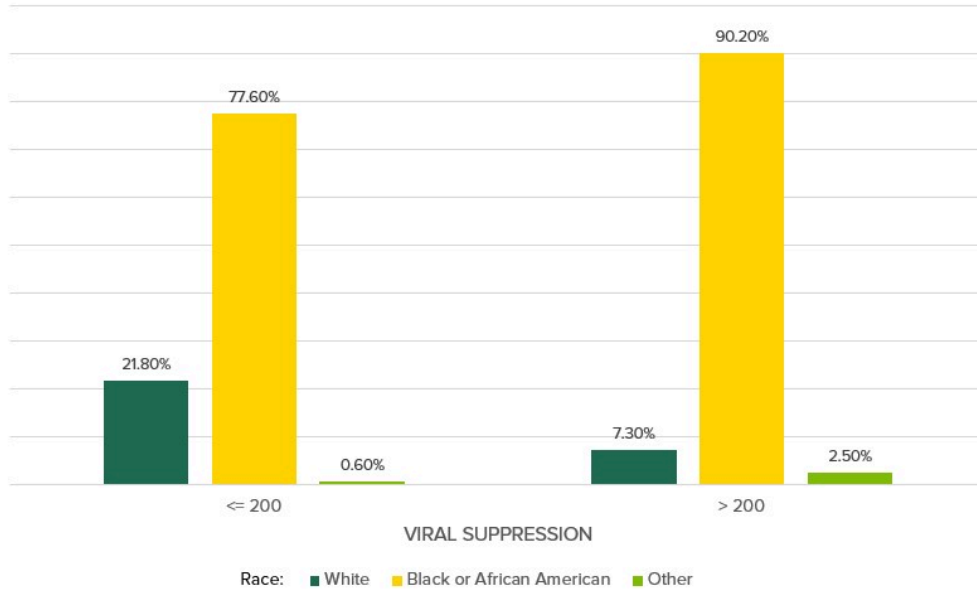
viral suppression N (%) vs. missed visits



<= 200: 150 (78.5%)

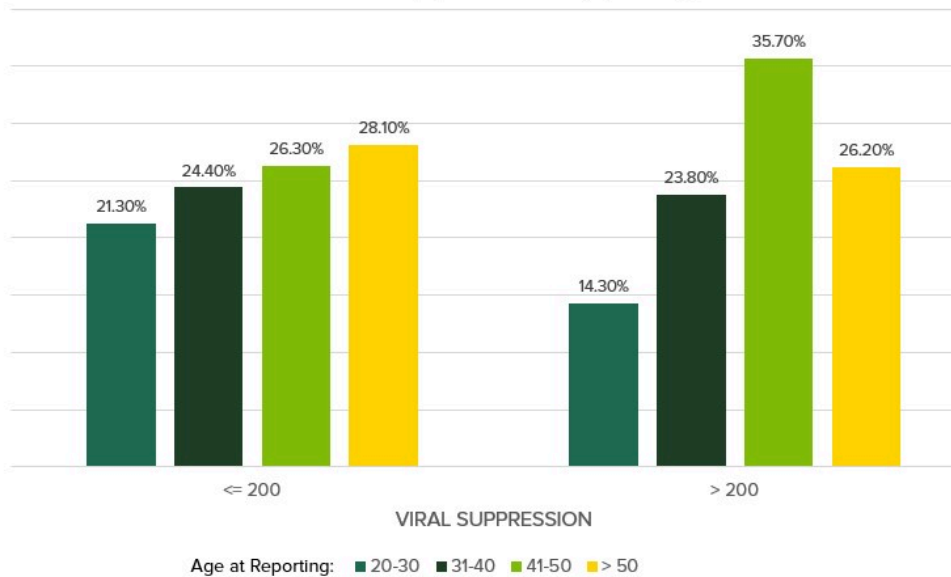
>200: 41 (21.5%)

Viral Suppression N (%) vs Race



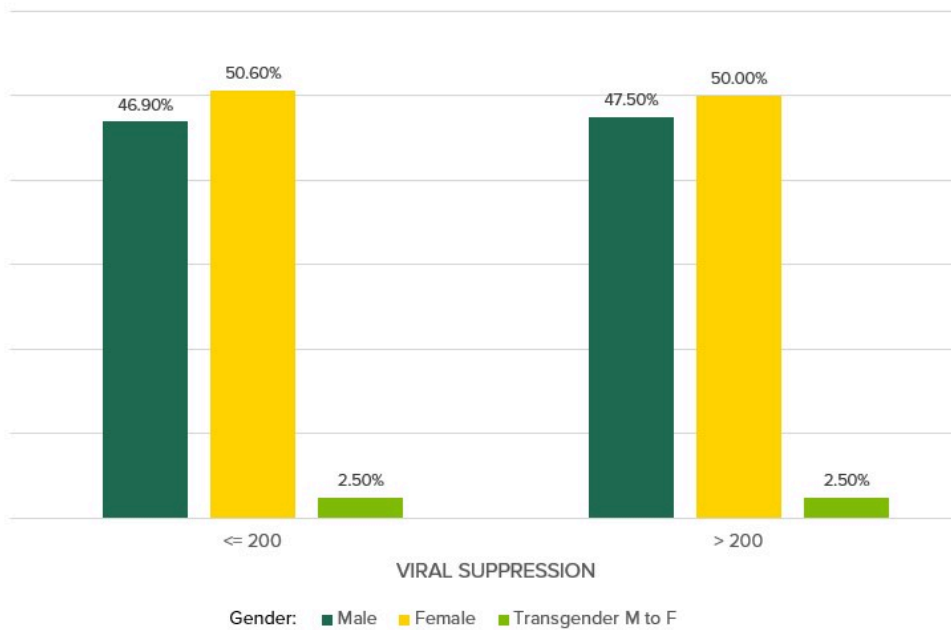
<= 200: 156 (79.2%)

>200: 41 (20.8%)



<= 200: 160 (79.2%)
 >200: 42 (20.8%)

Viral Suppression N (%) vs Gender



<= 200: 160 (80%)
 >200: 40 (20%)

Events & Announcements

- The NPO has submitted an abstract for acceptance to the [International AIDS Society Conference 2023](#) in Brisbane, Australia.
- Care Resource will be presenting on the amazing work they do with Project DA²RE at the 2023 Florida HIV CPR Conference later this month.

calendar for 2023. See what HIV conferences are coming up [here](#).

- The Virtual Community of Practice has also been updated with important dates for Year 4. Click [here](#) to see data upload schedule, webinar dates, and more!
- The NPO loved hosting you all for the 4th Annual All Grantee Meeting this month, and we hope you all got a chance to meet and chat with one another! If you want to follow up with a team member from another site, you can find the updated HCC contact list [here](#).
- Check back in two weeks to find our first biannual report [here](#).
- Don't forget, your next clinical data upload is due July 1st! You can find the reporting period and more instructions in the Data Management Protocol [here](#).
- The NPO will be sending around a 2023 Webinar schedule soon! Reach out to Greer, Kaylee, or Alyssa if you have a preferred date and topic ideas.

Staff Spotlight

Q1. What is your position at Five Horizons and what sort of work do you do for HCC?

I am the Chief Social Services Officer at Five Horizons Health Services and oversee the CARE Project as the Program Director.

Q2. What drew you to working in HIV care?

I actually completed my MSW internship in an HIV care setting and never looked back! I feel like I learn something new every day and I am so thankful to have the opportunity to offer an affirming and supportive space for our clients.

Q3. What is the most rewarding thing about your HCC intervention, CARE?

While our clients benefit from all the services offered through CARE, it has been exceptionally rewarding to see the development of confidence and

Q5. What is one thing visitors have to do (or one restaurant they have to dine at) when they visit Montgomery?

Visit the Legacy Museum and the National Memorial for Peace and Justice- words can't describe the experience. Afterward, grab a hot dog from Chris!



Q4 What does your ideal Saturday look like?

I definitely want to sleep in! Then I'd like to read a book, work on some sewing, practice my cello, and hope someone feeds me since I don't cook.

Five Horizons Health Services
Montgomery, AL

Publications of Interest

- [AIDS and Behavior article](#) about the differences in patient characteristics associated with HIV infection and PrEP prescription in a southeastern health maintenance organization.
- Brief but thought-provoking [Health Affairs Pathways podcast](#) on how social determinants of health programs intersect with climate and health policy.
- Check out the [International AIDS Society \(IAS\) HIV Unmuted podcast series](#), where hosts chat with global HIV change-makers to discuss advancements in HIV and future directions .
- [JAIDS Supplement article](#) on using Implementation Science to strengthen HIV prevention services.
- [A powerful article](#) from *The Conversation* on the role grassroots AIDS activists played in the creation and success of PEPFAR.

Staff Shoutout

The UAB RISC team wants to thank Larry Heard for all of his hard work on HIV Care Connect! Larry is the NPO's cross-site evaluation lead and implementation science expert. He has been working diligently these last few months to develop a new cross-site evaluation plan and get the NPO on track so that we can best evaluate HCC programs. Thanks for stepping in, Larry!

Client Stories

Any encouraging client stories you'd like to share (with the permission of clients, of course).

Have stories you want to share, news to proclaim, or a colleague to congratulate? Please press [HERE](#) to provide us with content to include in the next edition of the newsletter.



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