

What are NY Links Regional Groups?

NYLinks regional groups consist of HIV clinical, service and prevention providers within a geographic area who, together with community members living with HIV and public health professionals, collaborate to end HIV transmission and HIV-related mortality. Using modern improvement science and local epidemiological data, these groups aim to improve linkage to and retention in HIV primary care, to optimize viral load suppression and to improve both individual and community health outcomes.

VISION

The number of new HIV infections, HIV-related mortality and corresponding community viral burden will be reduced throughout New York State.

MISSION

NY Links addresses community needs and statewide priorities through enhanced collaboration and integration of quality improvement methodology among agencies and programs that provide HIV services to decrease gaps in the HIV care cascade as part of the New York State initiative to end AIDS.

MAJOR STRATEGIES

NY Links Regional Groups will reduce the transmission of HIV across New York State by:

1. Implementing a community-based response to the HIV epidemic by mobilizing networks of clinical and non-clinical providers, community leaders, and community members living with or affected by HIV/AIDS.
2. Aligning programs, providers and the community to address the goals of New York State to end the HIV epidemic through shared, local leadership and with technical support from state and local health departments.
3. Building capacity for quality improvement in the region, identifying and disseminating successful interventions within the continuum of HIV services and sustaining the achieved regional results.
4. Using community level data to link public health strategies with clinic and service level improvement initiatives.

DESIRED OUTCOMES

1. Disparities in outcomes and access to care will be identified and reduced.
2. Strategies to engage members of the most vulnerable and disenfranchised populations will be improved.
3. Those newly diagnosed with HIV will be linked to clinical care within 30 days.
4. HIV+ patients will be retained in care, following recommendations from current public health guidelines to assure that they receive necessary medical care to ensure optimal health outcomes.
5. HIV service providers in each region will be engaged in NYLINKS Regional Groups as part of the community-wide initiative to end the HIV epidemic.
6. Self-management skills will be promoted among HIV+ patients to increase self-efficacy and problem-solving skills to find the most effective ways to increase treatment and medication adherence and ultimately increase rates of viral load suppression.