

Presentation to CHIPO-NYC

# *New York Knows*

## Immigrant Health Alliance (IHA)

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*Envisioning a New York City without transmission or illness related to viral hepatitis, HIV, and sexually transmitted infections.*

# Today's Presentation

- *New York Knows*
  - Goals and Guiding Principles
- Immigrant Health Alliance Mission
- Background
- Activities and Challenges
- Moving Forward

# New York Knows



- ***New York Knows*** is a partnership between the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (NYC DOHMH) and community-based organizations, community health centers, hospitals, colleges and universities, faith-based organizations, pharmacies, and businesses. One of the largest HIV, hepatitis, and sexually transmitted infection (STI) testing and prevention initiatives in the nation, it aims to help all NYC residents learn their HIV status and take full advantage of the city's care and prevention services

# New York Knows Goals & Guiding Principles



Provide a voluntary HIV test for every New Yorker who has never been tested



Identify undiagnosed people with HIV and link them to care.



Connect people who test negative for HIV to prevention services, including pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP).



Promote hepatitis and STI testing.

## Guiding Principles

1. Community engagement harnesses community voices and interests for better outcomes
2. Together we can achieve more than alone
3. Testing is the gateway to treatment and prevention and is also a vital step in ending the epidemic

# Immigrant Health Alliance's (IHA) Mission

The *New York Knows* Immigrant Health Alliance (IHA)'s mission is to optimize the welfare of immigrant communities in NYC by improving health outcomes in HIV, hepatitis, sexually transmitted infections, COVID-19 and other relevant health concerns, while recognizing that socio-economic determinants of health are sustained by structural inequalities.

# Immigrant Health Alliance (IHA): External Factors

- Increased urgency as a result of new developments in federal immigration policies
- Complex needs and challenges in immigrant communities
  - Changing demographics
  - Socio-determinants of health
  - Culture, language, religion
- Possible erosion of the so called “immigrant health advantage”
  - Concerning outcomes pertaining to certain health conditions among some immigrant communities

# Immigrant Health Alliance (IHA): Background & IHA Formation

- Relunched in 2019
- Transitioned in 2020 to online programming due to COVID-19 pandemic
  - Meetings
  - Workgroups
  - Webinars
- Formalized goals and objectives and body elected community co-chairs

# IHA's Goals and Activities

- Provide framework for resource sharing, discussion of best practices and gaps and networking
  - Monthly meetings
  - Ad hoc thematic meetings
- Provide information on immigration policy
  - Webinars
  - Presentations and legal/policy updates
- Provide expert subject matter presentations
- Epidemiology and health conditions among immigrant populations
- Support community engagement events and capacity-building efforts
  - Partner event support
  - HIV Awareness Days

# Results of the 2021 Community Health Survey (CHS): A Spotlight On Immigrant New Yorkers

A webinar that relied on the nationally-respected New York Community survey to create an analysis on the health of immigrant New Yorkers

Data presented included:

Overall health of New Yorkers born outside of the United States (e.g. morbidity, mortality, life expectancy, and more)

- Health outcomes impacting New Yorkers born outside of the United States (e.g. cancer, diabetes, cardio-vascular diseases, HIV, mental health, maternal health, and more)
- Access to health care coverage and resources (including primary care, HIV prevention services – HIV Testing and PrEP, mental health, and more)

A recording of the webinar can be found a:

<https://www2.pardot.health.nyc.gov/e/944933/gwh18d7lmWQU4-AhsB9AobguUdNw-g/mrp53/279341675?h=6B4M2HzSW-KPgnKaO6UBkJvvialygbkKQEPcjb6BSUQ>

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# IHA Programmatic Activities (IHA): Challenges

- COVID-19 pandemic put a hiatus to in-person events
- Administrative and procurement challenges
- Engagement can be challenging

# IHA Programmatic Activities (IHA): Opportunities and Next Steps

- Expand number of partnerships and provide content relevant to partners' needs
- Establish innovative strategies to support partner agencies with the recent influx of newly arrivals and migrants
- Share survey to determine shifts in clients profile, challenges, partners needs and IHA's future events
- Create future learning opportunities



Questions?

*New York Knows* Immigrant Health Alliance Co-Leads

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