



PUBLIC HEALTH IS WHERE YOU ARE!



PUBLIC HEALTH WEEK

April 4 - 8, 2022

DAY 4: Plaza Health Outreach and Resource Fair

Plaza Mexico
3100 E Imperial Hwy,
Lynwood, CA 90262

Thursday, April 7, 2022, 11:00 am – 4:00 pm

HIV/STD Street Outreach Rationale

Public Health Week offers the opportunity to draw attention to persistent public health and social issues impacting Los Angeles County (LAC). Los Angeles County continues to experience elevated rates of Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) and a growing sexually transmitted disease (STD) crisis.

HIV Data: Although we continue to see declines in the number of new HIV infections each year (approximately 1,200 in 2021), there is also a growing number of persons living with HIV (PLWH) as life expectancy continues to increase. There are an estimated 57,000 PLWH in LAC, with approximately 91% of people are aware of their HIV-positive status, and 9% of the total (5,100) unaware of their status. In 2021, the majority of PLWH were male (90%), a smaller fraction were female (9%) and an even smaller fraction identified as male-to-female transgender followed by female-to-male transgender. Persons with transgender experience remain among the most disproportionately impacted sub-populations in LAC. There are continued disparities in HIV diagnosis by population and location. Across age groups, young men aged 20-29 years and women aged 30-39 years had the highest rates of new HIV diagnosis. Black men and women had higher rates of HIV diagnosis compared with other racial/ethnic groups.

STD Data: The highest ever annual reported cases of syphilis, congenital syphilis, and gonorrhea reported in 2021. This trend is consistent with the rise in STD rates over the last decade across the U.S., California, and Los Angeles County. Among the most troubling STD-related increases over the last decade has been those tied to congenital syphilis. From 2010 through 2020, the number of congenital syphilis cases increased from 7 to 122 cases, largely among newborns born to Latinx (48%) and African-American (32%) pregnant persons. The rise in congenital syphilis continues to be tied to an overall increase in cases among males and associated increases among females of childbearing age.

Health and Social Inequities: As with the COVID-19 pandemic, the HIV and STD epidemics have disproportionately impacted communities across racial and geographic lines. Social inequities (beyond those tied to health care access and quality), including but not limited to economic stability, education access and quality, neighborhood and built environment, and social and community factors, have influenced the trajectory of the HIV and STD epidemics over time. More recently, these factors have contributed to increases in HIV and syphilis among women of color, pregnant women, newborns, persons who inject drugs and persons experiencing methamphetamine use disorder.

A comprehensive HIV and STD prevention and control response must acknowledge and address these factors across a broader set of sectors and with more depth. LAC invests in and supports a network of community-based and County-based service providers to prevent, treat, and control the spread of HIV and STDs, using epidemiological surveillance, evidence-based programs, and policies that promote health. On April 7, 2022, this outreach event in Lynwood will offer an opportunity for community members to receive and learn about available resources and services.

Lynwood Outreach Event

The Department of Public Health will be joined by WeCanStopSTDs.org/Project Fierce and Audacy for a street outreach event at Plaza Mexico in Lynwood on Thursday, April 7, 2022, from 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM. This event will include Public Health's Mobile Testing Unit, offering free home HIV rapid test kits, condoms, and information on free HIV, STD, and sexual health services.

For more information on this street outreach event including a calendar of events please visit <http://ph.lacounty.gov/phweek/>

