

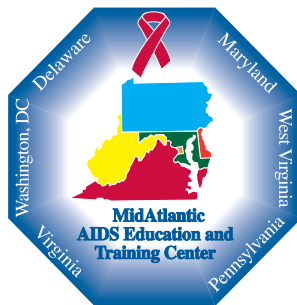
MidAtlantic AIDS Education and Training Center

University of Pittsburgh

Graduate School of Public Health

Department of Infectious Diseases and Microbiology

and Regional Partners in Region III, US Public Health Service



Center Headquarters

University of Pittsburgh
Graduate School of Public Health
Department of Infectious
Diseases and Microbiology

Regional Partners

Delaware:
ChristianaCare

District of Columbia:
Howard University

Maryland:
Johns Hopkins University
University of Maryland, Baltimore

Pennsylvania:
Health Federation of Philadelphia
University of Pittsburgh

Virginia:
Inova Health System
Virginia Commonwealth University

West Virginia:
West Virginia University

Program Organization

The University of Pittsburgh serves as the grant recipient for the MidAtlantic AIDS Education and Training Center (MidAtlantic AETC, MAAETC) and has managed, directed, and monitored this program since its initial funding in 1988. The Pittsburgh site serves dual purposes: it is headquarters for the region and is the regional partner for central and western Pennsylvania. In its consortium role, the University of Pittsburgh is solely responsible for providing programmatic, fiscal, and evaluation direction, as well as planning, monitoring, and oversight of the region. The University of Pittsburgh utilizes multi-disciplinary perspectives from faculty members, experts and years of experience as it strives for excellence in leadership and service to Region III of the US Public Health Service.

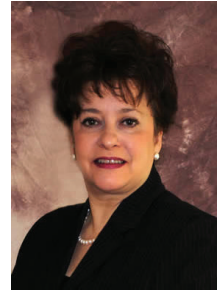
The University of Pittsburgh and the Principal Investigator, Linda Rose Frank, PhD, MSN, ACRN, FAAN, have successfully directed, managed, and monitored this program since



1988. Dr. Frank's leadership in the region and nation in HIV education, treatment, and advocacy has contributed to the growth and success of this multi-university regional consortium.

The MidAtlantic AETC has nine regional partners including the University of Pittsburgh. These sites are all recognized as clinical centers of excellence and are equipped with the most advanced information and technology.

Thanks to significant in-kind contributions from leading universities and medical centers in the cities in which the MidAtlantic AETC is based, this network creates a cost-effective, state-of-the-art approach to the trainings needed to address the HIV/AIDS challenges. These powerhouse academic and research facilities, among the best in the country, supply renowned faculty and researchers, space, equipment, and administrative support services.



Linda Frank, PhD, MSN, ACRN, FAAN

Center Headquarters

**University of Pittsburgh
Graduate School of Public Health
Department of Infectious Diseases and Microbiology
A226 Public Health, 130 DeSoto Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15261**

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Principal Investigator/Executive Director
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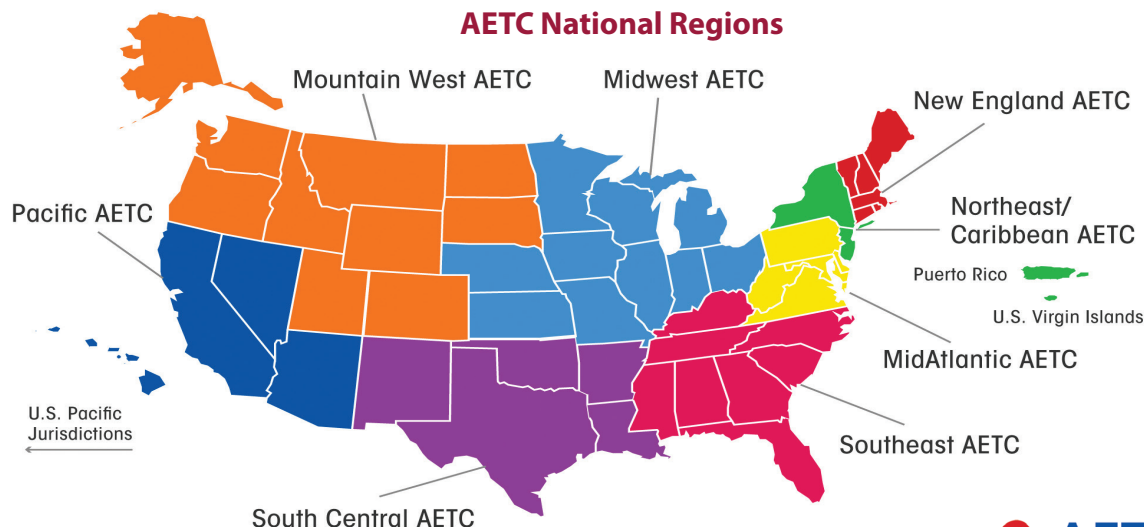
Key Elements of the AETC Program

Goals of the National AETC Program:

1. Increase the size and strengthen the skills of the HIV clinical workforce in the US
2. Improve outcomes along the HIV care continuum, including diagnosis, linkage, retention and viral suppression through training and technical assistance
3. Reduce HIV incidence by improving the achievement and maintenance of viral suppression for people with HIV
4. Train and provide technical assistance to health care professionals, interprofessional health teams, and health care organizations on the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of HIV disease and related disorders
5. Focus and priority is for clinics and clinicians providing little or no HIV care
6. Support the Ending the HIV Epidemic: A Plan for America initiative.

Listed below are the major components of the efforts of the National AETC Program.

1. Core Training and Technical Assistance: To identify knowledge, quality, and service gaps within the US based upon needs assessment and input from stakeholders and develop educational programming to reduce these gaps
2. Practice Transformation Project (PTP): To identify, collaborate, and transform selected clinics to build their capacity to provide quality HIV care by increasing clinical competencies, improving coordination of services, and building the HIV clinical workforce, aimed at improving patient outcomes along the HIV care continuum
3. Interprofessional Education Project (IPE): To develop and test a model for interprofessional practice within health professions schools and disseminate the model throughout the US to improve the HIV care continuum
4. Minority AIDS Initiative: To develop and implement targeted training to agencies and programs serving minorities as well as minority health professionals to reduce disparities in access, increase uptake of evidence based prevention efforts and improve access to HIV treatment



National Centers
AETC National Coordinating Resource Center
Clinicians' Consultation Center



"For over 30 years, the MidAtlantic AETC has provided superb training, consultation, technical assistance and support to health care providers and institutions who serve one of the most populated, at risk regions in the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

I am honored that their dedication continues to be the cornerstone in our HIV/AIDS prevention and education program."

Charles R. Rinaldo Jr., PhD
(Chair and Professor, Department of Infectious Diseases and Microbiology, University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health)

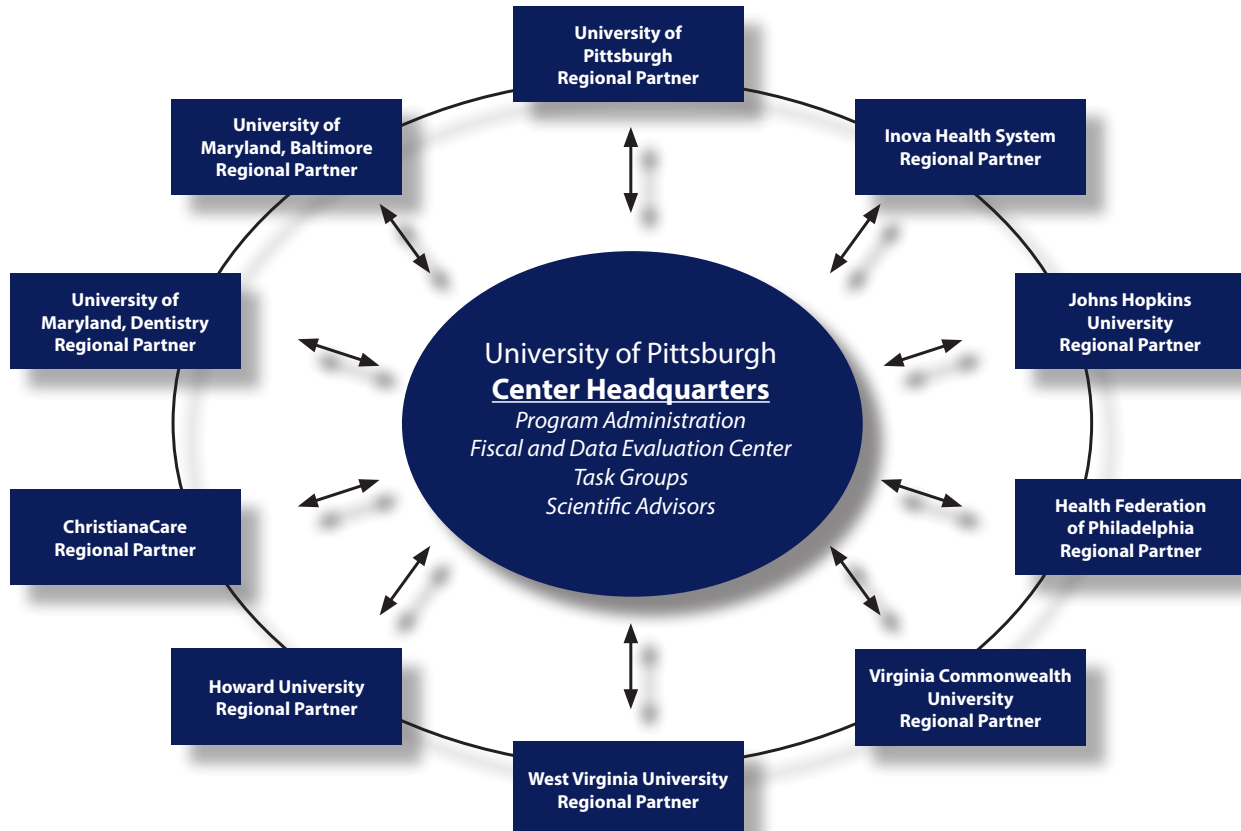


Program Philosophy

The MidAtlantic AETC recognizes the complexity of providing quality HIV/AIDS care, including the interplay among HIV clinical management, the care system, and the patient's needs. The MidAtlantic AETC responds to the intersecting issues of HIV, hepatitis C, sexually transmitted infections, substance use, and mental illness. The program focuses on improving prevention, care, and treatment of HIV and related disorders. The main source of funding for the MidAtlantic AETC is provided through a cooperative agreement with the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), HIV/AIDS Bureau, Office of HIV/AIDS Training and Capacity Development through the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Treatment Modernization Act of 1990.

The consortium represents 5 states and DC, and provides training, technical assistance, and consultation to physicians, nurses, dentists, advanced practice nurses, physician assistants, pharmacists, social workers, counselors, and other members of the HIV care team. The MidAtlantic AETC emphasizes capacity building within health care agencies and programs to expand and improve systems of care for persons with HIV, with a focus on medically under-served communities, rural areas and other settings to improve gaps in access and quality of HIV prevention and treatment.

Organizational Structure



"The MidAtlantic AETC has been one of the most valuable resources I have encountered in my career in HIV. I have attended probably more than a hundred MidAtlantic AETC trainings throughout my career, and I can truly say that I have always walked away with something that I can apply to my practice when I see patients the next day. I am now an HIV Nursing Supervisor for our facility, and the MidAtlantic AETC is the very first place that I look when I'm searching for training for new staff or for a particular issue... Not only are my friends at MidAtlantic AETC up to the challenge of any training needs, they also work hard to provide training through people who will also be helpful contacts or provide expanded networking abilities... suffice it to say that the MidAtlantic AETC has vitally impacted me, my patients, my coworkers, and my staff. I could not do my job without them, and hope that their resources are available until HIV is finally cured and eradicated."

Ana Lapp, RN
(HIV Nursing Supervisor, Esperanza Health Center, Philadelphia, PA)



Overview

HIV/AIDS is considered the most significant public health issue of our time. In the 1980's, HIV was an obscure virus with no treatment available. HIV care and treatment have undergone changes resulting in improved clinical outcomes through access to effective treatments. The AETCs are administered by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) and its HIV/AIDS Bureau's Division of Training and Capacity Development with funding from the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Treatment Modernization Act of 1990.

Health professionals on the front lines of HIV prevention, treatment, and care face many challenges: (1) a patient population in need of rapidly evolving treatment regimens; (2) a shortage of qualified caregivers, particularly in rural and urban areas; (3) a complex health care delivery system; (4) changing treatment and prevention guidelines and standards of care; (5) emergence of co-morbidities; (6) co-occurring behavioral health issues; (7) tailored interventions with specific populations; and (8) need for interprofessional collaborative practice in all settings.

The MidAtlantic AETC has evolved and expanded to provide training, consultation, technical assistance, and coaching to individual health professionals, federally qualified health centers, hospitals, clinics, and healthcare agencies and programs in Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, and the District of Columbia. Since its creation, the MidAtlantic AETC has built a reputation as the foremost educational resource for providing primary care providers, HIV specialty providers, health professionals, and other members of treatment teams with the information and tools they need. Whether it be HIV case finding (screening and counseling); clinical care (including the treatment of co-morbidities of sexually transmitted infections, hepatitis, tuberculosis, and complications of HIV/AIDS); or prevention interventions, health care team members in the region rely on the MidAtlantic AETC for state of the art information, skill building, and consultation.

The MidAtlantic AETC provides intensive, interactive training methods and innovative programming through on-site and distance-based training. The MidAtlantic AETC's dedicated clinical educators shape and focus on improving and changing the practices, attitudes, and behaviors of health care providers. These providers and professionals become a part of the MidAtlantic AETC's expansive network of experts, collaborators, and resources. The MidAtlantic AETC creates a "community of practice" with our trainees and collaborations within Region III of the US Public Health Service.

The MidAtlantic AETC focuses on improving linkage to and engagement in care, as well as integrated behavioral health to improve the HIV care continuum for persons with HIV and those at-risk. These efforts also help healthy people avoid HIV infection. A growing number of persons with HIV who were once thought to be difficult to reach now receive quality medical care. The MidAtlantic AETC team works with key groups across the region to establish public health policies using the soundest scientific and clinical research available.

The MidAtlantic AETC creates and supports partnerships for increasing access to prevention and treatment, care coordination, and system improvement and works collaboratively with state and local government agencies in HIV and other public health related initiatives. The MidAtlantic AETC assists local, state and regional health care systems in responding to outbreaks or clusters of new HIV infection and related disorders to improve public health response to reduce morbidity and mortality.

Thanks to significant in-kind contributions from leading universities and medical centers in the cities in which the MidAtlantic AETC is based, this network creates a cost-effective, state-of-the-art approach to the trainings needed to address the HIV/AIDS challenges. These academic and research facilities, among the best in the country, supply renowned faculty and researchers, space, equipment, and administrative support services.

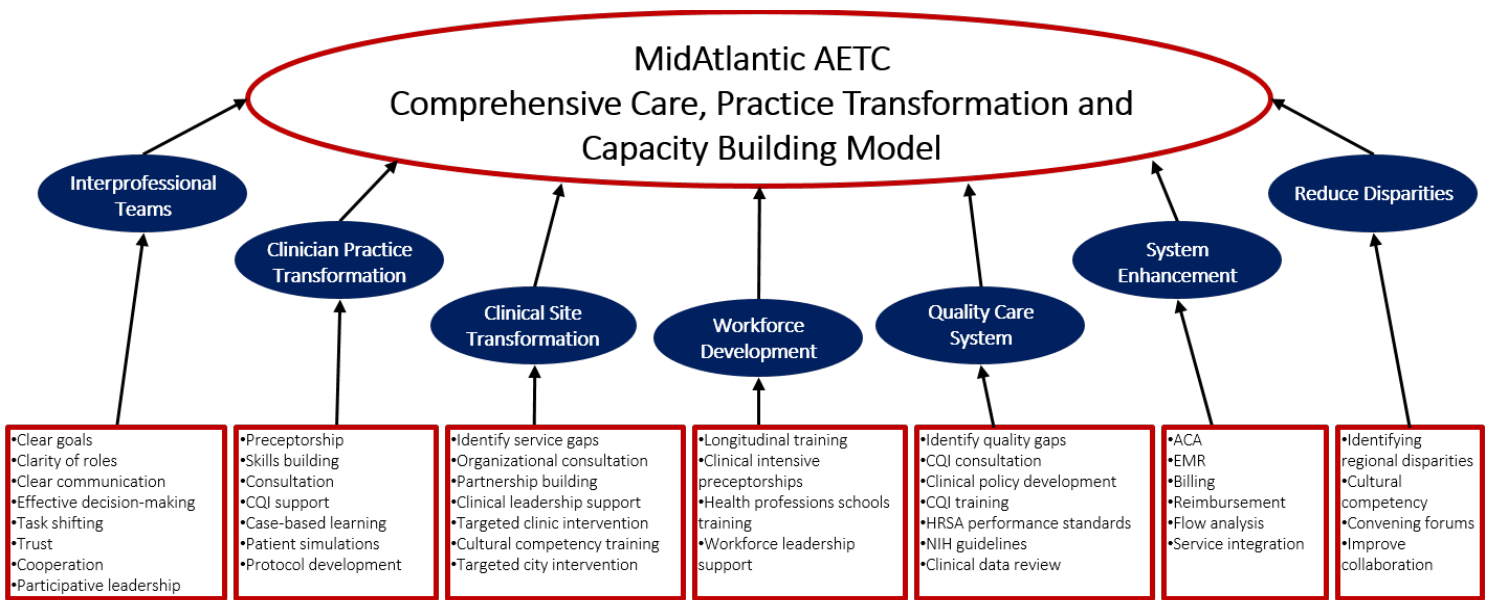
"The MidAtlantic AETC provides timely, accurate clinical education to an array of health professionals working in some of the heaviest impacted areas in the United States. The AETC has been there since people with HIV-related disease began presenting to health care systems. Through state-of-the-art educational forums, hands-on clinical consultation, and tailored presentations, the AETC has expanded the base of health care providers with HIV expertise. We know that people with HIV/AIDS have the best clinical outcomes when care is rendered by HIV-experienced clinicians. The AETC provides much of the educational experience and in so doing, saving lives."

*Marla Gold, MD, FACP
(Professor and Dean Emerita,
Department of Health Management
and Policy, Drexel University Dornsife
School of Public Health)*



The AIDS Education and Training network was created following the discovery and naming of the HIV virus. Much of our early work in 1989 was to educate health professionals and dispel fear of contagion, educate patients and health care teams on the dying process and on the support and caregiving services needed for patients and their families. We also worked to provide support for health professionals who were watching many of their patients die from HIV. Stigma was prominent in institutions and communities in the early days and the AETC strived to support patient-centered, humane care in the context of high quality HIV prevention, diagnosis and treatment available throughout our region.

The MidAtlantic AETC has been part of the evolution of HIV/AIDS from a fatal condition to a manageable chronic disease through breakthroughs in antiretroviral treatment resulting in reduced transmission and improved clinical outcomes. As the US turns its focus towards elimination of HIV, the MidAtlantic AETC is essential to increasing provider expertise regarding routine HIV testing, connection to care for persons with HIV infection, PrEP for those at risk for infection, and the treatment of intersecting issues of STIs, hepatitis C, substance use/misuse, mental illness, and the reduction of stigma. The MidAtlantic AETC Consortium is committed to ending the HIV epidemic through our efforts and collaboration with federal, state, local, academic, institutional, and community partners.



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Program Services

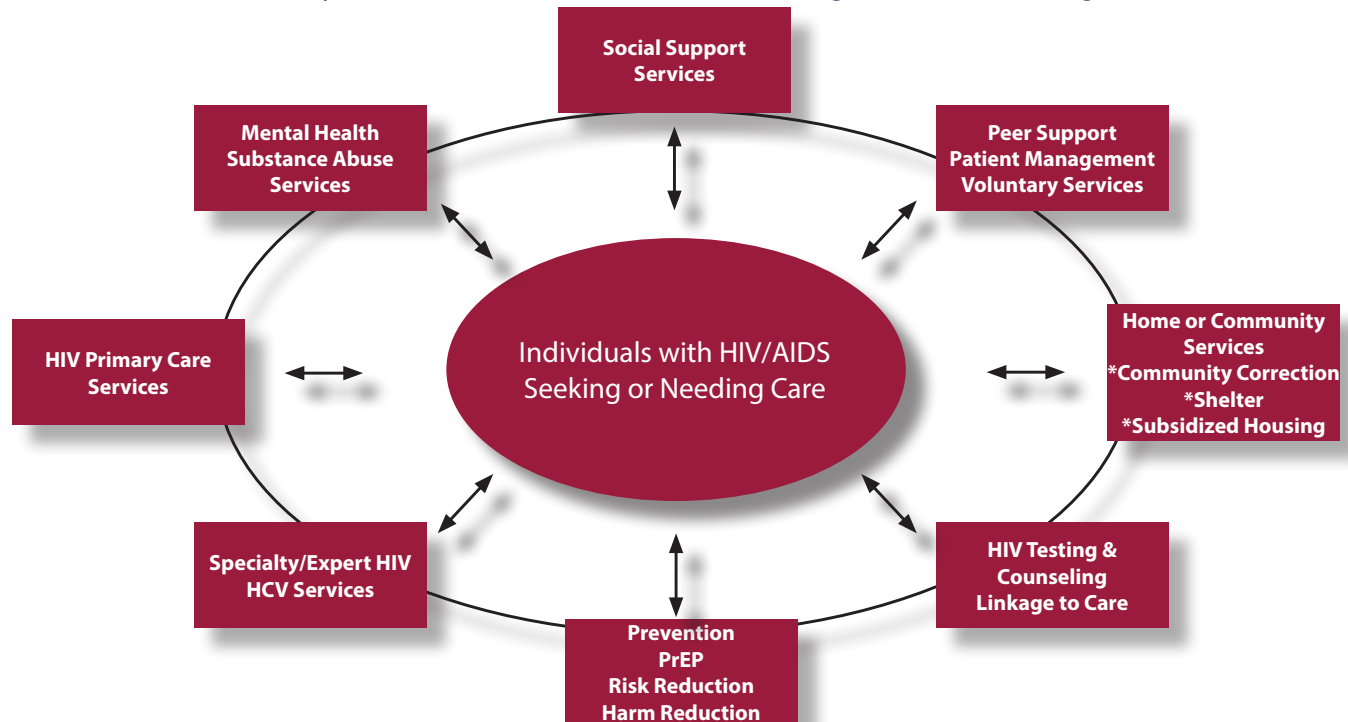
- Enhances HIV testing, clinical treatment and prevention skills, as well as the acquisition of new skills and knowledge with didactic and skills-building training and consultation;
- Conducts clinical preceptorships for community clinicians, utilizing MidAtlantic AETC clinical experts to improve diagnostic, treatment, and prevention clinical skills and interventions;
- Provides expert clinical consultation and coaching to disseminate best practices and clinical guidelines for prevention and treatment;
- Provides opportunities for clinical treatment co-management and/or facilitation of referral to clinical experts;
- Intervenes and provides training and consultation in response to HIV outbreaks and clusters;
- Provides capacity building to health professionals, agencies, programs to improve access to HIV prevention and treatment for minorities, under-served populations, substance users, and women through the Minority AIDS Initiative, by targeting minority health professionals and those serving minorities to improve the HIV care continuum;
- Offers specialized training and consultation, to prison clinical providers in state, county, and federal prison systems, hospitals, and federally qualified health centers;
- Serves as a resource, facilitator of forums and meetings to address current and emerging issues facing the health care system for consensus building, problem solving, and coordination of resources;
- Collaborates with state and local government health care agencies, institutions and initiatives to improve the HIV care continuum through collaboration, communication, training, and technical assistance;
- Provides educational programming including distance-based platforms to provide capacity building, facilitation of networking among health professionals and programs, and creating and supporting communities of practice;
- Trains treatment teams on culturally competent interventions and care;
- Provides training in the prenatal and gynecological care of women, including reduction of perinatal transmission through screening, testing, and medication protocols;
- Provides training and coaching on trauma informed care to increase the quality of clinical assessment to improve health outcomes;
- Provides clinicians with training on co-morbidities of substance misuse, hepatitis, sexually transmitted infections, tuberculosis, and psychiatric disorders through linkage with clinical experts and collaboration with other federally funded training centers;

"The AETC has assisted in improving the knowledge and skills of our clinical team across all of our 8 clinical practice locations and has played an integral role improving care systems and increasing the workforce for HIV testing, treatment, and prevention. The training, preceptorships and consultation provided by the AETC has assisted our health care team in providing quality care to patients in primary care and HIV specialty care setting."

Kelly Russo, MD, MPH, AAHIVS (Director, International Health and Infectious Disease, CCI Health & Wellness Services) and Emily Pavetto, RN (HIV Program Lead/Nurse Care Coordinator, CCI Health & Wellness Services)

- Provides longitudinal educational intervention with clinics, programs, and care systems to increase continuous quality improvement, expansion to transform clinical services to improve quality, access and reduce barriers to care;
- Provides quality management training to agencies providing HIV care to ensure that prevention and treatment protocols are continually revised to reflect the current standard of care based on the latest research and guidelines;
- Conducts ongoing needs assessments of institutions, clinics, programs, and individual clinicians, so that training can be tailored to specific needs;
- Rapidly disseminates information on advances in treatment and prevention via print, webinars, teleconferences, and the MidAtlantic AETC website and Learner Education and Practice Portal (LEAPP);
- Conducts regular evaluation studies to measure changes in provider knowledge, clinician practice patterns and decision making, patient care outcomes, and HIV care system enhancements;
- Assists local, state and regional health care systems in responding to outbreaks or clusters of new HIV infection and related disorders to improve public health response to reduce morbidity and mortality.

MidAtlantic AIDS Education and Training Center HIV System of Care: Critical Providers for Targeted AETC Training



MidAtlantic AETC Trainees (1999-2019)

Discipline	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005	2005-2006	2006-2007	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010
Physician	2000	2856	2015	2200	2110	2006	2065	1796	2156	1921	2015
Physician Assistant	400	672	403	550	340	319	407	408	353	271	311
Advance Practice Nurse	630	1010	810	1170	200	300	329	349	156	141	145
Nurse Practitioner	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	553	775	661	734	783	652	589
Nurse	2200	4536	3224	3500	4178	4331	4475	4968	5492	5066	4423
Clinical Pharmacist	400	510	410	450	250	480	332	320	369	332	750
Dentist	520	505	403	650	431	439	251	307	441	354	424
Oral Health Professional	170	504	672	700	544	720	381	545	656	449	478
Mental Health Provider/Social Worker/Allied Health	2600	150	400	1000	538	2473	3321	2738	3433	2401	2454
Other Health, including Substance Abuse Professional	350	6216	5105	1100	3180	440	2016	504	1462	2037	1770
Other	400	400	400	400	3720	3300	2754	2507	2613	1933	1409
TOTAL	9670	17359	13842	11720	16044	15583	16992	15176	17914	15557	14768

Discipline	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014	2014-2015***	2015-2016**	7/2016-9/2016	10/2016 - 6/2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	TOTAL
Physician	1990	1919	1853	1371	1830	831	211	723	973	1182	36023
Physician Assistant	296	251	227	147	163	205	23	83	111	103	6043
Advance Practice Nurse	742	912	886	704	765	461	124	****	****	****	9834
Nurse Practitioner	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	388	518	518	6171
Nurse	4691	4787	5225	4486	4188	2402	530	2556	2741	3115	81114
Clinical Pharmacist	500	546	530	475	806	305	99	432	463	413	9172
Dentist	363	214	215	240	251	116	27	228	113	522	7014
Oral Health Professional	423	341	212	239	240	222	96	211	264	234	8301
Mental Health Provider/Social Worker/Allied Health	2488	2595	2652	2341	2839	1807	527	3072	3736	5799	49364
Other Health, including Substance Abuse Professional	2372	1947	2215	1986	2544	1678	314	1283	1305	1735	41559
Other	1544	1256	1375	1370	1274	808	239	664	759	1124	30249
TOTAL	15409	14768	15390	13359	14900	8835	2190	9640	10983	14745	284844

* nurse practitioner is included in the advanced practice nurse category

** counts no longer include Ohio are only for September 2015 to June 2016

*** July 2014 to August 2015

**** included in nurse category

Important note: The numbers listed in the tables above are only those participants who completed the forms. These numbers do not encompass all who attended the trainings.

“The MidAtlantic AETC, under the leadership of Dr. Linda Frank, has provided critical educational services to community professionals caring for patients with HIV/AIDS. There is no doubt that this training has improved the quality of care delivered to patients and their outcome. As such, the MidAtlantic AETC has proved to be a vital resource in the quest to reduce the morbidity and mortality from the HIV/AIDS epidemic.”

*John W. Mellors, MD
(Professor of Medicine, Chief of the Division of Infectious Diseases, School of Medicine, Professor of Infectious Diseases and Microbiology at the University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health, Director, Pitt Treatment Evaluation Unit, University of Pittsburgh, Director, HIV/AIDS Program, University of Pittsburgh Medical Center)*

“The training, mini-residencies, and consultation provided by [the MAAETC] program have assisted regional health care teams in providing quality care to patients in primary care, HIV clinical care locations and supportive service settings. By participating in [the] programs, the staff of Shepherd Wellness Community, the only HIV/AIDS community in Western Pennsylvania, has learned about ways to implement best practices in the field of HIV/AIDS care and support. They have also received important updates related to the rapidly changing areas of HIV/AIDS medication and treatments.”

*B. Scott Peterman
(Executive Director, Shepherd Wellness Community, Pittsburgh, PA)*



Scope of MidAtlantic AETC Impact

Over the past 30 years, the MidAtlantic AETC has trained more than 280,000 health professionals in HIV-related topics, including treatment, prevention, care, related coinfections and related co-morbidities. The center has assisted in the development and enhancement of more than 60 health care clinics over the past four years through training and capacity building. Customarily, almost half of the AETC's trainees are clinicians and other staff from agencies and programs funded by the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program. In addition, representatives from the regional partners in each state serve on the CDC and HRSA Integrated HIV Prevention and Care Plan and Statewide Coordinated Statement of Need committees. The MidAtlantic AETC is firmly committed to the strategy, Ending the HIV Epidemic: A Plan for America.

To assist with training and consultation on HIV/AIDS issues, the MidAtlantic AETC has developed long-term relationships with local and state health departments. The center serves as a convener of forums to address emerging issues and to share best practices in the prevention, care, and treatment of HIV/AIDS. A major achievement of the MidAtlantic AETC has been innovative educational programming that has addressed key HIV topics relevant to reducing HIV transmission, improving access to care, closing service gaps, and addressing gaps in quality care in the HIV care continuum. Curricula on specific HIV/AIDS topics are designed to improve the quality of HIV care delivered by HIV Workforce and expand service delivery and capacity among HIV care professionals. Print and electronic pocket guides, and pamphlets on HIV related topics have been produced and distributed to health professionals for their use.

Distance-based learning technologies are more important now than ever due to limited ability of health professionals to travel to training events. This has been addressed through the development of a robust distance-based training initiative as well as online curricula, web-based communication and teleconferences. The MidAtlantic AETC is continually working to engage health professionals with fewer HIV patients (“lower volume providers”) and those with less experience in HIV prevention and treatment (“novice providers”). This is focused at intervening with hard-to-reach urban and rural areas in the MidAtlantic region. The MidAtlantic AETC has conducted outcome studies of specific educational interventions to document the outcomes, impact and usefulness of its educational strategies and programs.

Regional HIV Epidemic

At the end of 2017, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimated that greater than 1.1 million people with HIV in the USA and approximately 15% of those were unaware of their HIV-positive status. The CDC also reported 38,739 confirmed HIV diagnoses in the US in 2017. Similarly in 2017, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported 3,520 confirmed HIV diagnoses and an approximate 110,000 people living with HIV in the MidAtlantic AETC region. From the beginning of the epidemic to the end of 2017, the cumulative total of AIDS cases was 133,228 for the five states and District of Columbia that constitute the MidAtlantic AETC's region. These data represent nearly 10% of HIV-positive individuals and 11% of all reported AIDS cases in the United States.

The MidAtlantic region encompasses three locations that rank among the top twelve in the nation for both HIV prevalence and AIDS prevalence: District of Columbia, Maryland, and Delaware. Also within the region, metropolitan areas with high prevalence of known and/or increasing HIV infection include Baltimore, Philadelphia, Norfolk, Pittsburgh, Wilmington, and Richmond. The District of Columbia has the highest HIV prevalence and mortality associated with HIV in the nation.

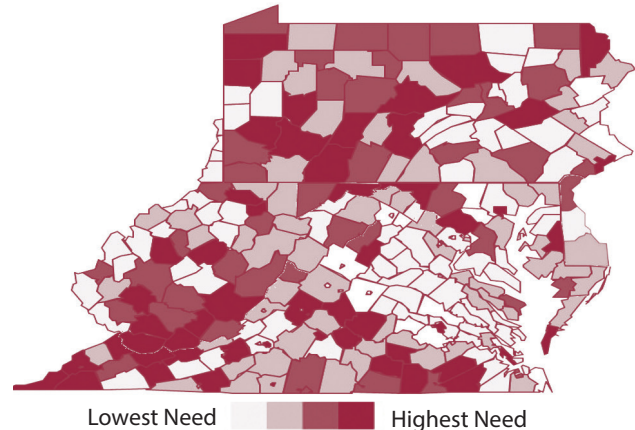
HIV/AIDS Epidemiology in Region by State

Area of Residence	Population 2018 Estimates	Diagnoses of HIV Infection 2018	Diagnoses of HIV per 100,000 (State Ranking) 2018	Stage 3 (AIDS) Diagnosis per 100,000 (State Ranking) 2018	Adults and Adolescents Living with Diagnosed HIV Infection per 100,000 (State Ranking) 2017
Delaware	967,171	92	9.5 (19)	5.9 (11)	404.8 (8)
District of Columbia	702,455	208	29.6 (1)	35.3 (1)	2398.9 (1)
Maryland	6,042,718	981	16.2 (6)	8.4 (6)	641 (3)
Pennsylvania	12,807,060	1004	7.8 (24)	3.6 (26)	325.8 (18)
Virginia	8,517,685	871	10.2 (18)	4.7 (17)	311 (20)
West Virginia	1,805,832	85	4.7 (37)	2.1 (37)	116.4 (43)

Population data, 2018 estimates gathered from <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts>

HIV and AIDS Epidemiological data from: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. HIV Surveillance Report, 2018 (Preliminary); vol. 30. <http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/library/reports/hiv-surveillance.html>. Published November 2019. Accessed January 10, 2020.

HRSA Health Professional Shortage Areas (2015)



“The Northern Virginia Regional Commission and the MidAtlantic AETC have a strong history of collaboration with a variety of education presentations made at the Ryan White Part A and Part B HIV Consortium in our region. The AETC always brings objective and current factual information to this venue, enlightening the viewpoint of all who attend.”

*Michelle Simmons
(Director of Human Services, Northern Virginia Regional Commission)*

“The program has had an extremely important role in enhancing clinical care, improving care systems, and increasing the workforce for HIV ... In addition, the MidAtlantic AETC has participated in the local Ryan White Part A planning process. The MidAtlantic AETC is a valued partner and an important support for the continuum of care in Philadelphia and surrounding areas.”

*Coleman Terrell
(Director, AIDS Activities Coordinating Office, Philadelphia Department of Health)*

“The MidAtlantic AETC has been an invaluable partner to the United Medical Center HIV team. Specifically, Dr. Daftary has provided insightful, skilled, and informed advice and guidance to our HIV treatment providers in ART regimen selection and switching. In addition, they have provided nursing education on HIV in support of Nurses Week”

*Nnemdi Elias, MD, MPH
(Senior Medical Director, United Medical Center, Washington, DC)*

Early Identification, Better Access

The MidAtlantic AETC recognizes that the early identification of HIV infection translates to more immediate care, a proven advantage in delaying disease progression and further transmissions to others. The MidAtlantic AETC is dedicated to promoting early detection by training primary care providers in HIV testing approaches and technology, as well as the integration of HIV testing into all clinical settings.

Thanks to earlier identification and clinical intervention, people with HIV are now living longer. This change, however, brings additional obstacles. Providers must now meet the challenges of managing a chronic condition that is often aggravated by aging and co-infection with other chronic and acute infections such as hepatitis, tuberculosis, sexually transmitted diseases, substance use, and mental illness. There is also a shift toward non-HIV/AIDS related comorbidities such as non-AIDS related malignancies, cardiovascular disease, and diabetes.

The shift from terminal illness to chronic disease due to effective antiretroviral treatment has led to an increased life expectancy for people with HIV. With persons living longer there is a corresponding need for more clinicians and health professionals qualified and educated to administer the latest clinical treatment, and effective interventions for prevention and long-term management. Clinical guidelines and best practices change rapidly for HIV, related complications, and co-morbidities. It is critical that health professionals keep current with clinical management to improve length and quality of life for persons with HIV.

HIV CARE Systems Training

In the three decades of the MidAtlantic AETC's existence, the nation's health care delivery system has become increasingly complicated. The MidAtlantic AETC leads the way in guiding the region's hospitals, community health centers, and other providers in applying for federal funding under the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Treatment Modernization Act and similar funding sources. The MidAtlantic AETC assists facilities with practice transformation, program development, policy modification, expansion of services, long-range planning, and other capacity-building initiatives. It also provides technical assistance to improve organizational functioning and delivery of clinical services.

Maintaining Relationships and Quality

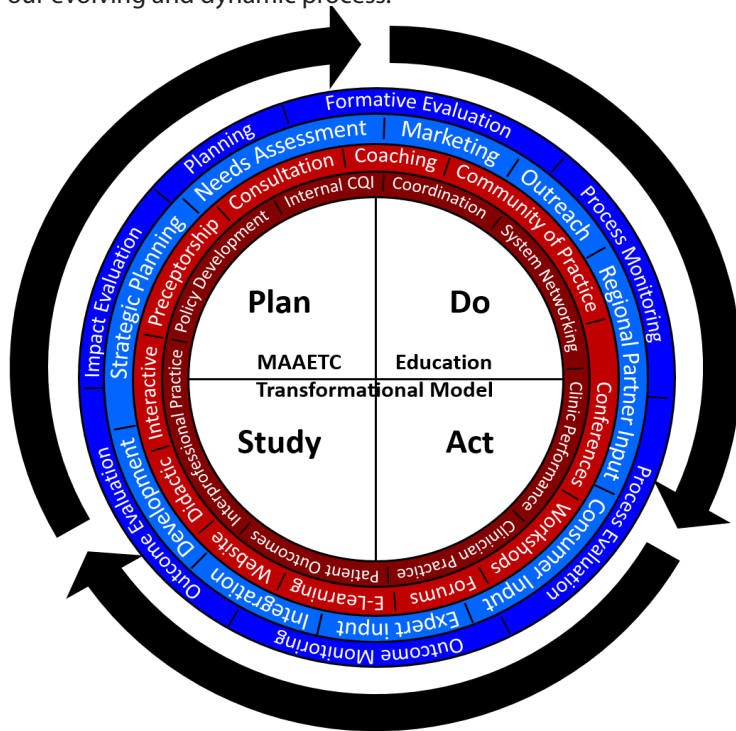
The MidAtlantic AETC is always striving to do more. The staff and faculty are constantly seeking opportunities to measure their performance and to identify ways to better serve their trainees. Focus groups, program evaluation forms, formal audits, and other needs assessment instruments help in planning the MidAtlantic AETC's programs and budget. Every dollar is meaningful in the fight against HIV/AIDS and the program devotes more than 90% of its annual budget to direct program training costs, with the remainder dedicated to evaluation and coordination costs. Striving to provide the region's health professionals with the best possible

tools, the MidAtlantic AETC is innovative in its approaches to reaching these providers where they work by offering on-site training, teleconferences, phone consultation, and online information and resources.

Through the MidAtlantic AETC's ongoing organizational, government, and trainee contacts, it continues to assess community health needs and offer targeted, tailored trainings, consultations, and technical assistance. This longitudinal training approach ensures that the MidAtlantic AETC builds capacity at all levels – local, community, regional, and national – through mentoring and support for clinicians and healthcare teams treating people at-risk for or people with HIV.

Model for Continuous Quality Improvement for Transformation (Frank, 2020)

The MidAtlantic AETC intervention to build capacity throughout the region is based upon the goal of transforming care for persons with HIV by changing the knowledge, practices of individual clinicians and health care teams, clinics, agencies, institutions, and health care systems. The figure below outlines our evolving and dynamic process.



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Underserved Communities

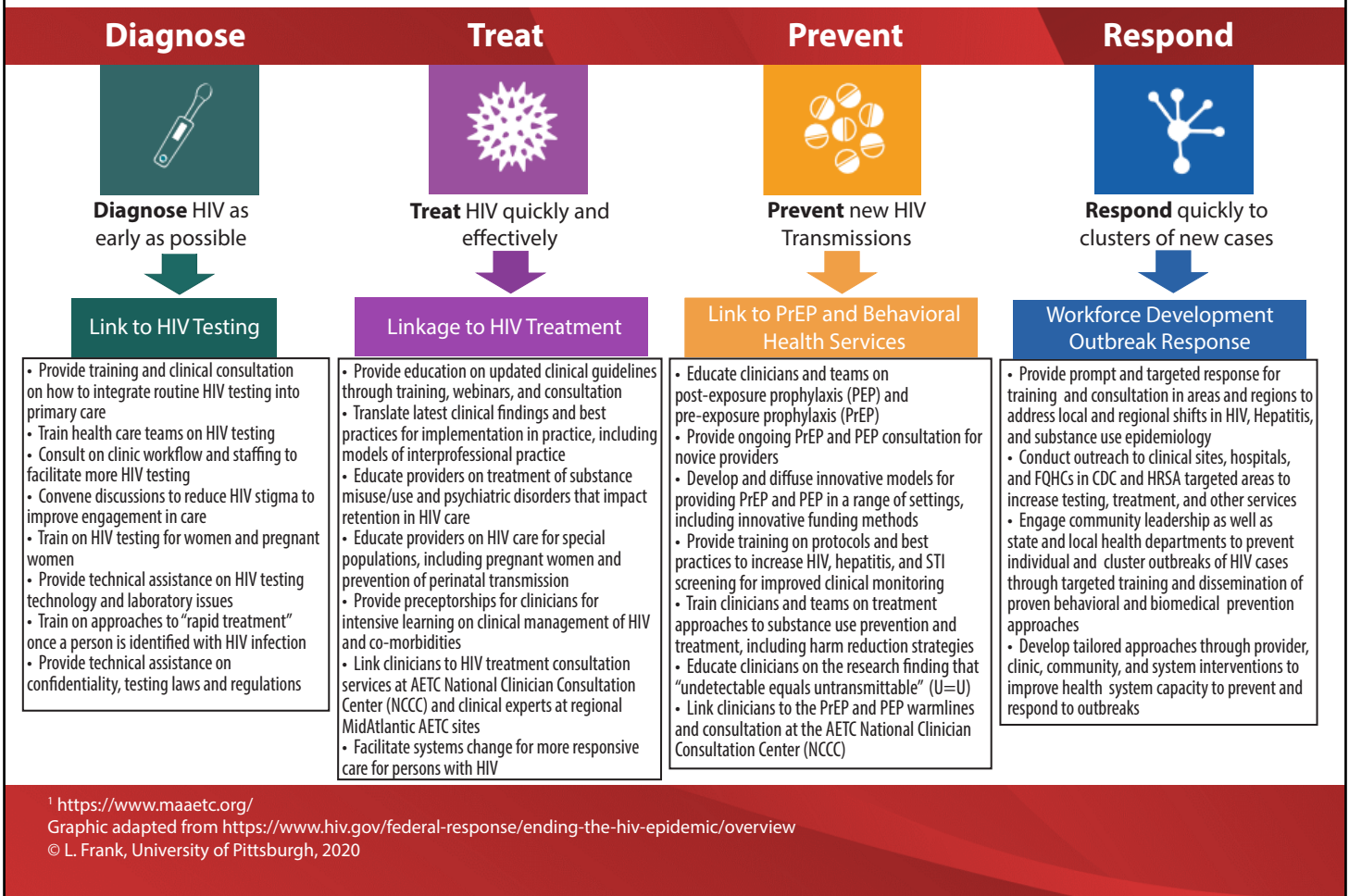
The MidAtlantic AETC recognizes the dedication and hard work of providers in under-served populations. From trouble accessing care to difficult legal and financial circumstances to language barriers, the MidAtlantic AETC appreciates the diverse challenges that under-served communities encounter on a daily basis. Limited access to health care and strained financial circumstances result in clinic populations that are characteristically sicker, poorer, and more reliant on public programs. Creating innovative ways of diminishing these significant barriers to effective HIV prevention, care, and treatment is indeed a challenge. The MidAtlantic AETC is committed to overcoming these challenges as it collaborates with providers in these communities for joint program planning and solution development.

Ryan White HIV/AIDS programs (RWHAP), community and migrant health centers, hospitals, clinics, and any program that receives federal funding constitutes the primary target audience of the MidAtlantic AETC. Through regional cluster training, the MidAtlantic AETC benefits rural and urban areas by creating a network of experts, collaborators, and partners to ensure that training interventions meet the needs of providers and build capacity to improve systems of care. Similar training also helps programs serving the homeless, minorities, migrant workers, immigrants, and the uninsured.

Ending the HIV Epidemic: A Plan for America and the Role of MidAtlantic AETC

Ending the HIV Epidemic: A Plan for America and the MidAtlantic AETC

Ending the HIV Epidemic: A Plan for America is a nationwide initiative by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the National Institutes of Health (NIH), and the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) that involves four “pillars” for intervention: **Diagnose, Treat, Prevent, and Respond**. At the MidAtlantic AIDS Education and Training Center (MAAETC)¹, we are committed to this plan. We work to share resources, gain input, develop innovative approaches, and coordinate these efforts among our regional stakeholders, government agencies, community based organizations, other federal training centers, health departments, and the Department of Health and Human Services.



¹ <https://www.maaetc.org/>

Graphic adapted from <https://www.hiv.gov/federal-response/ending-the-hiv-epidemic/overview>

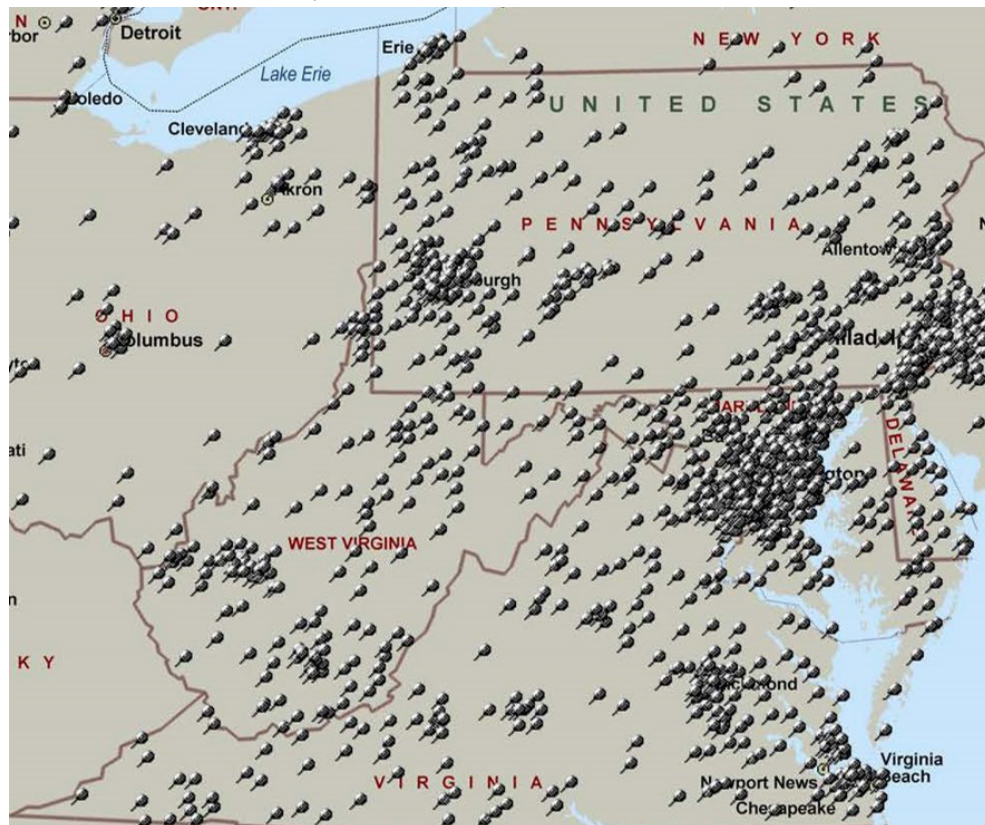
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Target Audiences

The most effective educators guide their teaching based on the principles of adult learning. The MidAtlantic AETC is proud of its tradition of training and education based on the unique needs of trainees, and provides the foundation for workshops, seminars, symposia, preceptorships, teleconferences, and other training sessions that prepare providers and clinicians to provide effective HIV prevention, care, and treatment.

The MidAtlantic AETC trains health professionals from various backgrounds, qualifications, and locations throughout the region. Training is tailored to meet the HIV prevention, care, and treatment challenges of specific geographic areas, clinics, and individual clinicians. The MidAtlantic AETC works diligently to provide HIV care teams with skill and knowledge that is tailored to the populations they serve. This individualized focus is a key element of the center's success.

Health Professional Trainees from MidAtlantic Region by Unique ZIP code (2015 - 2019)



📍 Un-duplicated health professional participants by ZIP code

“Our collaboration with the MidAtlantic AETC is one of mutual benefit and support... the MidAtlantic AETC is an important member of the Ryan White community in Delaware. As recognized leaders, they are often involved in the development and implementation of system-wide changes, such as the recent transition to medical case management.”

Arlene Bincsik, RN, MSN, CCRC, ACRN
(Director, William J Holloway
Community Program, Christiana Care
Health Services)

“The MidAtlantic AETC is always quick to provide new and updated resources for use by our clinical staff and eager to assist in any areas that we identify for training and/or consultation. All of these trainings and support opportunities provided by our local AETC continue to be an integral part of continuing education of all of our Ryan White staff. The program has had an extremely important role in enhancing clinical care, improving care systems and increasing the workforce for HIV in the region.”

Christine Teague, PharmD, MPH, AAHIVP
(Program Director, CAMC/WVU Ryan
White Park C Program, Charleston Area
Medical Center)

“In all of [these] interactions, the MidAtlantic AETC staff has demonstrated great resourcefulness, ingenuity, professionalism and a passionate commitment to improving HIV education and care services through our region.”

Timothy Friel, MD
(Chair, Department of Medicine
Lehigh Valley Health Network)

“The programs make a difference in a very real way to providers at all levels of experience – trainee to expert – and across all the many specialties that care for these very complex patients living with HIV...”

Margaret Hoffman-Terry, MD, FACP,
AAHIVS
(Infectious Disease Specialist, Lehigh Valley Health Network)

“The MAAETC has helped our organization in providing education to health care providers, not only in our local area, but also across our state. They provide continuing education for our multidisciplinary team at our weekly patient care conferences. We believe their expertise on HIV education, consultation, and technical assistance can be beneficial for our organization, especially the MAAETC’s emphasis on intersecting issues facing people living with HIV.”

Nasira Roidad, MD
(Medical Director, WVU Ryan White Positive Health Clinic)

“I greatly value the relationship that has developed [with the MAAETC] and look forward to further collaboration... the expertise on HIV education, consultation and technical assistance is beneficial for our clinic and the education of our residents, especially the MAAETC’s emphasis on intersecting issues facing people living with HIV.”

Britt Gayle, MD, MPH, AAHIVS
(Clinician Investigator, Assistant Professor, Institute of Human Virology Division of Infectious Diseases, University of Maryland)



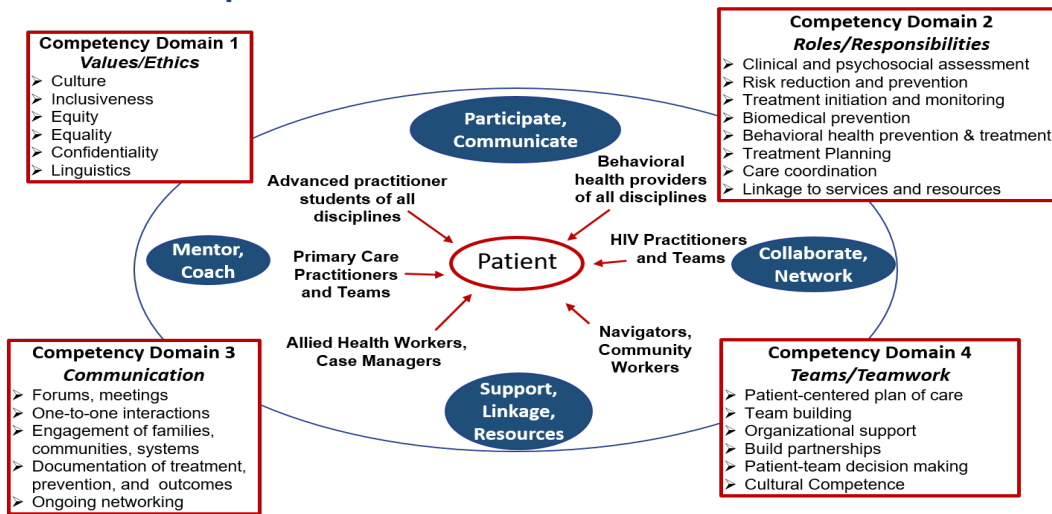
Minority AIDS Initiative

The AETCs recognize that HIV/AIDS have a disproportionate detrimental impact upon persons of color and other historically disenfranchised populations. The program emphasizes the training of minority clinicians and those serving minority and disenfranchised patients. The goal is to provide training, consultation and technical assistance using diverse educational modalities to increase competencies and build capacity of minority health professionals and providers serving minorities to improve quality of services, access to care, and enhance behavioral health integration. Extensive and tailored educational intervention is provided to clinics, programs, and healthcare facilities serving minority populations, including African-American, Hispanic/Latino, Asian, Appalachian, and transgender people. MidAtlantic AETC supports and encourages regional partner collaboration with community programs and local leaders to tailor and develop training in a culturally competent and sensitive approach, relevant to the populations being served.

CDC HIV Testing Recommendations

In recognition that 1 in 8 persons living with HIV are unaware of their diagnosis, the AETC actively supports the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC) recommendations for routine HIV testing. The AETC provides intensive educational and consultative interventions to initiate and improve the implementation and expansion of the CDC’s recommendations to establish HIV testing as a routine component of primary care. The program has particular emphasis on conducting training and consultation in primary care facilities including hospitals, emergency departments, community health centers, migrant health centers, labor and delivery services, and urgent-care facilities. The program offers consultation to regional agencies, and local health care leaders to increase HIV testing in all areas of our geographical region.

MidAtlantic AIDS Education & Training Center Interprofessional Collaborative Practice Model



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Practice Transformation (PT)

The AETC has identified regional areas of service gaps in under-served populations, inner cities, and rural areas and conducted capacity building for new and low volume HIV providers and to support existing primary care providers. Central to this work of capacity building is continuous quality improvement, based on approaches developed by the Health Resources and Services Administration's National Center for Quality Improvement and Innovation, faculty and staff expertise, and ability to establish and maintain relationships with administrative and clinical leadership of clinic sites. Practice Transformation is aimed at improving the ability and capacity of clinics and other health care settings to deliver high-quality, comprehensive, and efficient HIV primary care. MidAtlantic AETC is committed to assessing HIV care delivery systems, assisting in the development of customized processes and plans, providing individualized capacity building and education, and evaluating progress through quality improvement processes.

Interprofessional Education (IPE)

Practicing clinicians and health professions students must work interprofessionally to assure that care is provided in a manner that reduces costs, optimizes individual health outcomes, and enhances coordination, communication, and team functioning. The project goal for the MidAtlantic AETC Interprofessional Education Project is to assist in preparing new and current health and service-delivery professionals with interprofessional practice opportunities, skills, and approaches to improve patient and population health outcomes, increase the size and strength of the HIV clinical workforce. Students in the schools of dentistry, medicine, nursing, pharmacy, social work, and law are provided the opportunity to receive training in HIV testing, prevention, and treatment. The IPE Project utilizes existing academic and community partnerships for both service learning and skill-building learning experiences. (see model above)

"PACHC has enjoyed a long history of collaboration and partnership with the MidAtlantic AIDS Education and Training Center (MAAETC) as a supplier of valuable resources, trainings, and technical assistance as federally qualified health centers (FQHCs) strive to improve the HIV care continuum."

Cheri L. Rinehart
(President and CEO, Pennsylvania Association of Community Health Centers)

"I can't imagine how Pennsylvania and the MidAtlantic Region would have fared with the HIV epidemic without the commitment, skill and vision of the MidAtlantic AETC and staff. They are a resource that is innovative and reliable. Their outreach has connected many disparate groups who interface in the areas of therapeutics, education and policy."

Ellen M Tedaldi, MD, MACP
(Professor of Medicine, Director, Temple Comprehensive HIV Program)

"From the perspective of the overall Department of Medicine, the collaboration between MAAETC and our Ryan White Clinic has certainly enhanced the provision of HIV care to patients in West Virginia as well as helped with keeping our staff and faculty members up to date on most recent guidelines and treatment protocols in a continuously evolving field."

Arif R. Sarwari, MD, MSc, MBA,
(Dr. Edmund B. Fink Chair of Internal Medicine, West Virginia University)

Teaching Methods

The MidAtlantic AETC offers intensive training geared to the provider's base knowledge and unique clinical setting. Fighting HIV – a disease in which treatment evolves quickly – requires constant updates, not only on the pathogenesis of the disease, but also on rapidly evolving diagnosis, treatment, and prevention strategies. Programs, taught by expert, interprofessional faculty, provide health professionals with the latest information on tested, state-of-the-art, “best practice” interventions and clinical guidelines. Because health care delivery systems vary by locale, the MidAtlantic AETC customizes programs to ensure that their information is relevant in each regional site. Training is classified by modality, with the training modality selected according to the training content, recommendation of expert faculty, and trainee preferences and needs. Trainings may be offered as an in-person, live event or as a distance-based event, occurring by telephone or internet, either live or recorded.

Didactic Training: The format for the training primarily includes lectures, but may also include panel discussions, self-instructional materials, journal clubs, webinars and teleconferences. Programs vary in length from one-hour lectures to full-day conferences.

Interactive, Skill-Building Training: Teaching consists of interactive skill-building activities characterized by trainee participation that may include discussion of cases supplied by trainees/trainer, role-play, simulated patients, train-the-trainer, and other activities.

Communities of Practice: A community of practice consists of a group of health professionals who share knowledge to develop a shared, best practice. The MidAtlantic AETC convenes health professionals and groups to share and disseminate knowledge and best practices at regional collaborative meetings, state-wide HIV planning groups, and other venues, including online venues hosted via distance technology and the MidAtlantic AETC Learner Education and Practice Portal.

Clinical Preceptorships: Custom-designed clinical experiences are offered to physicians, nurses, advanced practice nurses, dentists, and physician assistants. Programs are tailored to fit the educational objectives of each provider. Clinical mini-residencies are aimed at improving clinicians' abilities to provide the current standards of care and best clinical practices in HIV prevention and treatment. The clinical training programs offer case-driven learning experiences that include topics such as antiretroviral regimens, diagnosis and treatment of opportunistic infections, comprehensive care, and HIV primary care. These programs are typically one to three days in length, are held in diverse settings ranging from urban hospitals to rural clinics to private practices, and are taught by leading HIV/AIDS clinical experts. The MidAtlantic AETC uses principles of evidence-based practice and bolsters what is taught through consultation, both on site and using distance-based learning technology methods.

Clinical Consultation: A MidAtlantic AETC clinical expert provides patient care-specific consultation to health care professionals. Trainees may seek counsel on patient specific clinical questions via telephone or email. Consultation is also offered at a trainee's clinical site or in groups. During normal business hours, center headquarters and regional partners may be reached at a toll-free number. Outside of these hours, they are linked to the AETC National Clinician Consultation Center, which provides consultations via the Warmline (live, on-call clinical consultation), Post Exposure Prophylaxis line (PEpline), pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEpline), and the Perinatal Hotline.

Coaching for Organizational Capacity Building: Activities include quality management, organizational, and administrative support. This also includes coaching on workflow and clinic policies and procedures. These all assist in building clinical capacity, and improving the core system at the individual, clinic, or institutional level.

Appreciation to Our Government Partners

The work of the MidAtlantic AETC would not be possible without the support of various governmental organizations and other outside sources. The main source of funding for the MidAtlantic AETC is provided through a cooperative agreement with the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), HIV/AIDS Bureau, Office of HIV/AIDS Training and Capacity Development through the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program.

In addition, funding is provided to both local and state governments to expand the MidAtlantic AETC's abilities and scope in reaching primary medical care and support services, reaching health care providers to offer training, and providing ongoing consultation and technical assistance.

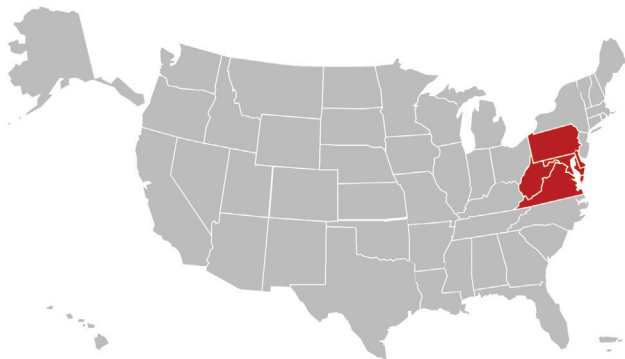
Center Headquarters

University of Pittsburgh

Graduate School of Public Health
Department of Infectious Diseases and Microbiology
130 DeSoto Street, A226
Pittsburgh, PA 15261

Linda Rose Frank, PhD, MSN, ACRN, FAAN
Principal Investigator/Executive Director
Professor of Public Health, Medicine, and Nursing
Phone: 412-624-1895 Fax: 412-624-4767

Regional Partner Training Sites



Delaware Regional Partner

The Delaware Regional Partner is part of ChristianaCare, one of the region's largest not-for-profit health care providers with five clinical sites in the state.

ChristianaCare

Wilmington Hospital Annex
Gateway Building, 6th Floor
501 W 14th Street
Wilmington, DE 19801
Phone: 302-320-1404 Fax: 302-320-1373

Maryland Regional Partners

The Johns Hopkins University Regional Partner is an urban medical center providing HIV care to those who are indigent or subsisting on minimal resources and services provided through the University AIDS Service and the John G. Bartlett Specialty Practice.

Johns Hopkins University

School of Nursing
855 N. Wolfe Street, Suite 601, Room 604
Baltimore, MD 21205
Phone: 443-287-4779 Fax: 443-873-5037

The University of Maryland, Baltimore Regional Partner is an urban medical center providing HIV care through the Institute of Human Virology.

University of Maryland, Baltimore

Institute of Human Virology
22 South Greene Street, Box 175
Baltimore, MD 21201
Phone: 410-706-4613 Fax: 410-706-4619

University of Maryland Dental School

650 West Baltimore Street, 7 North
Baltimore, MD 21201
Phone: 410-706-7628 Fax: 410-706-0519

District of Columbia Regional Partner

The Howard University Regional Partner is located directly across the street from Howard University Hospital. It serves the four quadrants of the District of Columbia.

Howard University, College of Pharmacy

2300 4th Street NW
Washington, DC 20059
Phone: 202-806-0220 Fax: 202-806-4478

Pennsylvania Regional Partners

With an academic affiliation with Drexel University College of Medicine and School of Public Health, the Philadelphia Regional Partner, housed at the Health Federation of Philadelphia, provides training to health care professionals in eastern Pennsylvania.

Health Federation of Philadelphia

123 South Broad Street, Suite 650
Philadelphia, PA 19109
Phone: 215-557-2101 Fax: 215-246-5212

The Pittsburgh Regional Partner at the University of Pittsburgh, Graduate School of Public Health and the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center responds to the unique training needs of both urban and rural providers in western and central Pennsylvania and also serves as headquarters for the MidAtlantic AETC.

University of Pittsburgh

Graduate School of Public Health
Department of Infectious Diseases and Microbiology
130 Desoto Street, A226
Pittsburgh, PA 15261
Phone: 412-624-1895 Fax: 412-624-4767

Virginia Regional Partners

The Inova Regional Partner, which serves northern and northwest Virginia, is housed at the Inova Juniper Program. The Inova Juniper Program is the largest provider of HIV care in northern Virginia.

Inova Health System

Juniper Program
2740 Prosperity Ave, Suite 200
Fairfax, VA 22031
Phone: 703-321-2577 Fax: 703-204-9034

The Virginia Commonwealth University Regional Partner, located in Richmond, is housed at the HIV/AIDS Center, a hub of clinical, research, educational, and support services that covers central and eastern Virginia.

Virginia Commonwealth University

HIV/AIDS Center
1200 East Broad Street, Room 3-222
Richmond, VA 23298-0147
Phone: 804-828-2430 Fax: 804-828-1795

West Virginia Regional Partner

West Virginia University serves as the regional partner for the entire state of West Virginia.

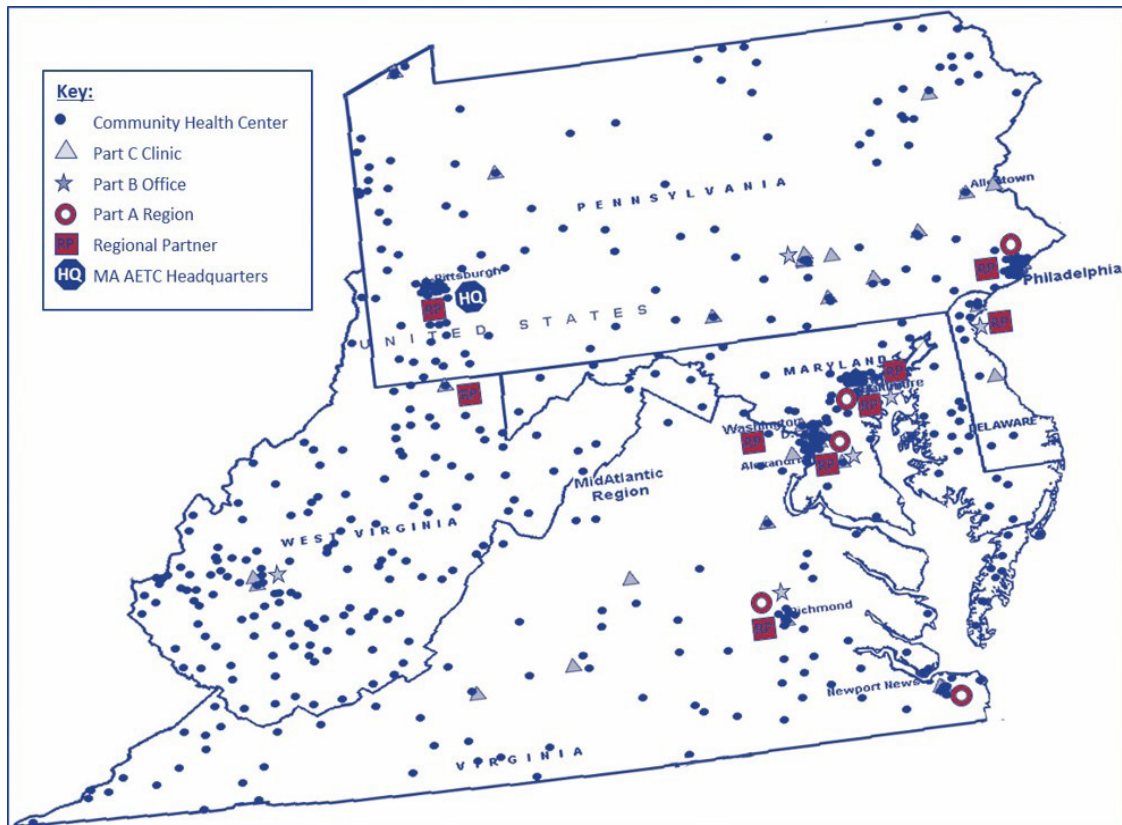
West Virginia University

Department of Medicine
Section of Infectious Diseases
1 Medical Center Dr., Room 2180
P.O. Box 9183
Morgantown, WV 26506-9163
Phone: 304-293-3305 Fax: 304-293-2608

Community Partners

US Public Health Service Region 3 Office
 Mid-Atlantic Training Collaborative for Health and Human Services (MATCHHS)
 Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program Part A, B, C, D, and F
 Special Projects of National Significance
 Community and Migrant Health Centers
 State and Local Health Departments
 State Offices of Rural Health
 Hospitals and Clinics
 Women's Health Centers
 Prisons and Jails
 Community-Based Organizations
 AIDS Service Organizations
 Historically Black Colleges and Universities
 Regional Colleges and Universities

Health Professional Associations
 Rural Health System and Clinics
 Substance Use Treatment Programs
 Managed CARE Organizations
 Veterans Affairs Hospitals and Clinics
 Adolescent Treatment Programs
 Faith-Based Communities
 Addiction Technology Transfer Centers
 Area Health Education Centers
 Geriatric Workforce Enhancement Program
 Primary Care Associations
 Public Health Training Centers
 STD/HIV Prevention Training Centers
 Telehealth Resource Centers
 Behavioral Health Workforce Education and Training Centers





www.maaetc.org

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