

# Building a linkage and retention collaborative learning network to impact patient outcomes

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# Disclosures

Sophy S. Wong, MD has no financial interest to disclose.

Megan Crowley, MPH has no financial interest to disclose.

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# Learning Objectives

At the conclusion of this activity, the participant will be able to:

1. Review the background data and impact of linkage and retention in care on the HIV/AIDS care continuum and client outcomes.
2. Analyze the process of building a linkage and retention collaborative learning network, tools developed, and its impact on linkage rates.
3. Generate a plan on how you would like to develop a linkage and retention learning collaborative and/or apply the strategies shared.



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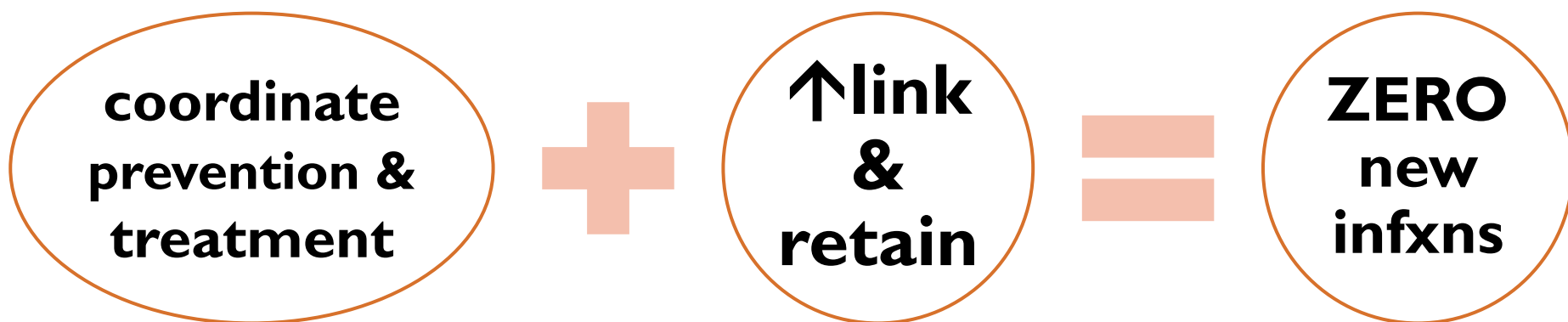
<http://ryanwhite.cds.pesgce.com>



“It’s the personal touch...”



# Linkage and Retention Objectives



What is...  
Who is...  
Getting to Zero?

UNAIDS | 2011–2015 STRATEGY

# GETTING TO ZERO





# On the Fast-Track to end AIDS

**UNAIDS** | 2016–2021 Strategy



# UNAIDS | 2016–2021 Strategy

## THE TREATMENT TARGET



diagnosed



on treatment



virally suppressed

ZERO new infections  
ZERO AIDS-related deaths  
ZERO discrimination

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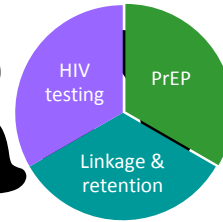
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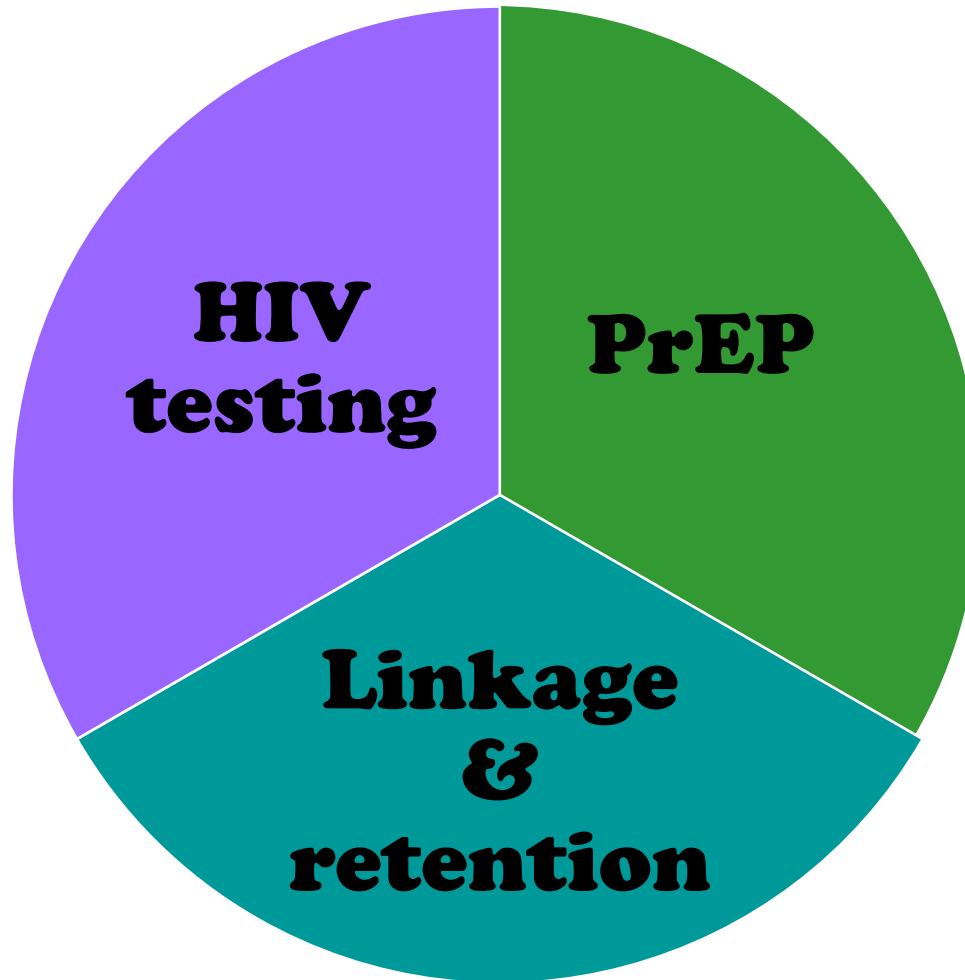
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# East Bay Getting to ZER ???

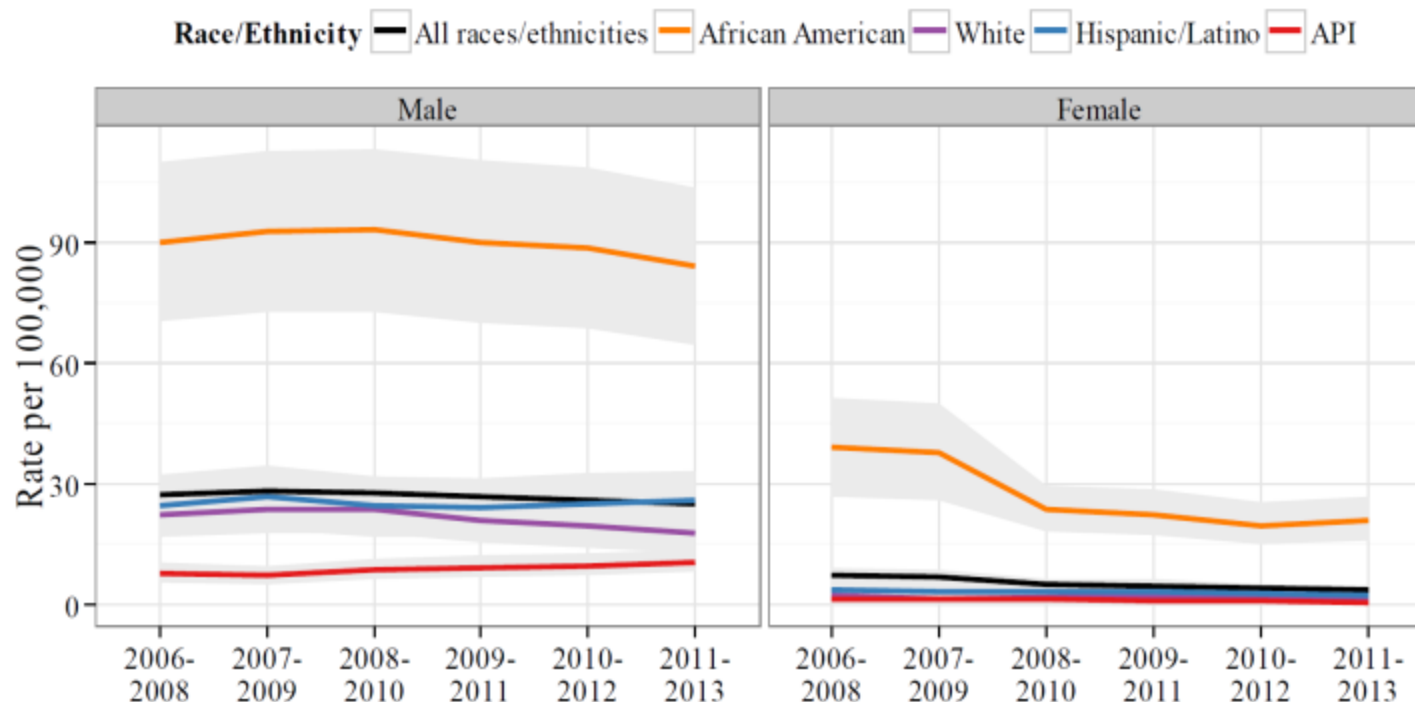


# East Bay has:





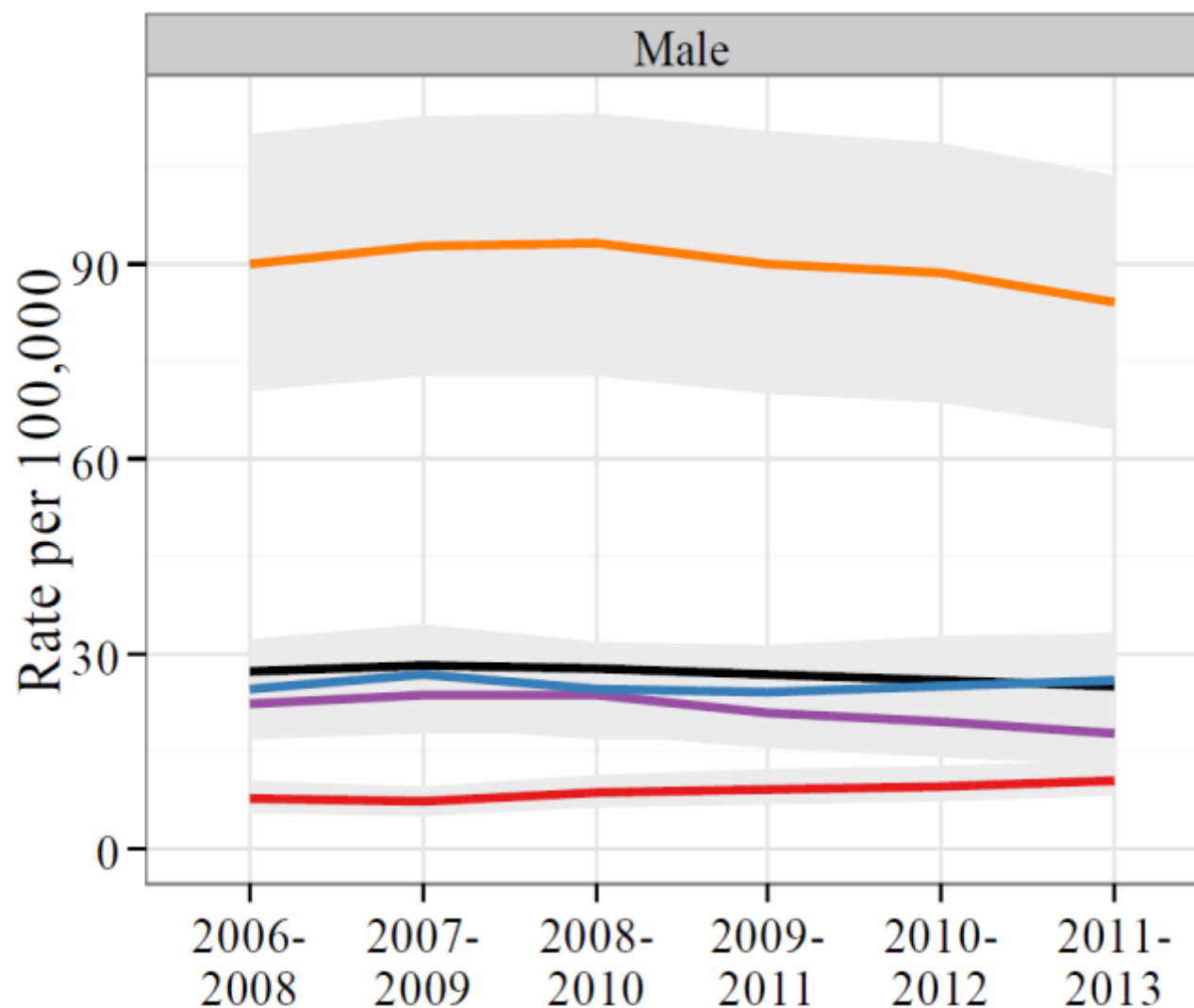
# Trends in New HIV Diagnosis Rates by Sex & Race/Ethnicity, Alameda County, 2006-2013



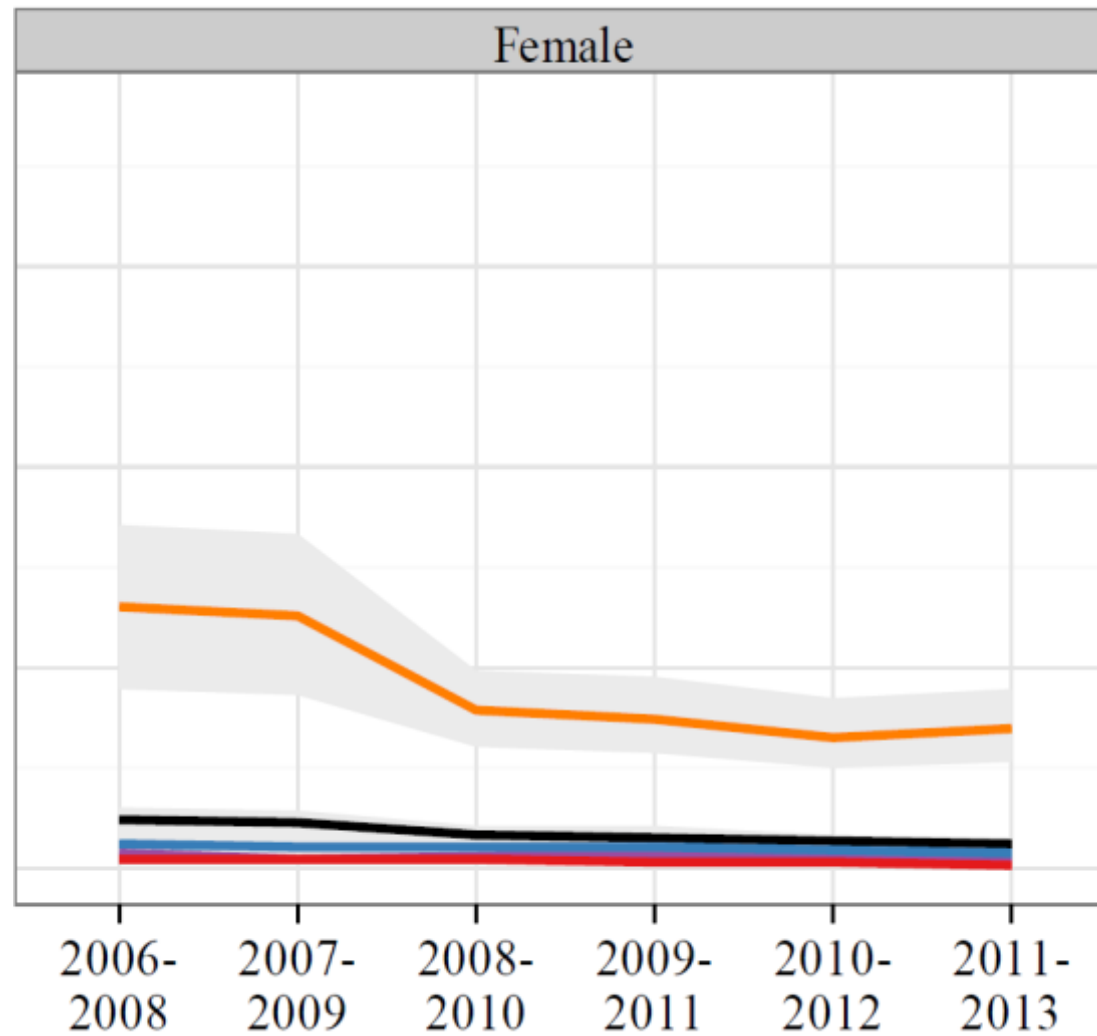
NOTES: Grey areas are 95% confidence bands  
 NOT SHOWN: Other/unknown race (rates not calculable)  
 DATA SOURCE: Alameda County eHARS, 2014 Q2



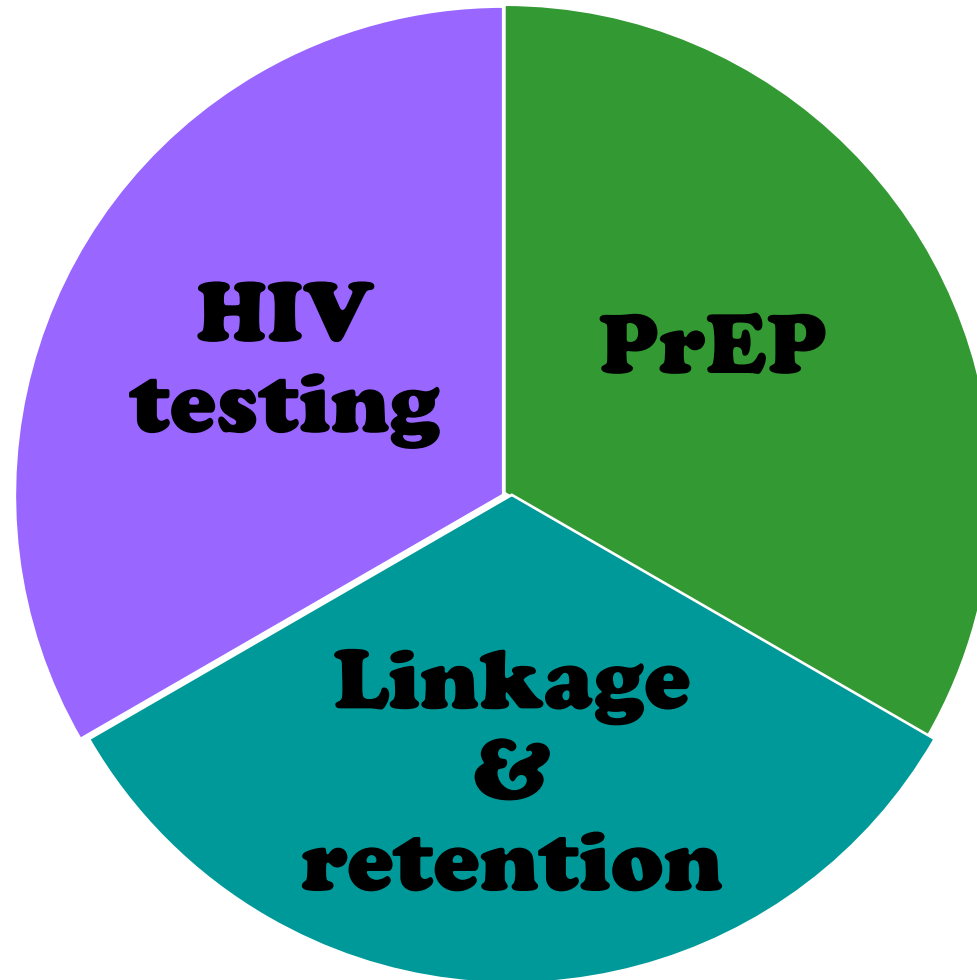
**Race/Ethnicity** — All races/ethnicities — African American — White — Hispanic/Latino — API



**Race/Ethnicity** All races/ethnicities African American White Hispanic/Latino API

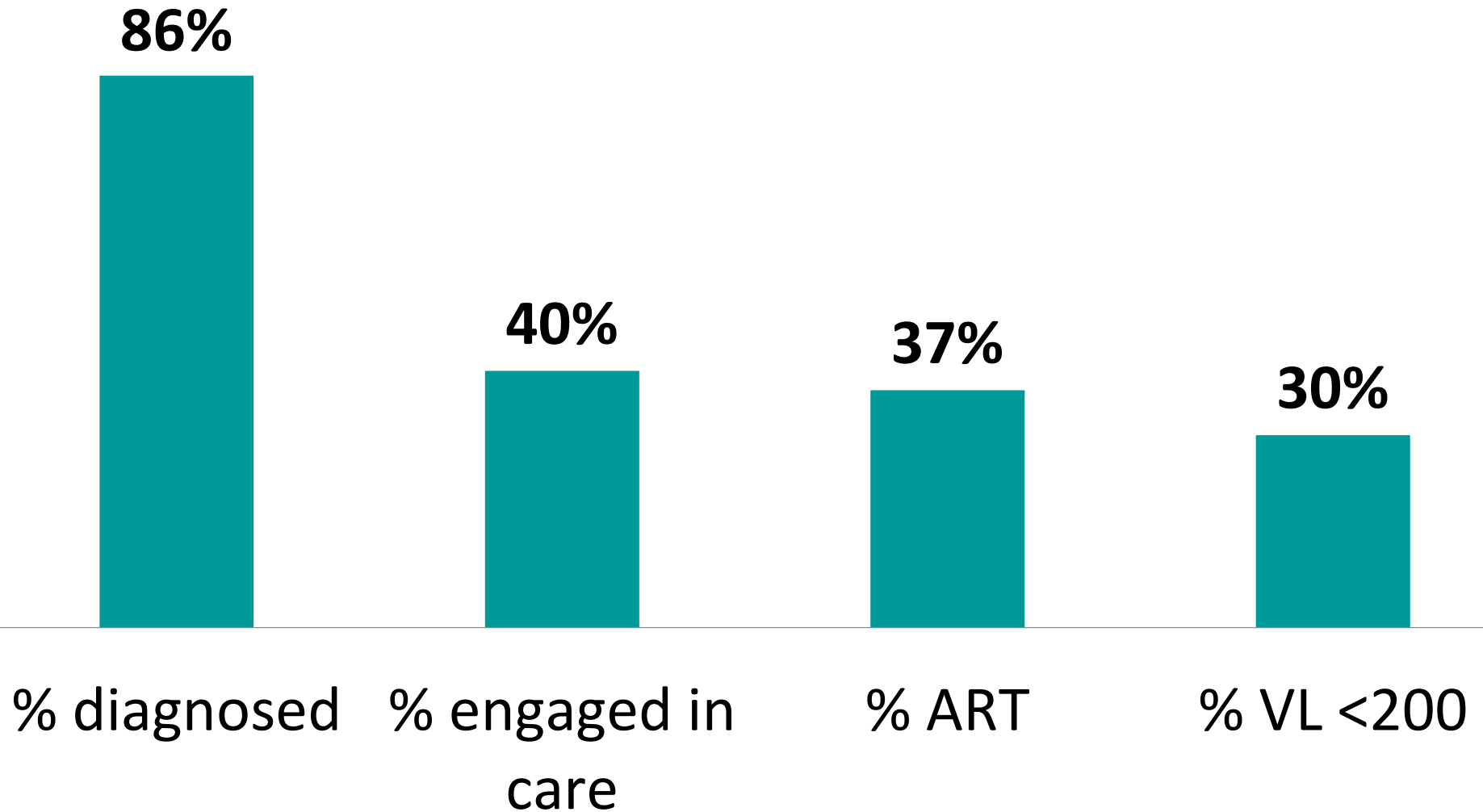


# East Bay has:

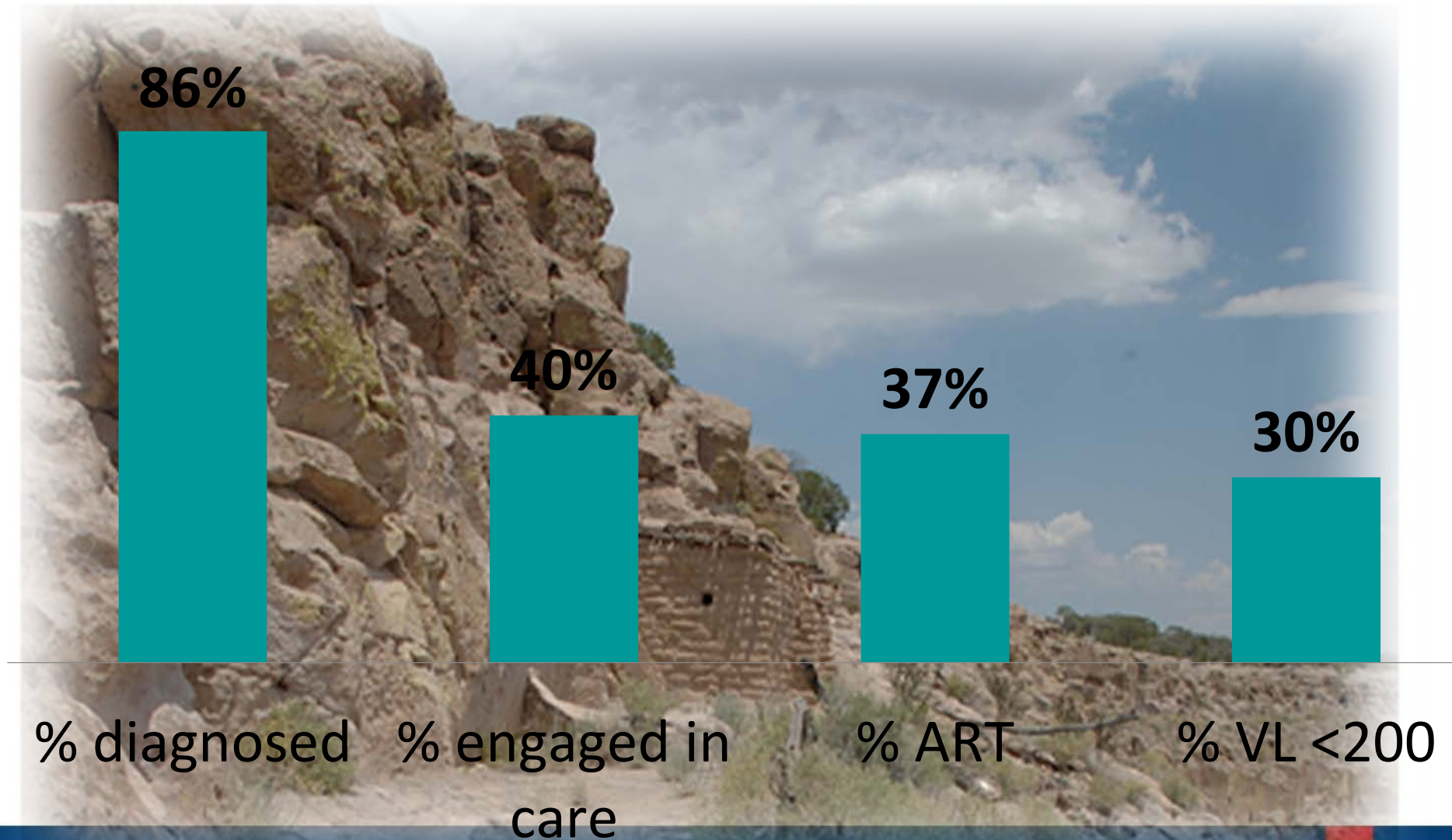


# **Why does linkage & retention matter?**

# US HIV care continuum

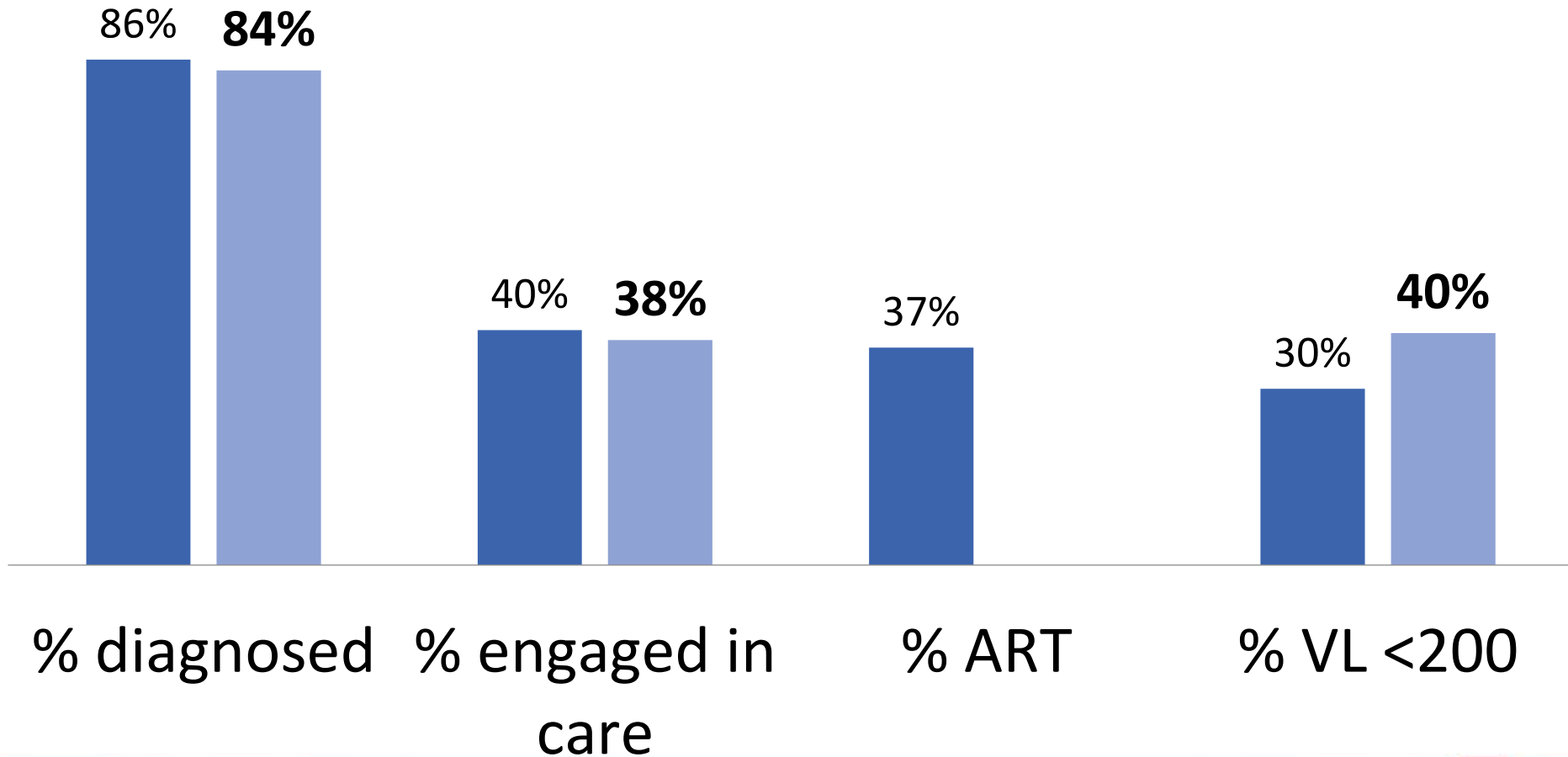


# US HIV care cliff



# California HIV care continuum

■ National ■ California

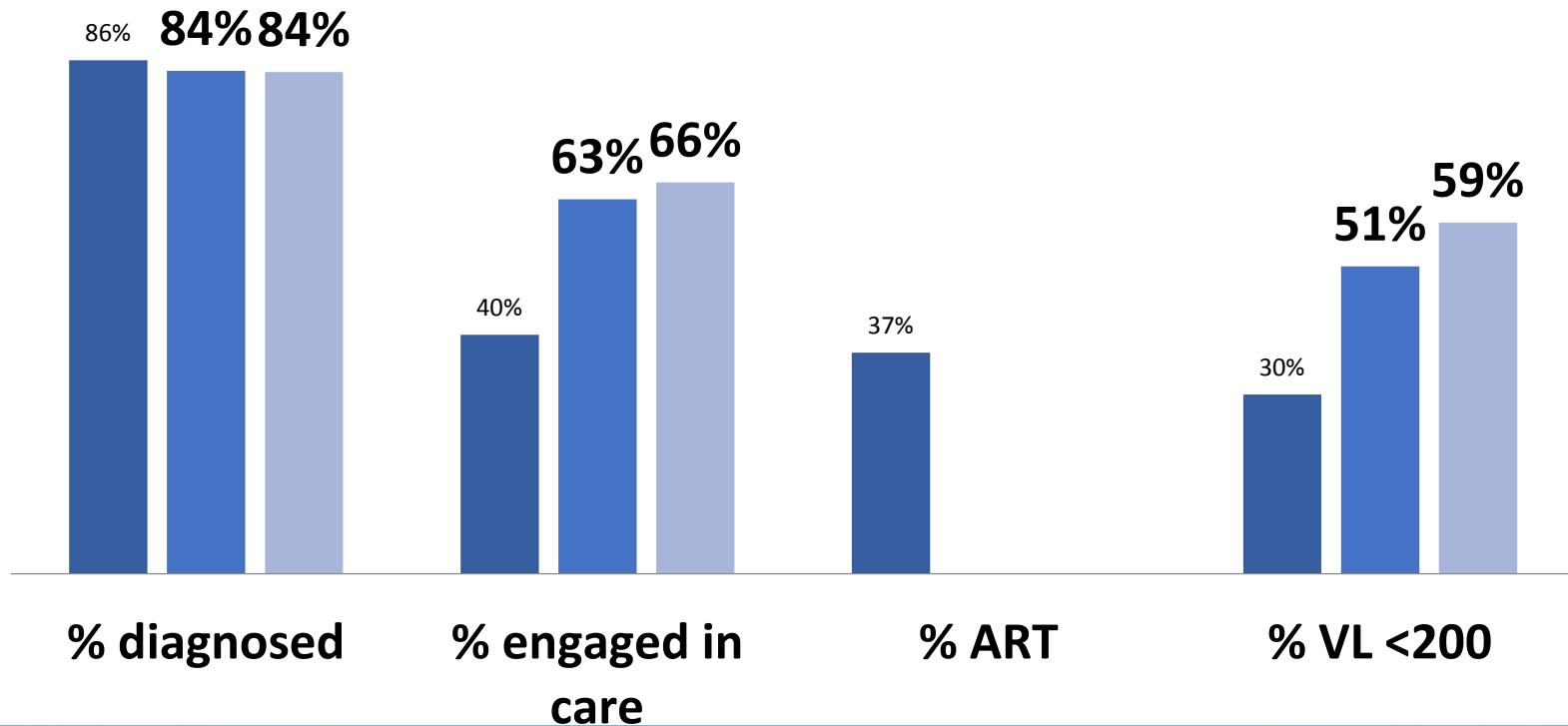





# US, Alameda & Contra Costa Counties

## HIV care continuum

■ National ■ Alameda ■ Contra Costa





How much is baseline CD4<50  
associated with dying?

2.4x

2014 CID, Mugavero et. al.



Is lack of retention associated with dying?

2.4x

2014 CID, Mugavero et. al.



Are  $>2$  missed visits associated with dying?

3.2x

2014 CID, Mugavero et. al.



Among people retained in care, are  $>2$  missed visits associated with dying?

3.6x

2014 CID, Mugavero et. al.



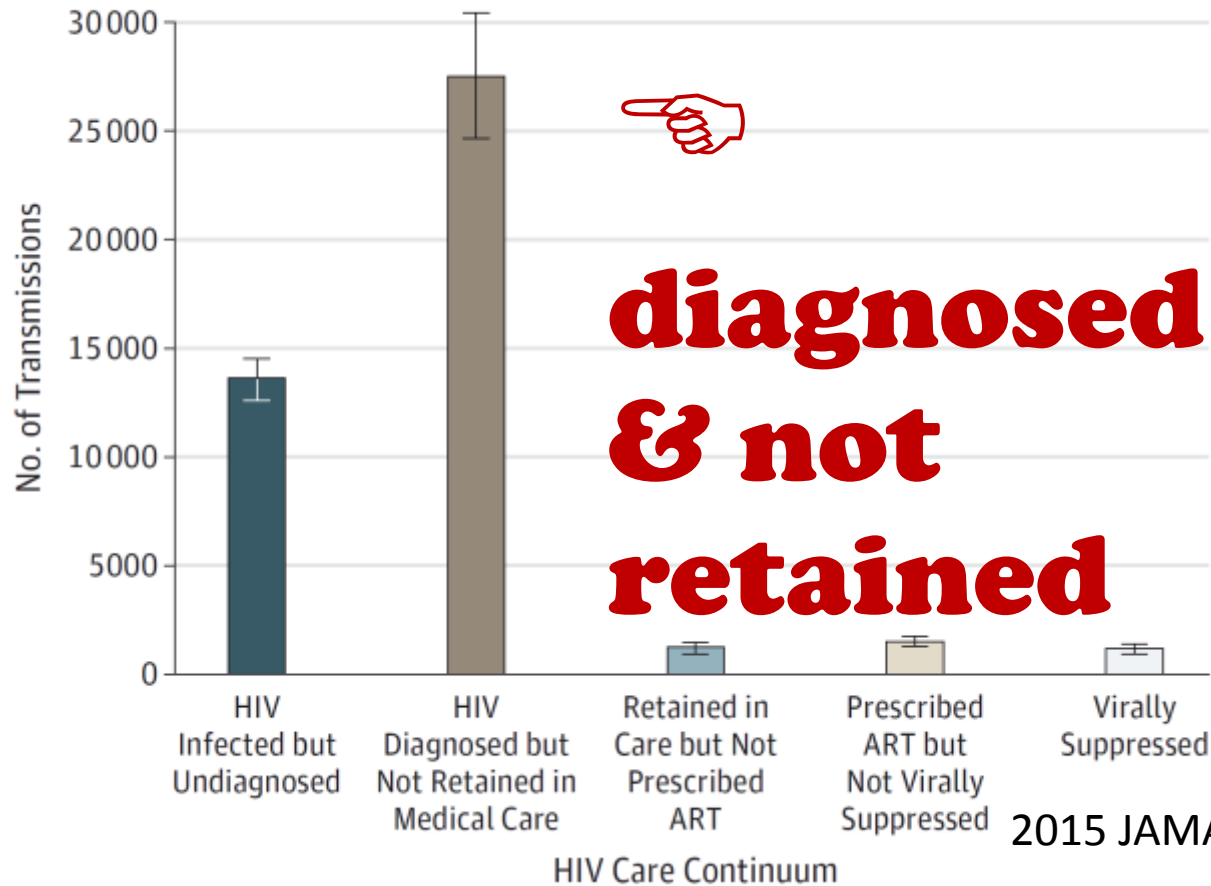
PLWHA not in care are responsible for  
what % of HIV transmissions?

92%

2015 JAMA, Skarbinski et. al.

# Where are new infections coming from?

A United States, 2009



2015 JAMA, Skarbinski et. al.

# **Treatment reduces transmission by**

# **93-96%**

HPTN 052 study: Cohen MS et al, NEJM 2011: 365 and CROI 2015



What is a collaborative learning network?  
How does it help improve linkage and retention?

# What is a collaborative learning network?

A group of key stakeholders working together to generate ideas and take actions to address a shared problem.



# What is a collaborative learning network?

Leverages collective experience and skills of the group to generate better solutions to shared challenges.



# What is a collaborative learning network?

- Can meet in person or virtually
- Can be short-term or ongoing
- Can be broad or focused



# How do we improve linkage & retention?

# East Bay linkage & retention network



# How do we improve linkage & retention with a collaborative learning network?

## 1. Identify common challenges:

- Inconsistent processes
- Poor communication
- Lack of follow-up

## 2. Identify solutions at the group- and individual agency-level

- Group agreements
- Develop shared systems
- Develop and disseminate resources for staff and agencies

## 3. Continue meeting to conduct CQI and address new or ongoing issues

# Collaborative learning in action!




## 3 steps to improving retention:

- ① Track patients
- ② Follow-up
- ③ Connect





# 3 steps & 3 levels:

	<b>Pick low-hanging fruit.</b> 	<b>Level-up!</b> 	<b>Master it.</b> 
<b>①</b> <b>Track</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>★ act on missed visits</li> <li>★ track gaps in care &gt;6 months</li> <li>★ ask about adherence</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>★ track those not retained in care</li> <li>★ track missed refills</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>★ track &gt;2 missed visits</li> <li>● use public health surveillance data to monitor new diagnoses and those lost to care</li> </ul>
<b>②</b> <b>Follow-up</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>★ do personal reminder calls immediately after a missed visit</li> <li>● implement follow-up protocols for missed visits and gaps in care</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>★ implement multi-disciplinary team follow-up protocols including how the team reviews tracking data &amp; delegates follow-up</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● use data systematically to allocate resources</li> <li>★ multi-disciplinary team meets regularly to analyze data and develop personalized action plans</li> </ul>
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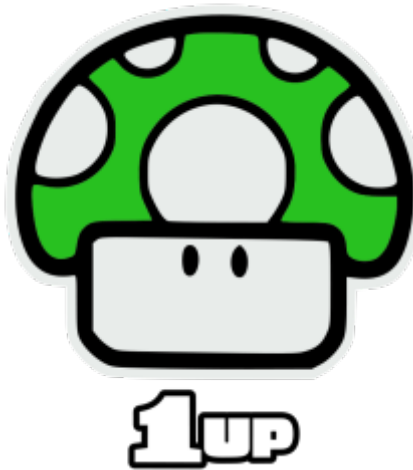
# Start with low-hanging fruit

1. Track
2. Follow-up
3. Connect



# Level-up!

1. Track: **missed refills**
2. Follow-up: **team protocols**
3. Connect: **strengths-based counseling**



# Master it.

1. Track: **surveillance data**
2. Follow-up: **targeted interventions**
3. Connect: **coordinated coalition teamwork**





# East Bay linkage & retention network



# Linkage & retention protocol



## East Bay HIV Linkage & Retention Advisory Group Warm Hand-off and Retention Protocols



client  
identified

### •When a client is identified to be

- newly diagnosed and not yet engaged in HIV primary care
- transferring from one provider to another or recently moved to area
- transferring from the jail, and/or
- out of care
- For clients with a preliminary positive rapid test, proceed with linkage process on the same day and if possible, obtain and process a confirmatory test specimen.
- Obtain a release of information for the agencies you will be coordinating care with.

phone  
contact

- Referring worker discusses and decides on HIV care site with client, based on client preferences.
- Referring worker may consult the East Bay HIV Clinic List via Google document: <http://tinyurl.com/alcohiv> or <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1qooJV5cH12OH8jZoPMDsE6GxCK8lDZroqlj4EmRPMig/edit?usp=sharing>
- Referring worker calls the receiving worker and/or clinic to obtain intake appointment time. Ideally the phone number is one that can be answered immediately or responded to within an hour.
- If a message is left, the receiving worker is expected to respond to the message within 3 business days.
- Referring worker gets a current and reliable phone number and address for client (when possible) and shares the contact with receiving worker.



# **Alameda County Linkage-to-care 2012**

# **70%**

## **before warm hand-off protocol**



# **Alameda County Linkage-to-care 2012**

**70%**

**before warm hand-off**






# **Alameda County Linkage-to-care 2013**

**73%**


**mid-2013: launched  
warm hand-off protocol**



# **Alameda County HIV ACCESS 2014**

**83%**

**after warm hand-off and  
& QI project launch**



# **Alameda County HIV ACCESS 2015**

**94%**

**after linkage  
system strengthening**



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# What linkage & retention projects is your region working on?

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# What will you do when you get home?

	<b>Pick low-hanging fruit.</b> 	<b>Level-up!</b> 	<b>Master it.</b> 
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# Bring these strategies home!



# Thank you!

## Questions?



# Contact us:

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[sophy.wong@ucsf.org](mailto:sophy.wong@ucsf.org)

Megan Crowley, MPH  
[mcrowley@alamedahealthconsortium.org](mailto:mcrowley@alamedahealthconsortium.org)

