




THN Volunteer HIV Core Training Program (VTP)

Multi-Agency Virtual Training

Fall 2023



Agenda



Virtual platform review
Group Agreements & Guidelines
Intro to VTP
Networking exercise



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VTP Intro & Situating our Work
October 4, 2023

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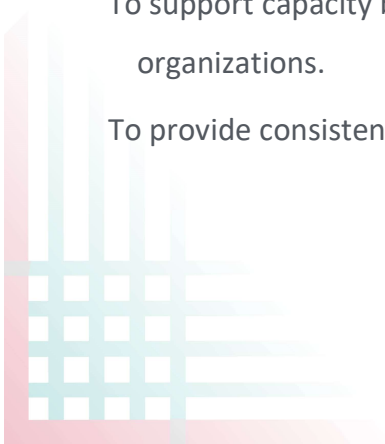
About the VTP



Intro - About the THN Volunteer HIV Core
Training - Handout #1



Program objectives



To support capacity building for volunteers and AIDS Service organizations.

To provide consistent core training across multiple agencies.

The Program is not intended to replace each Partner's volunteer screening, assessment and placement requirements.

The Program is not intended to limit each Partner's right to require of their volunteers additional training over and above the Core Training Modules—either as each Partner's minimum requirements for becoming a volunteer, or for ongoing volunteer capacity building.



Modules

Concepts in Communications

HIV Basics and Health Promotion

Confidentiality and Boundaries

GIPA/MEPA

Anti-Racism & Anti-Oppression (AR AO)

Harm Reduction

Volunteering as a PHA or Someone Affected by HIV





Why Multi-Agency?

Participants can meet and learn from each other and the diverse expertise of participants and presenters.

Participants are introduced to diversity of agencies and will be learning from people from different communities.

Agencies can support one another and engage in capacity-building.





After the core training...



- Certificate of Participation

- Letter of Completion

- Agency specific orientation and training

- Volunteering with other agencies

A Certificate of Participation will be provided for all participants who complete all of the modules.

For those who are not able to complete the full set of modules, a Letter of Completion will be provided, identifying the modules completed and dates. Completion of the outstanding modules can be done in future training sessions and once completed, a Certificate of Participation issued.

A certificate does not guarantee placement as a volunteer within a participant's home agency. That decision is made by each agency and will depend upon volunteer needs and organizational processes.

Each agency provides training on its own history, culture, policies and program training.

If, at some point, a participant wishes to volunteer at another one of the participating agencies the training will be recognized by these agencies.



Situating ourselves



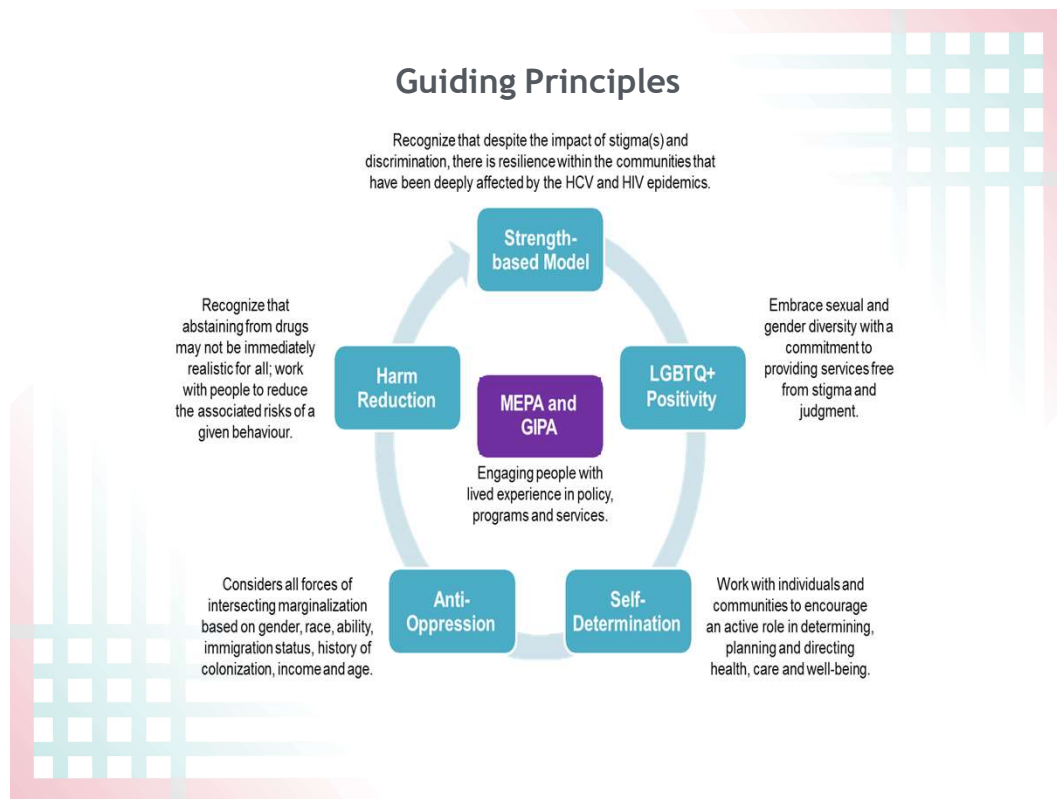
Situating our sector work

Volunteers also play a vital role in the work we do. In 2018-19, organizations reported 5,714 volunteers providing \$4.7 million worth of their time!

Critical data

We have made great strides in producing critical data on HIV in Ontario to help us understand and respond strategically. Current highlights include:

- In 2021 more than half of new HIV diagnoses were in gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men followed by people who are African, Caribbean and Black and women. This reflects how barriers and inequities disproportionately impact marginalized populations in our society and place individuals at greater risk for HIV.

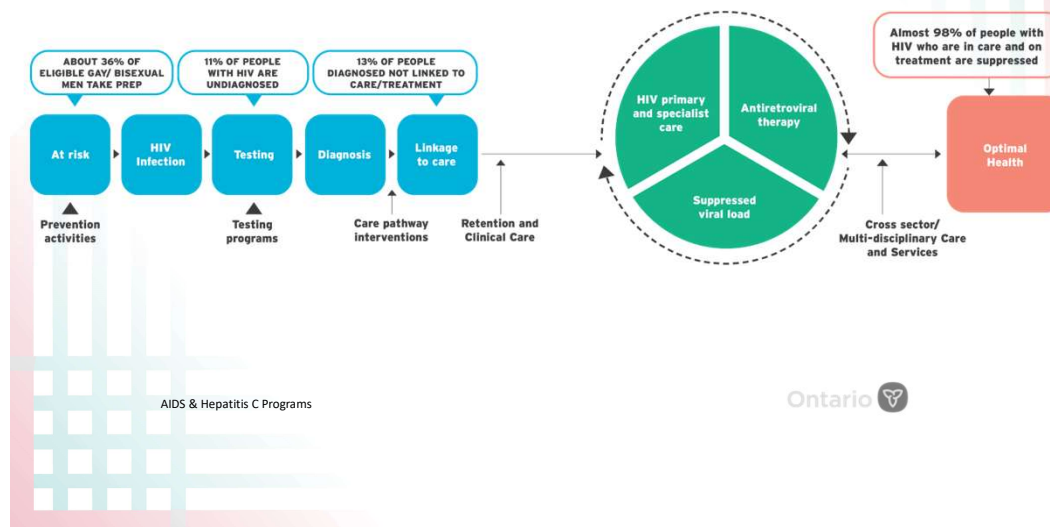


Foundational values

The response to HIV has been powerful and passionate! Principles and values that are foundational to our past, current and ongoing response include:

- Resilience
- Greater Involvement and Meaningful Engagement of People Living with HIV/AIDS (GIPA/MEPA)
- Harm reduction
- Social justice/Human rights
- Integrated, person-centred prevention and engagement in care
- Choice and self-determination
- Privacy and confidentiality
- Respect for diversity
- Evidence, excellence and innovation.

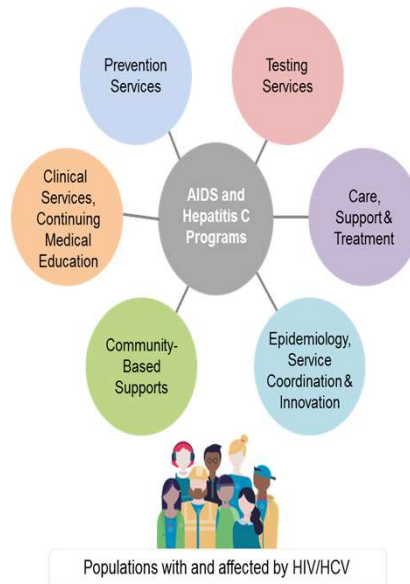
HIV Prevention, engagement and care cascade



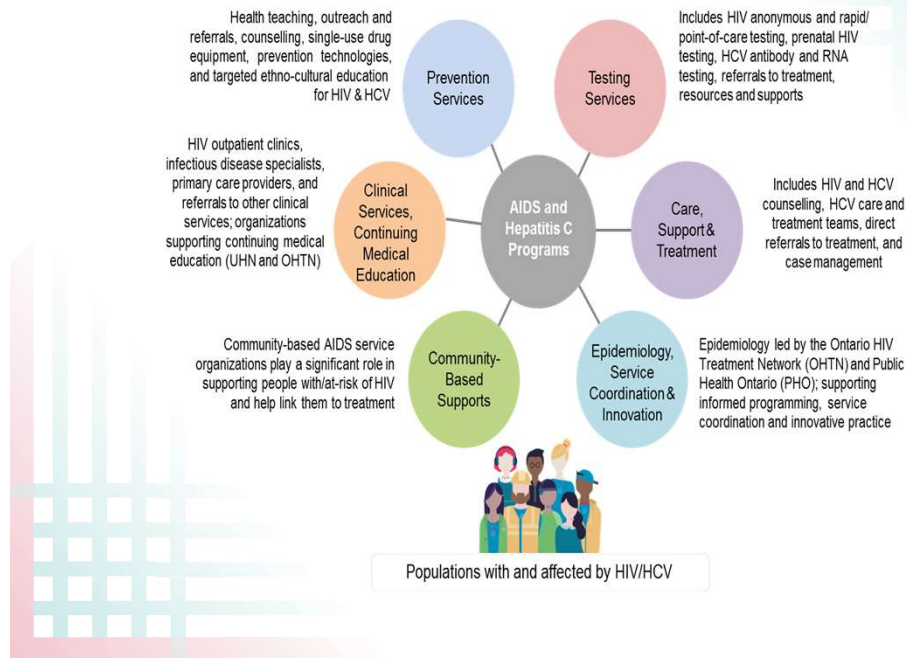
The makeup of the sector

Individuals, AIDS Service Organizations, clinics, community partners, and capacity building organizations all have unique, complementary and integrated roles in the *prevention, engagement and care cascade*, the [theoretical framework](#) that underpins the HIV response in Ontario.

Prevention, Engagement, and Care in Ontario



Prevention, Engagement, and Care in Ontario



In Ontario, Canada, the prevention, engagement, and care of HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus) are managed through a combination of public health initiatives, healthcare services, community organizations, and government programs. As of my last knowledge update in September 2021, here are some key aspects of HIV prevention, engagement, and care in Ontario:

1. HIV Prevention:

- 1. Education and Awareness:** Ontario has various educational campaigns aimed at raising awareness about HIV transmission, risk factors, and prevention strategies. These campaigns target both the general population and high-risk groups.
- 2. Condom Distribution:** Condom distribution programs are widely available, with free condoms often provided at healthcare centers, community organizations, and public health clinics.
- 3. Needle Exchange Programs:** Needle exchange programs exist to reduce the transmission of HIV among people who inject drugs. They provide clean needles and syringes to users and facilitate safe disposal of used equipment.
- 4. Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP):** PrEP is available in Ontario and

can be prescribed to individuals at high risk of HIV infection. It involves taking a daily medication to reduce the risk of contracting HIV.

5. **Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP):** PEP is available for individuals who may have been exposed to HIV through unprotected sex or needle sharing. It involves taking antiretroviral medications within a specific time frame after potential exposure to prevent infection.

1.Engagement and Testing:

1. **HIV Testing:** Ontario encourages regular HIV testing, and testing services are available at healthcare facilities, community clinics, and through mobile testing units. Some testing services also offer rapid HIV testing, which provides results within minutes.
2. **Counseling and Support:** People who test positive for HIV receive counseling and support services to help them cope with the diagnosis and make informed decisions about their health.
3. **Engagement with Key Populations:** Outreach efforts target key populations at higher risk of HIV, such as men who have sex with men, people who inject drugs, and individuals from communities with a higher prevalence of HIV.

2.HIV Care:

1. **Antiretroviral Therapy (ART):** Individuals diagnosed with HIV are provided with antiretroviral therapy, which helps suppress the virus and manage the progression of HIV to AIDS. ART is covered by the Ontario Drug Benefit Program.
2. **Specialized Care Centers:** Ontario has specialized clinics and healthcare centers that focus on HIV care and treatment. These centers offer comprehensive services, including medical care, mental health support, and social services.
3. **Peer Support and Community Organizations:** Community organizations and peer support groups play a crucial role in providing social and emotional support to people living with HIV. They also facilitate access to various resources and services.

3.Policy and Legislation:

1. Ontario has legislation and policies in place to protect the rights and privacy of individuals living with HIV. Discrimination based on HIV status is prohibited, and confidentiality of HIV-related information is maintained.

Populations Most Impacted by HIV in Ontario

In Ontario, HIV is a concentrated epidemic - meaning that HIV has elevated rates among a number of defined populations.

The ministry's funded HIV programs focus on reaching those populations most affected.

These vulnerable populations experience inequities and stigma that impact access to the scientific advances in treatment and prevention.

Populations most impacted by HIV in Ontario include:

- People with HIV

- Gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men, including trans men

- African, Caribbean, and Black communities (ACB)

- Indigenous Peoples

- People who use drugs (PWUD)

- Women*

(includes cis and trans women, including ACB, PWUD, Indigenous women, and other women who face systemic and social inequities, are more likely to be exposed to HIV through a sexual or drug use partner)

AIDS & Hep C Programs: Overview

