

Ending the Epidemic Update on Implementing the NYS Blueprint in Upstate New York



A perspective by Perry Junjulas, MBA

Albany Damien Center Executive Director & Person with AIDS

A Little About Me

- Diagnosed with AIDS in 1995 at age 29
- Executive Director of The Albany Damien Center since 1999.
- Served on the Governor's **Ending the Epidemic Task Force** in 2014-2015 and co-chaired the Task Force's **Housing & Supportive Services Subcommittee**
- Continue to serve on the **Ending the Epidemic Community Coalition** and **AIDS Advisory Council's ETE Subcommittee**
- Current Co-Chair of the **Capital Region ETE Steering Committee**



Damien Center Mission

To enhance the lives of people affected by HIV/AIDS in an affirming environment and to reduce new infections in the communities we serve.

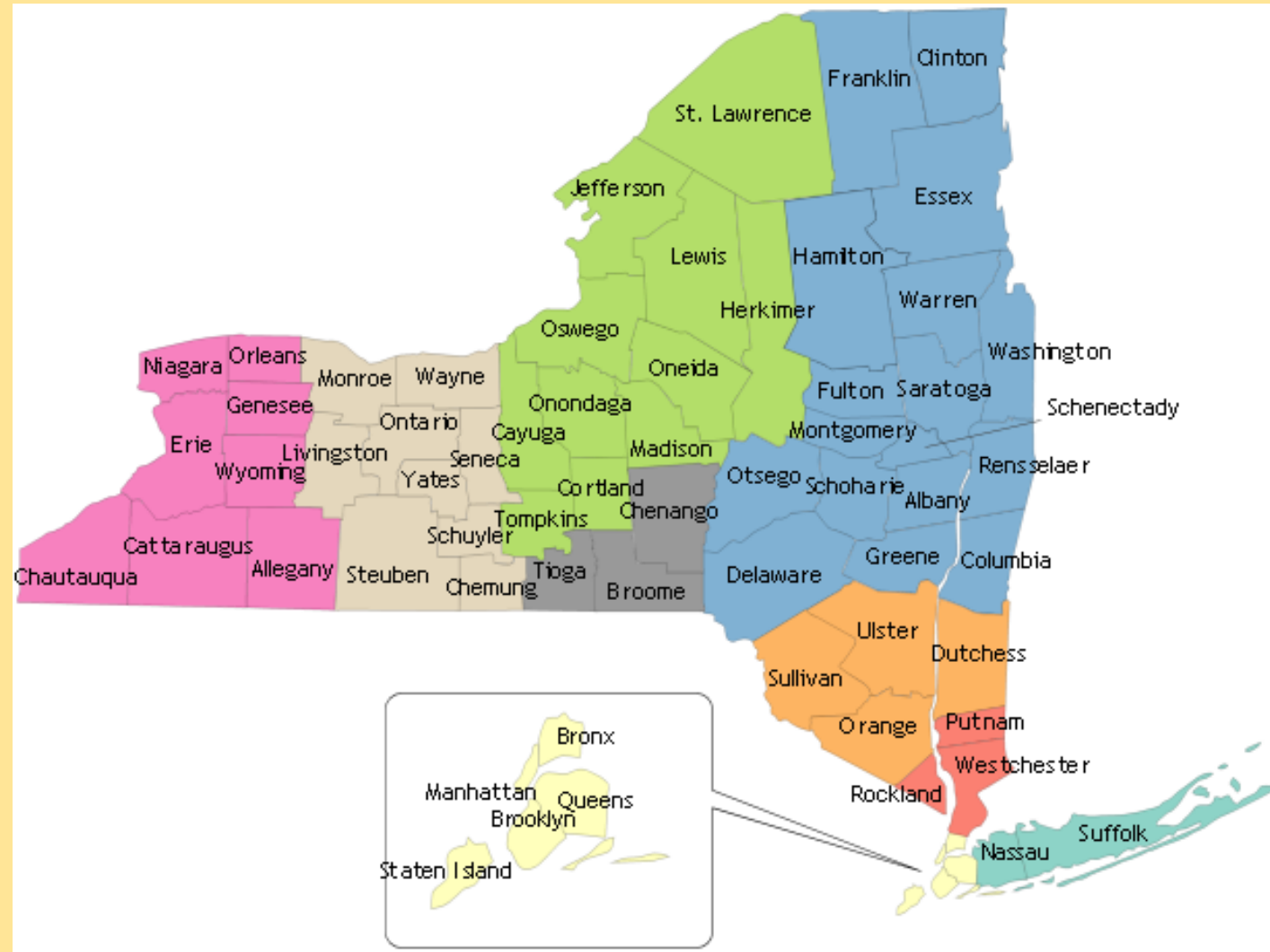
We serve the 17 county upstate Northeastern NY Region including Albany, Clinton, Columbia, Delaware, Essex, Franklin, Fulton, Green, Hamilton, Montgomery, Otsego, Rensselaer, Saratoga, Schenectady, Schoharie, Warren, and Washington Counties.



62 New York State Counties

HIV infections:

- NYC: 75% (5 counties)
- Rest Of State (ROS): 25% (57 counties)



Contextual Factors

New HIV infections do not happen in isolation, but rather come tied to numerous contextual factors. Scientific evidence as well as input from Task Force members has identified a number of these factors including:

- **Poor health care**, which includes: lack of access to medications, condoms, or clean syringes, no medical insurance; untrained or culturally incompetent medical providers, lack of health support (peer navigators, medication adherence support), no easy access to HIV/STI (sexually transmitted infection) screening, lack of confidential services, delay from testing to linkage to care, lack of health and sexual education
- **Poverty**, which includes: a lack of housing, food insufficiency, unemployment/underemployment, survival sex, work and inequality, which includes: incarceration, undocumented status, stigmatization, disempowerment, discrimination, bullying, penalization of condom carriers, domestic violence, unfair drug laws.
- **Mental health problems**, such as: depression, substance abuse, impulsivity, fatalism, disengagement, religious, guilt, cognitive problems, history of traumatic experiences,
- **Geographic disadvantage**, which includes: engaging in risk behavior in areas with high HIV prevalence

NYS HIV Care Outcome Measures

ROS vs. NYC

LINKAGE TO CARE WITHIN 30 DAYS OF DIAGNOSIS

Region Same for Rest Of State (ROS) and NYC (75%, respectively);

LINKAGE TO CARE WITHIN 91 DAYS OF DIAGNOSIS

Region ROS (88%) > NYC (86%);

ANY CARE

Region NYC (82%) > ROS (76%);

CONTINUOUS CARE

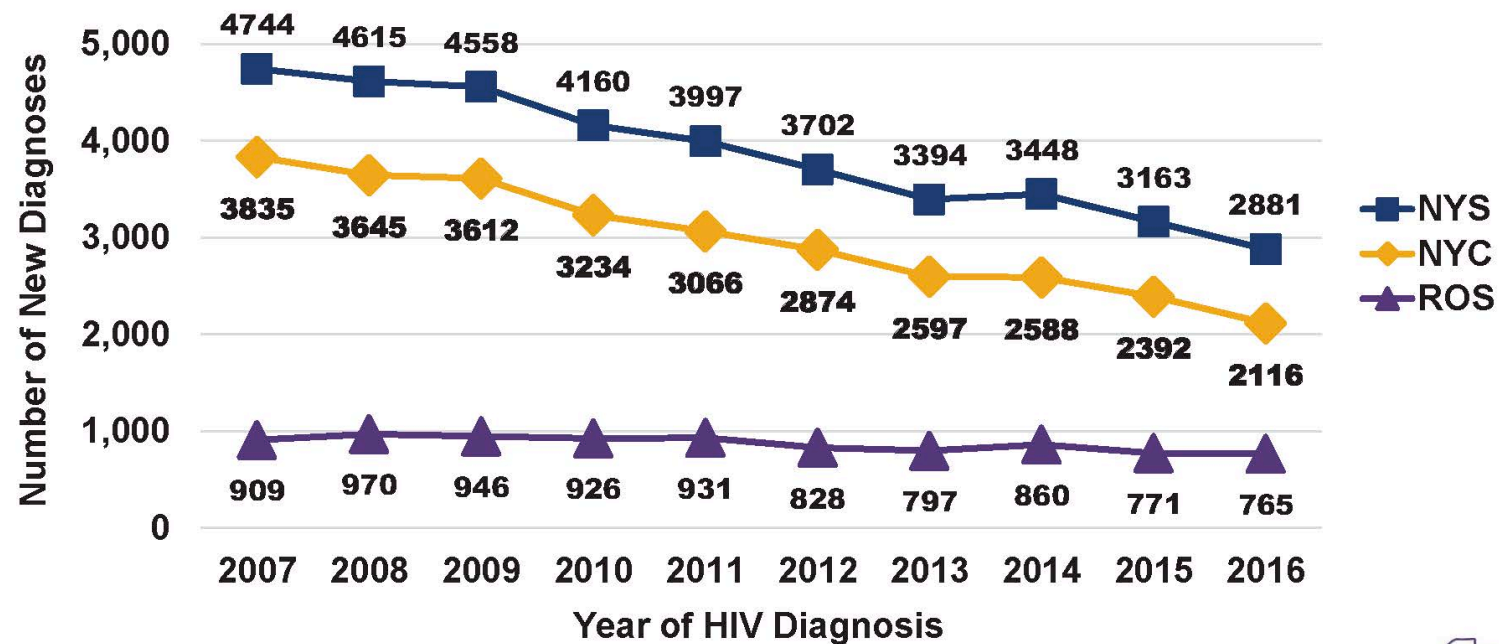
Region NYC (67%) > ROS (60%);

VIRAL SUPPRESSION

Region NYC (70%) > ROS (68%)

Source: Ending The Epidemic Progress Report March 2018 https://www.governor.ny.gov/sites/governor.ny.gov/files/atoms/files/Executive_Summary_2018_.pdf

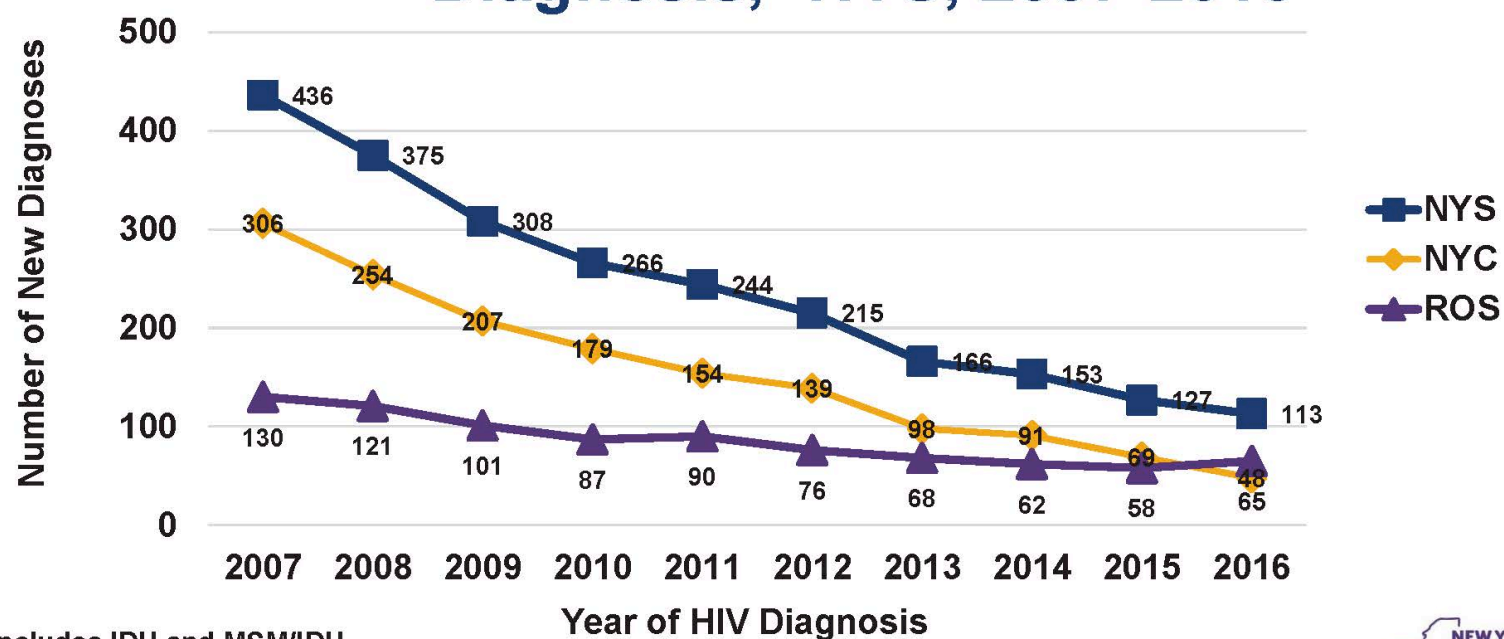
Persons Newly Diagnosed with HIV Infection by Residence at Diagnosis,¹ NYS, 2007-2016*



¹Region of Residence at Diagnosis

*Data as of September 2017

Persons with Injection Drug Use History,¹ Newly Diagnosed with HIV Infection by Residence at Diagnosis,² NYS, 2007-2016*



¹Includes IDU and MSM/IDU

²Region of Residence at Diagnosis

*Data as of September 2017

Upstate Successes in Implementation

- Regional ETE Steering Committees are meeting regularly
- Sharing of best practices between NYC and ROS
- On-going Community Coalition and Legislative Committee calls
- Legislative advocacy and education provided by NYC agencies
- All funding sources now emphasize ETE Blueprint strategies
- Agencies, such as the Damien Center, are tying the Blueprint strategies in their strategic plans and directions.

Upstate Challenges in Implementation

- Resource\$! NYC has benefitted greatly by heavy investments by NYC counties.
- Agencies transition to health homes creating provider strains
- HIV primary care shortages
- Geographic dispersement of the 25%
- Low turnout for consistent legislative education and advocacy due to a lack of upstate agencies that can dedicate time for visits.
- And finally not least, but may be most is - Stigma – Stigma - Stigma

To Get to 2020

- Increase resources dedicated to upstate areas from both governmental and also private sources
- Increasing communication between upstate regional planning groups
- A focus on anti-stigma practices and campaigns in both HIV and non-HIV settings
- Develop new creative partnerships with existing agencies

THANK YOU

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World AIDS Day Ribbon Cutting
for the NEW Albany Damien Center on Dec 1, 2017