

Stronger Together Against HIV: Breaking Barriers & Empowering Advocacy

Tuesday, August 12 | 1 p.m. ET



Moderator: Indira Islas, MPH
Director, Government Affairs & Policy
National Hispanic Medical Association



JP Hernández Esq., MBA
Senior National Manager
Coalition for Justice and Equality Across
Movements, NMAC



Angel Vogel
Trans Advocate, LGBTQIA Resource Center
UC Davis



Karla Quezada-Torres
HIV Senior Prevention Specialist
Gilead Sciences, San Diego Territory

Moderator



Indira Islas, MPH

Government Affairs & Policy Director

National Hispanic Medical Association

Housekeeping Items

- **Microphones:** All participant microphones are muted. The webinar will begin with introductions and opening remarks by our moderators, followed by presentations from each speaker. ***Please submit any questions in the Q&A box for discussion.***
- **Recording & Resources:** All registrants will receive a link to the event recording after its conclusion. Additionally, it will be accessible on NHMAMD.org and our YouTube channel.

About NHMA

Established in 1994 in DC, the National Hispanic Medical Association (NHMA) is a 501(c)(6) non-partisan, non-profit membership association representing the interests of 50,000 licensed Hispanic physicians in the United States.

The **vision** of the organization is to be the national leader in improving the health of Hispanic populations.

The **mission** of the organization is to empower Hispanic physicians to lead efforts to improve the health of Hispanic and other underserved populations in collaboration with Hispanic state medical societies, residents, medical students, and other public and private sector partners.



Today's Panel



Juan Pablo (JP) Hernandez

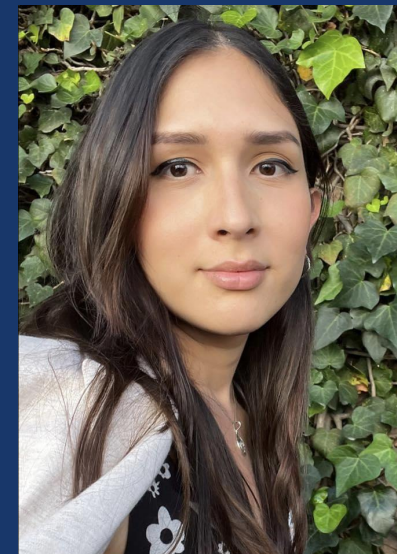
Senior National Coalition Manager

**NMAC's Coalition for Justice and Equality Across
Movements**



Karla Quezada-Torres

*HIV Senior Prevention Specialist – San Diego &
Imperial Counties
Gilead Sciences*



Angel Vogel

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University of California, Davis



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Stronger Together Against HIV: Breaking Barriers & Empowering Advocacy

Juan Pablo Hernández, Esq., MBA
Sr. National Coalition Manager, NMAC



Who We Are: **NMAC**

- National leader advancing health equity for communities of color since 1987.
- Founded to amplify the voices of people of color in the HIV response.
- Combines policy, leadership development, treatment support, and community engagement.
- Co-founder of the Partnership to End HIV, STDs, and Hepatitis (2016).
- Deep belief in the power of partnerships to drive systemic change.

Advocacy in Action: **Coalition for Justice & Equality Across Movements**

- Launched in January 2023, building on decades of NMAC coalition work.
- Extends advocacy beyond the HIV movement to meet rising, interconnected threats to health, safety, and civil rights.
- Unites national advocacy orgs across racial justice, LGBTQ+ rights, women's rights, immigration, aging, and more.
- Builds collective power to advance an intersectional legislative agenda centered on our most vulnerable communities.
- Mobilizes through shared strategy, coordinated messaging, and movement-based solidarity.

The Coalition for **JUSTICE & EQUALITY** Across Movements

Abounding Prosperity
Academy of Hope Adult Public Charter Schools
ACLU
Advocates for Trans Equality
AIDS United
Albuquerque Area Indian Health Board
Albuquerque Indian Health Board
Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc
American Medical Association Foundation
Arab American Institute
Asian and Pacific Islander Health Forum
Association of Nurses in AIDS Care

Bienestar

Black and Pink National
Black Girls Vote
Black Lives Matter
Black Public Health Academy
Black Women's Health Imperative
Black Women's Learning Institute
Black Women's Agenda
California Donor Table
Center Link

Coai, Inc.

Conference of National Black Churches
Continental Societies, Inc.
Creating Healthier Communities
Criminal Justice Expert

CRP, Incorporated
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.
Equal Rights Coalition
Equality Federation
Equity & Impact Solutions
ERA Coalition
ERA Coalition/Fund for Women Equality
ETR
Family Equality
Farmworker Justice
Foundations for Living
Friends Outside
Funders Concerned About AIDS (FCAA)
GATE (Global Action for Trans Equality)
Gilead Sciences
GLMA: Health Professionals Advancing LGBTQ Equality
Global Trans Equity Project
Harris-Stowe State University
Hawaii'i Health and Harm Reduction
Houston Health Department Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS (PACHA)
Howard University Student Association
Human Rights Campaign
Jack and Jill of America, Inc.
Kelley Drye & Warren LLP
Kumukahi Health

La Clínica del Pueblo

LA LGBT Center
Lady BurAndy
Lambda Legal

Latino Commission on AIDS Latinos Salud

Lavender Rights Project
Lavender Rights Project; National
Black Association LGBTQ Division
LGBTQ Victory Fund

LULAC

M Pact Global Action
MercerWELL
My Brothers Keeper
NAACP
NASTAD
National Abortion Federation
National Action Network Washington Bureau
National Association of Black Journalists
National Black Justice Coalition
National Center for Lesbian Rights
National Center for Trans Equality
National Coalition of 100 Black Women
National Coalition of American Indians
National Coalition of STD Directors
National Council of Negro Women
National Council of Urban Indian Health
National Council on Aging
National Epicureans, Inc.

National Hispanic Medical Association

National LGBTQ Task Force
National LGBTQ+ Bar Association
National Medical Association
National Organization for Women
National Trans Visibility March
National Urban League
National Wildlife Federation
NCAAN

Norfolk State University
O'Neill Institute
Planned Parenthood Action Fund
Planned Parenthood Federation of America
Positive Resource Center
Positive Women's Network, USA
Ribbon
Sage USA
San Francisco AIDS Foundation
Sister Love
Social Security Works
Southern AIDS Coalition
Southern Planes Tribal Health Board
Southern Poverty Law Center
Structural Health Dynamics LLC; HVTN Faith Ambassador
The AIDS Institute
The Girl Friends, Inc.
The MOLES
The Oneil Institute, Georgetown University Law
The Savoy Group
The Trevor Project

The Wall- Las Memorias Project

The Williams Institute UCLA School of Law
Trans Women of Color Collective (TWOCC) (Healing Project)
Transcanwork
Transgender Law Center

TransLatina Coalition

UC San Diego School of Medicine
United Way

Waves Ahead

Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc.

The Landscape We Are Navigating

- Advocacy is unfolding in a hostile political climate with escalating anti-LGBTQ+, anti-immigrant, and anti-public health legislation.
- Policy attacks range from restrictions on gender-affirming care and reproductive rights to immigration crackdowns and cuts to safety-net programs.
- These measures directly shape how we fund, communicate, and deliver services - and who feels safe accessing them.
- Misinformation and political polarization make it harder to build consensus, increasing the urgency for trusted messengers and community-driven advocacy.
- Strategy and solidarity are essential: we build power through collective action rooted in justice, equity, and community resilience.

Community-Led Insights: **Barriers & Opportunities from the GMoC Fellowship**

- Led by NMAC's Treatment Division; focused on gay & bisexual men of color.
- Participatory action research: community-led focus groups + surveys, grounded in lived experience.
- Findings highlight persistent barriers to PrEP access - from stigma to cost - and opportunities for culturally competent, community-driven solutions.
- Ideal access: PrEP integrated into routine care, free/affordable, offered in stigma-free, culturally affirming spaces.
- Emphasized community-led strategies: peer outreach, trusted messengers, and targeted education campaigns.

The Barriers We're Up Against

- Structural racism, xenophobia, and anti-LGBTQ+ policies undermine HIV prevention and care.
- Limited provider knowledge about HIV prevention tools like PrEP and PEP.
- Healthcare systems that are often inaccessible: long waits, poor follow-up, and limited clinic hours.
- Stigma and fear of disclosure discourage people from seeking care.
- Financial barriers: gaps in insurance coverage, prior authorizations, and out-of-pocket costs.

Systemic Barriers Impacting HIV Care

- **Stigma:** societal, internalized, and institutional stigma around HIV and sexual health.
- **Discrimination:** bias based on race, sexual orientation, gender identity, or immigration status.
- **Insurance challenges:** denials for PrEP, lack of Medicaid expansion, gaps in Medicare coverage.
- **Mistrust in healthcare systems** - often rooted in lived experiences of neglect or harm.
- **Structural policies** that limit access for immigrants, transgender people, and low-income patients.

How Social Determinants of Health Shape Outcomes

- Health outcomes are shaped by the environments and circumstances people experience throughout life – from birth to old age – and are influenced by the policies, programs and systems that impact those conditions.
- Housing stability, employment, income, and education directly influence HIV outcomes.
- Transportation, clinic location, and work schedules impact ability to access care.
- Language access and cultural competency remain inconsistent in healthcare settings.
- Social class and affordability: cost of care disproportionately burdens lower-income and older individuals.
- GMoC data shows mistrust and systemic exclusion compound these inequities for BIPOC LGBTQ+ communities.

Breaking Barriers in Practice

- Investing in BIPOC - and trans-led organizations with targeted capacity building.
- Creating safe, stigma-free spaces for care - like community-based PrEP access points.
- Providing legal clinics, Know Your Rights resources, and advocacy toolkits.
- Building peer-led outreach networks that connect patients to affirming providers.
- Coordinating cross-sector advocacy to challenge harmful laws and policies.

What Works: Navigating a Hostile Political Climate

- Aligning across movements - racial justice, LGBTQ+ rights, immigration, women's rights.
- Rapid response systems: sign-on letters, petitions, coordinated advocacy pushes.
- Accessible resources: toolkits, policy briefings, and messaging guides for advocates.
- Centering community stories to humanize the impact of policies.
- Leveraging national-local partnerships to protect and expand access to care.

Strategic Messaging in a Polarized Climate

- Frame issues in ways decision-makers can hear: cost, systems, outcomes.
- Tailor language without compromising values or mission.
- Use local data: demographics, coverage rates, cost implications of inaction.
- Elevate patient and provider voices - stories drive empathy and urgency.
- Avoid jargon; focus on tangible impacts for communities.

2025 USCHA September 4-7

Marriott Marquis Washington, DC
nmac.org/uscha #2025USCHA

PRESENTED BY
NMAC
Ending the HIV Epidemic



Aging
with
HIV

Let's Connect & Build Together



50% over 50+

PrEP

1981

Launched and Open for Registration! nmac.org/uscha

NMAC
Ending the HIV Epidemic



Karla Quezada-Torres

*HIV Senior Prevention Specialist – San Diego &
Imperial Counties*

Gilead Sciences

Community-Based Advocacy: Advancing Health Equity in HIV Prevention Efforts



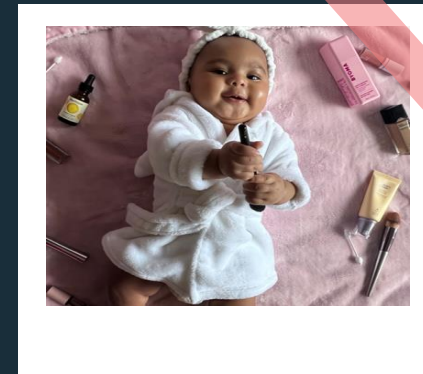
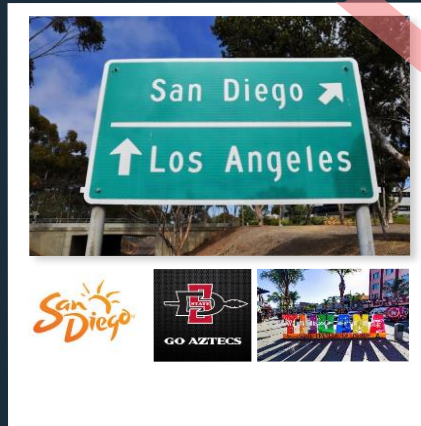
Presented by Karla Quezada-Torres (She/Ella)

HIV Prevention Specialist | Community Health Advocate

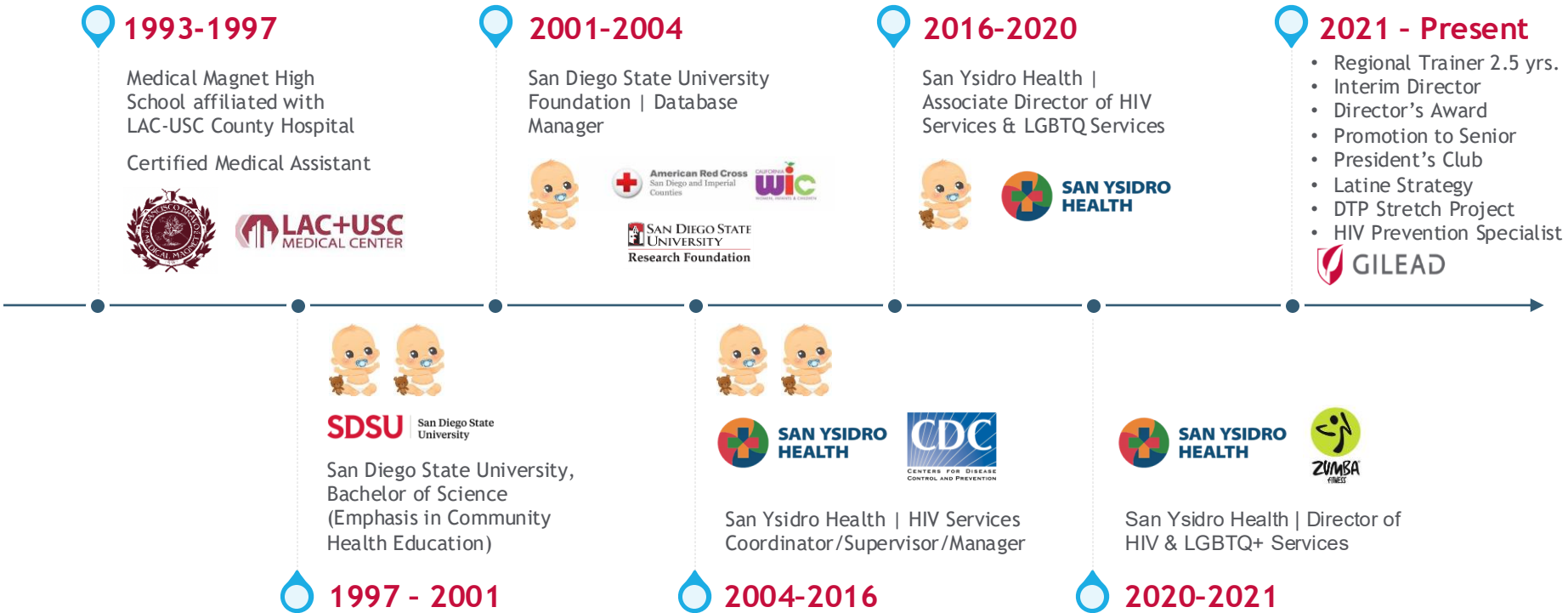
Presentation Overview

- Who is Karla Quezada?
- Define health equity
- The Role of Community-Based Advocacy
- Breaking Down Barriers
- Share real-world examples
- Highlight culturally responsive strategies
- Call to action

KARLA TORRES



HIGHLIGHTS



Health Equity

=

Everyone has a fair
opportunity to live a
long and healthy life.



Defining Health Equity



The Role of Community-Based Advocacy

Breaking Down Barriers

Systemic racism,
poverty,
immigration fears

Language barriers
and stigma

Need for policy
reform and trust-
building

Real-World Examples of Community Advocacy in HIV

- Positively Trans empowers trans people living with HIV to lead research and policy change.
- Black AIDS Institute trains Black leaders to advocate for culturally responsive care.
- Bienestar provides Latinx LGBTQ+ communities with tailored HIV services and immigration support.
- PPPSW's Rapid PrEP & ART programs offer same-day access
- ACT UP used direct action to demand treatment access and challenge systemic neglect.



Healing Through Cultural Relevance

Bilingual outreach and peer-led support groups



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graph TD; A[Bilingual outreach and peer-led support groups] --> B[Tailored programs for Latinx and LGBTQ+ communities]; B --> C[Improved engagement and health outcomes];
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The diagram is a vertical flowchart with three rectangular boxes. The top box is red and contains the text 'Bilingual outreach and peer-led support groups'. A light red arrow points down from the bottom right of this box to the top right of the middle box. The middle box is gold and contains the text 'Tailored programs for Latinx and LGBTQ+ communities'. A light green arrow points down from the bottom right of this box to the top right of the bottom box. The bottom box is green and contains the text 'Improved engagement and health outcomes'.

Tailored programs for Latinx and LGBTQ+ communities

Improved engagement and health outcomes

Advocacy Within the Clinic Walls



Peer navigators and
patient advisory boards



Training providers in
cultural humility



Embedding community
voices into care models

Stronger Together Against HIV



CENTER COMMUNITY
VOICES



DISMANTLE STRUCTURAL
BARRIERS



COLLABORATE FOR
EQUITABLE HIV PREVENTION
& TREATMENT



GET INVOLVED

- ✓ **Volunteer** with a local HIV service organization
- ✓ **Engage** with others on social media
- ✓ **Keep learning**
- ✓ **Share** what you know with others
- ✓ **Participate** in local events





Call to Action



Thank You



Angel Vogel

Trans Advocate & Student Services Specialist

University of California, Davis

Being + Community Centered

Angel Vogel (she/her/ella)

Objectives

01. Who I am

02. Stewarding the LGBTQ+ community through key partnerships

03. How patient-driven advocacy influences healthcare policies and services

04. Examples of successful advocacy efforts that have improved HIV care and access

05. How individuals can engage in self-advocacy and community organizing

Who am I?

Angel Vogel (she/her/ella)

- Trans latina from Mexico residing on Nisenan land
- Family connections to HIV
- Trans Advocate and Student Services Specialist @ the UC Davis LGBTQIA Resource Center
- Chair, Stonewall Foundation of Greater Sacramento

Trans Advocate

Case management, advocacy, program and resource management



- Student-centered case management
- Student Health & Counseling Services
- Student-led clinics
- Obstacles

Chair, SFGS

Community partnerships, education, mental health

- K-12 and higher education support
 - Sunburst Projects
- Gender Health Center



STONEWALL FOUNDATION
OF GREATER SACRAMENTO

How patient-driven advocacy influences healthcare policies and services

Empathy, education, leveraging networks of power, DATA, holding the line



- Story telling
- People power and people on the ground
- Facts matter
- Institutions must hold the line

Successful Advocacy



- Ryan White
- Princess Diana
- PrEP began to be covered under the ACA June 27, 2025 in Kennedy v. Braidwood

Self-Advocacy and Community Organizing

- Find your advocates
- Trans Advocate and Student Services Specialist @ the UC Davis LGBTQIA Resource Center
- Chair, Stonewall Foundation of Greater Sacramento

Resources

Sunburst Projects -
<https://sunburstprojects.org/>



Gender Health Center -
<https://www.genderhealthcenter.org/hiv-testing>



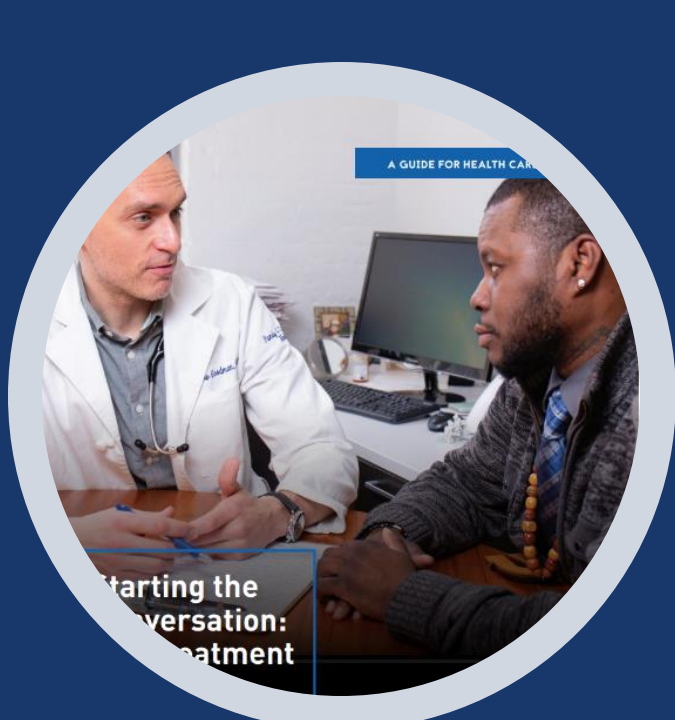
Thank you!

Angel Vogel (she/her/ella)

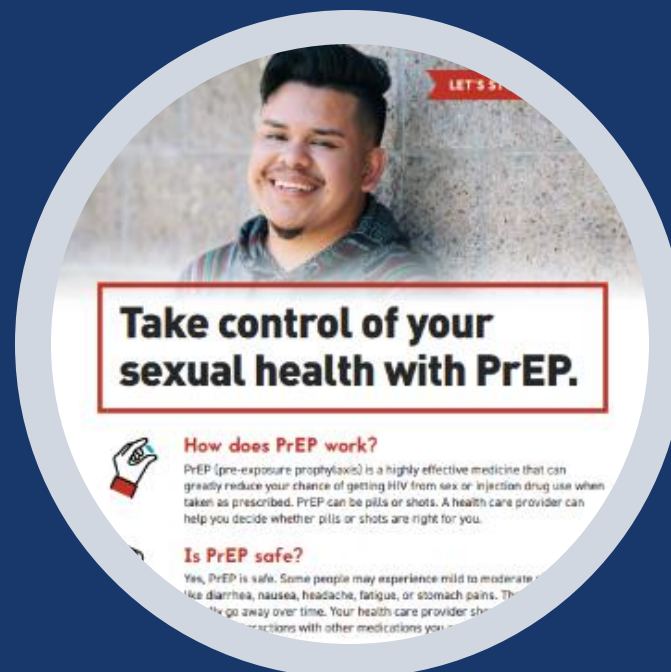
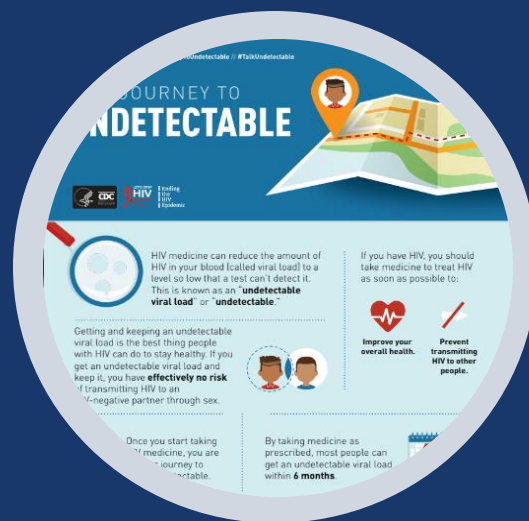
aabernardino@ucdavis.edu

angel@sacstonewallfoundation.org

QUESTIONS?



Knowledge is Power:



Download resources to stay informed.

Upcoming Virtual Events

August 27, 2025 @1PM EST

Stronger Together: Shaping the HIV Conversation

This Instagram Live event will focus on destigmatizing HIV. It will feature an informal dialogue among speakers who bring both personal and professional insights, exploring the challenges and opportunities in HIV care and prevention. The discussion will highlight the critical role of science, medicine, and community voices in breaking down stigma.



September 24th, 2025 @1PM EST

Optimizing Physician Collaboration with Community Health Workers (CHWs) in HIV Prevention and Care Webinar

This webinar will explore how physician collaboration with Community Health Workers (CHWs) can improve HIV prevention and care in Spanish-speaking and underserved communities. It will highlight structural barriers, community-based strategies, and the role of CHWs in advancing health equity. CME credits available.





Interested in participating? Please Contact Marcara Wright at mwright@nhmamd.org

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(NHMA)*

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National Hispanic Medical Association

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Advocacy



Education



Leadership



Networking

Become an NHMA Member Today!

Join a community of healthcare professionals and community leaders dedicated to improving healthcare for Hispanic and Latino communities, eliminating healthcare disparities, and advancing and promoting your profession.

SCAN TO JOIN NHMA



ARE YOU LOOKING FOR YOUR NEXT OPPORTUNITY?

Explore NHMA's Job Board!



For Job Seekers:

- **Connect with 400+ active employers**
- **Explore more than 13,500 job postings**

For Employers:

- **Access to over 19,000 searchable resumes**
- **More than 3 million total profile views**



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CONTACT

www.nhmamd.org



nhma@nhmamd.org



1920 L St NW #200, Washington, DC 20036



(202) 628 - 5895

