

# PROJECT STYLE INTERVENTION



**Project Strength Through Youth Livin' Empowered (STYLE) is a group-based intervention for Black and Latinx gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men ages 17 to 24 to engage, link, and retain them in HIV primary care. The intervention led to an increase in HIV testing and identification, clinical visits, and antiretroviral therapy (ART) initiation and adherence. Project STYLE also improved other associated health outcomes such as retention in care and viral load suppression.<sup>1</sup>**

**Download intervention implementation guides and explore resources to help you innovate while replicating interventions that link, re-engage, and retain people within HIV care at [www.CIEhealth.org](http://www.CIEhealth.org) and [www.TargetHIV.org/CIE](http://www.TargetHIV.org/CIE).**



## Priority Population\*

Young Black and Latinx gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men (YGBM)



## The Challenge

Historically, YGBM have been disproportionately impacted by HIV in the U.S. and encompass groups more likely to be unaware of their HIV status or not in care. These include underserved youth, racial and ethnic minorities, and sexual and gender minorities.<sup>2</sup> The CDC estimated that YGBM accounted for 80 percent of youth ages 13 to 24 diagnosed with HIV. Of these newly diagnosed YGBM, 55 percent were Black and 23 percent were Latinx. In 2015, the CDC estimated that Black GBM have a one in two lifetime risk of acquiring HIV, while Latinx GBM have a one in four lifetime risk.<sup>3</sup>



## The Model

Project STYLE helps facilitate efficient and timely identification and engagement of Black and Latinx YGBM into HIV care through a medical-social support structure to facilitate positive health outcomes, including reduced morbidity, mortality, and HIV transmission, and improve retention in care.



## Pilot and Trial Sites

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, NC



## Impact

Two-thirds of Project STYLE clients were retained in care. The percentage of persons with CD4 counts 350 or more increased from 71 percent at baseline to 85 percent at the end of the study. At 12 months, 76 percent of clients had suppressed viral loads and during their enrollment in Project STYLE, 62 percent initiated ART.

<sup>1</sup>Hightow-Weidman, L.B., Smith, J.C., Valera, E., et al. Keeping Them in "STYLE": Finding, Linking and Retaining Young HIV-Positive Black and Latino Men Who Have Sex with Men in Care. *Patient Care and STDs*. 2011(25): 37–45.

<sup>2</sup>NIMHD. Sexual and Gender Minorities Formally Designated as a Health Disparity Population for Research Purposes. October 6, 2016. <https://www.nimhd.nih.gov/about/directors-corner/message.html>.

<sup>3</sup>2016 Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections (CROI). Gay and Bisexual Men of Color Face Greatest Risk of HIV. Boston, MA. February 2016. Available at: <http://www.cdc.gov/nchhstp/newsroom/2016/croi-2016.html>.