

MidAtlantic AIDS Education and Training Center

*University of Pittsburgh
Graduate School of Public Health
Department of Infectious
Diseases and Microbiology*



Center Headquarters:

University of Pittsburgh
Graduate School of Public Health
Department of Infectious
Diseases and Microbiology

Regional Partners

Delaware:
Christiana Care Health System

District of Columbia:
Howard University

Maryland:
Johns Hopkins University
University of Maryland, Baltimore

Pennsylvania:
Health Federation of Philadelphia
University of Pittsburgh

Virginia:
Inova Health System
Virginia Commonwealth University

West Virginia:
West Virginia University

Program Organization

The University of Pittsburgh serves as the grant recipient for the MidAtlantic AIDS Education and Training Center (MAAETC) and has managed, directed, and monitored this program since its initial funding in 1988. The Pittsburgh site serves dual purposes: it is headquarters for the region and is the regional partner for central and western Pennsylvania. In its consortium role, the University of Pittsburgh is solely responsible for providing programmatic, fiscal, and evaluation direction, as well as planning, monitoring, and oversight of the region. The University of Pittsburgh utilizes multidisciplinary perspectives from faculty members, experts and years of experience as it strives for excellence in leadership and service to Region III of the US Public Health Service.

The University of Pittsburgh and the Principal Investigator, Linda Rose Frank, PhD, MSN, ACRN, FAAN, have successfully directed, managed, and monitored this program since 1988. Dr. Frank's leadership in the region and nation in

HIV education, treatment, and advocacy has contributed to the growth and success of this multi-university regional consortium.

The MidAtlantic AETC has 9 regional partners including the University of Pittsburgh. These sites are all recognized as clinical centers of excellence and are equipped with the most advanced information and technology.

Thanks to significant in-kind contributions from leading universities and medical centers in the cities in which the MidAtlantic AETC is based, this network creates a cost-effective, state-of-the-art approach to the trainings needed to address the HIV/AIDS challenges. These powerhouse academic and research facilities, among the best in the country, supply renowned faculty and researchers, space, equipment, and administrative support services.



Linda Frank, PhD, MSN, ACRN, FAAN



Center Headquarters

**University of Pittsburgh
Graduate School of Public Health
Department of Infectious Diseases and Microbiology
Crabtree Hall, 130 DeSoto Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15261**

**Linda Rose Frank, PhD, MSN, ACRN, FAAN
Principal Investigator/Executive Director
Professor of Public Health, Medicine, and Nursing
Phone: 412-624-1895
Fax: 412-624-4767**

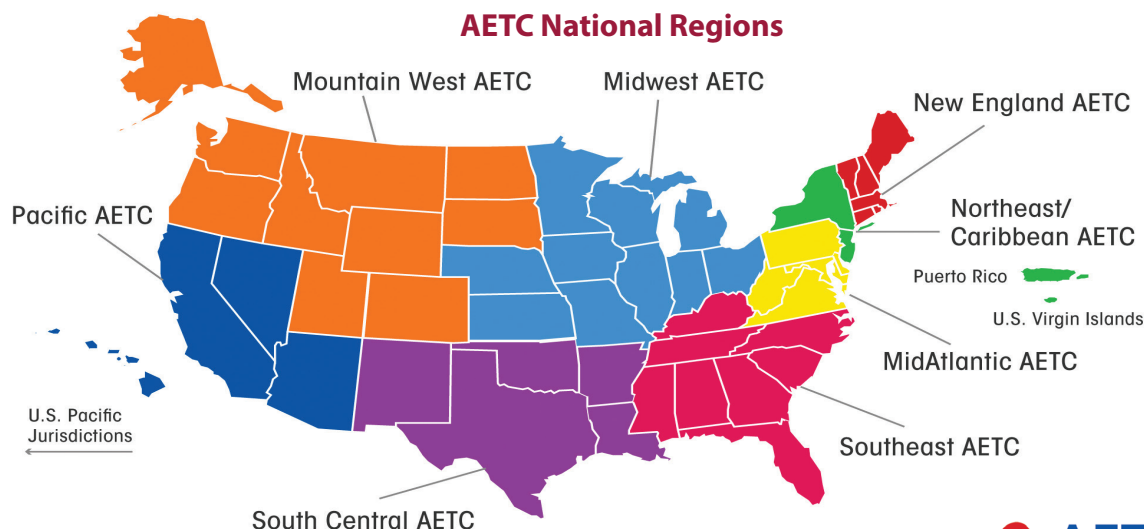
Key Elements of the AETC Program

Goals of the National AETC Program:

1. Increase the size and strengthen the skills of the HIV clinical workforce in the US
2. Improve outcomes along the HIV care continuum, including diagnosis, linkage, retention and viral suppression through training and technical assistance
3. Reduce HIV incidence by improving the achievement and maintenance of viral suppression for people living with HIV/AIDS
4. Train and provide technical assistance to health care professionals, interprofessional health teams, and health care organizations on the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of HIV disease and related disorders
5. Focus and priority is for clinics and clinicians providing little or no HIV care

Listed below are the major components of the efforts of the National AETC Program.

1. Core Training and Technical Assistance: To identify knowledge, quality, and service gaps within the US based upon needs assessment and input from stakeholders and develop educational programming to reduce these gaps
2. Practice Transformation: To identify, collaborate, and transform selected clinics to build their capacity to provide quality HIV care by increasing clinical competencies, improving coordination of services, and building the HIV clinical workforce, aimed at improving patient outcomes along the HIV Care Continuum
3. Interprofessional Education: To develop and test a model for interprofessional practice within health professions schools and disseminate the model throughout the US to improve the HIV Care Continuum
4. Minority AIDS Initiative: To develop and implement targeted training to agencies and programs serving minorities and minority health professionals to reduce disparities in access and improve the HIV Care Continuum.



National Centers

AETC National Coordinating Resource Center
Clinicians' Consultation Center



"For over 20 years, the MidAtlantic AETC has provided superb training, consultation, technical assistance and support to health care providers and institutions who serve one of the most populated, at risk regions in the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

I am honored that their dedication continues to be the cornerstone in our HIV/AIDS prevention and education program."

Charles R. Rinaldo Jr., PhD
(Chair and Professor, Department of Infectious Diseases and Microbiology, University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health)

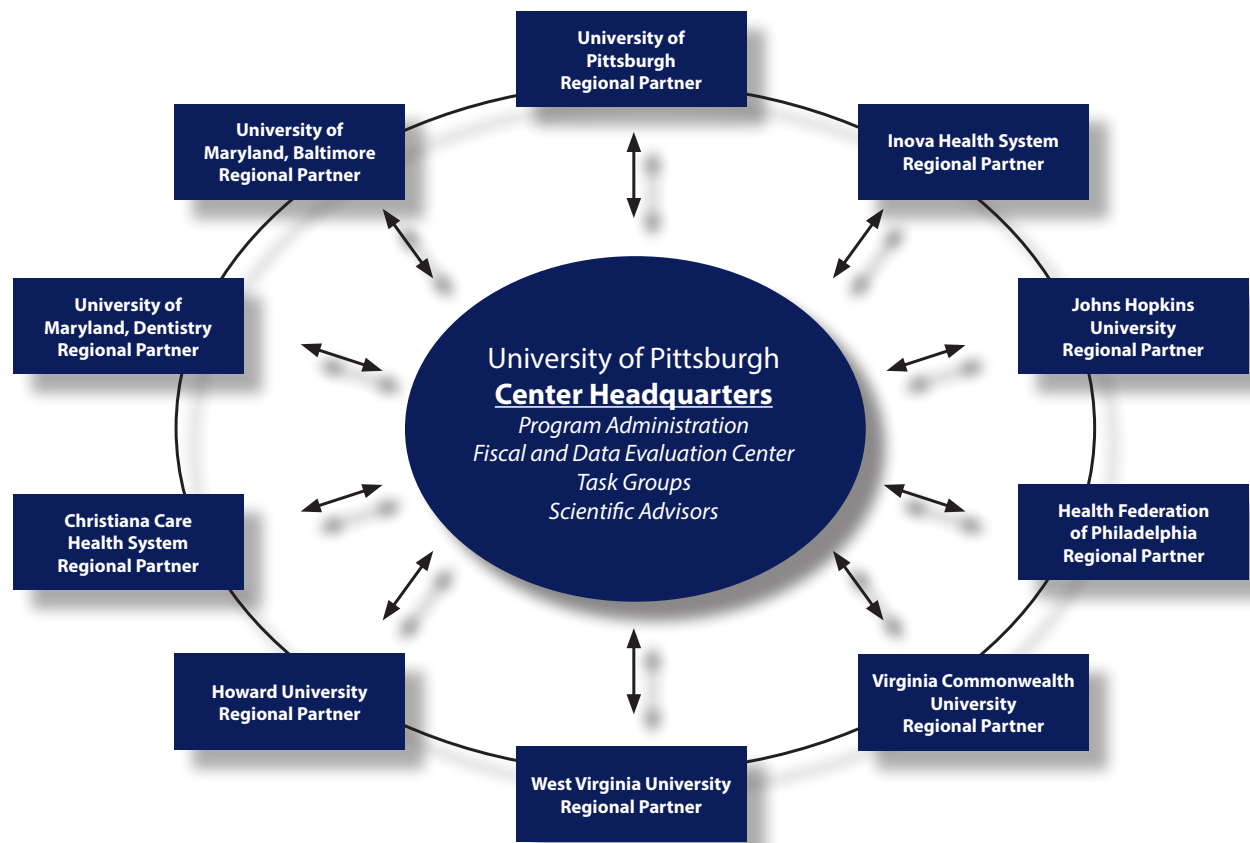


Program Philosophy

The MidAtlantic AETC recognizes the complexity of providing quality HIV/AIDS care, including the interplay among HIV clinical management, the care system, and the patient’s needs. The program focuses on improving prevention, care, and treatment of HIV and related disorders. The MidAtlantic AETC, a component of the Ryan White Comprehensive AIDS Resources Emergency (CARE) Act is funded by the HIV/AIDS Bureau at the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA).

The consortium representing 5 states and DC provides training, technical assistance, and consultation to physicians, nurses, dentists, advanced practice nurses, physician assistants, pharmacists, social workers, counselors, and other members of the HIV care team. The MidAtlantic AETC emphasizes capacity building within health care agencies and programs to expand and improve systems of care for persons with HIV, with a focus on medically under-served communities, rural areas and other settings to improve gaps in access and quality of HIV prevention and treatment.

Organizational Structure



"The MidAtlantic AETC has been one of the most valuable resources I have encountered in my career in HIV. I have attended probably more than a hundred MidAtlantic AETC trainings throughout my career, and I can truly say that I have always walked away with something that I can apply to my practice when I see patients the next day. I am now an HIV Nursing Supervisor for our facility, and the MidAtlantic AETC is the very first place that I look when I'm searching for training for new staff or for a particular issue... Not only are my friends at MidAtlantic AETC up to the challenge of any training needs, they also work hard to provide training through people who will also be helpful contacts or provide expanded networking abilities... suffice it to say that the MidAtlantic AETC has vitally impacted me, my patients, my coworkers, and my staff. I could not do my job without them, and hope that their resources are available until HIV is finally cured and eradicated."

Ana Lapp, RN
(HIV Nursing Supervisor, Esperanza Health Center, Philadelphia, PA)



Overview

HIV/AIDS is considered the most significant public health issue of our time. In the 1980's, HIV was an obscure virus with no treatment available. HIV care and treatment have undergone significant changes resulting in access to effective treatments. The AETCs are administered by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) and its HIV/AIDS Bureau's Division of Training and Capacity Development with funding from the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Treatment Modernization Act.

Health professionals on the front lines of HIV prevention, treatment, and care face many challenges: (1) a patient population that is disproportionately poor but in need of sophisticated and rapidly evolving treatment regimens; (2) a shortage of qualified caregivers, particularly in rural and urban areas; (3) a complex health care delivery system; (4) changing treatment and prevention guidelines and standards of care; (5) emergence of co-morbidities; (6) co-occurring behavioral health issues; (7) tailored interventions with specific populations; and (8) need for interprofessional collaborative practice.

The MidAtlantic AETC has evolved and expanded to provide training, consultation, technical assistance, and coaching to individual health professionals, federally qualified health centers, hospitals, clinics, and healthcare agencies and programs in Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, and the District of Columbia. Since its creation, the MidAtlantic AETC has built a reputation as the foremost educational resource for providing primary care providers, HIV specialty providers, health professionals, and other members of treatment teams with information and tools they need. Whether it be HIV case finding (screening and counseling); clinical care (including the treatment of co-morbidities of sexually transmitted infections, hepatitis, tuberculosis, and complications of HIV/AIDS); or prevention interventions, health care team members in the region rely on the MidAtlantic AETC for state of the art information, skill building, and consultation.

The MidAtlantic AETC provides intensive, interactive training methods and innovative programming through on-site and distance-based training. The MidAtlantic AETC's dedicated clinical educators shape, improve, and focus on improving and changing the practices, attitudes, and behaviors of health care providers. These providers and professionals become a part of the MidAtlantic AETC's expansive network of experts, collaborators, and resources. The MidAtlantic AETC creates a "community of practice" with our trainees and collaborations within Region III of the US Public Health Service.

The MidAtlantic AETC focuses on improving linkage to and engagement in care, as well as integrated behavioral health to improve the care continuum for persons with HIV and those at-risk. These efforts also help healthy people avoid HIV infection. Furthermore, a growing number of HIV-infected persons who were once thought to be difficult to reach now receive quality medical care. The MidAtlantic AETC team works with key groups across the region to establish public health policies using the soundest scientific and clinical research available.

Thanks to significant in-kind contributions from leading universities and medical centers in the cities in which the MidAtlantic AETC is based, this network creates a cost-effective, state-of-the-art approach to the trainings needed to address the HIV/AIDS challenges. These powerhouse academic and research facilities, among the best in the country, supply renowned faculty and researchers, space, equipment, and administrative support services.

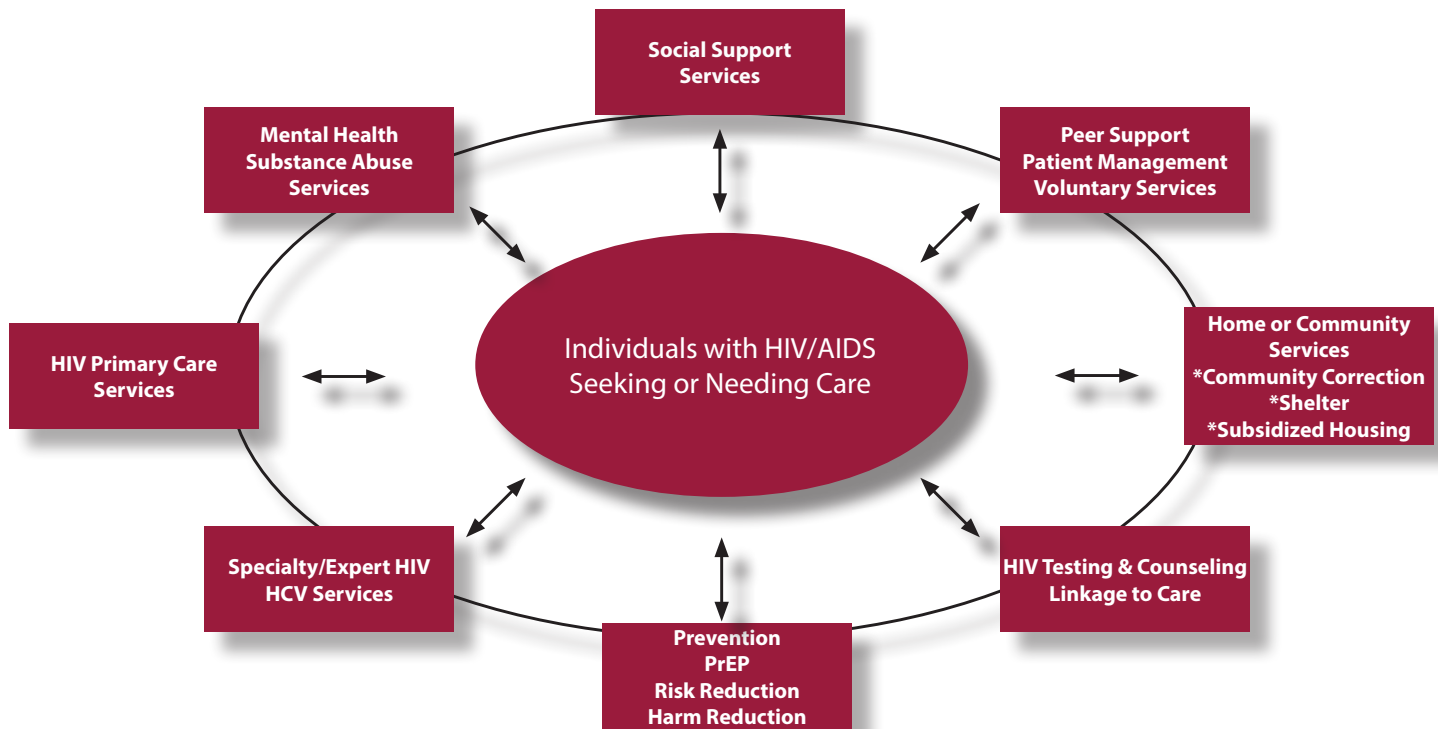
"The MidAtlantic AETC provides timely, accurate clinical education to an array of health professionals working in some of the heaviest impacted areas in the United States. The AETC has been there since people with HIV-related disease began presenting to health care systems. Through state-of-the-art educational forums, hands-on clinical consultation, and tailored presentations, the AETC has expanded the base of health care providers with HIV expertise. We know that people with HIV/AIDS have the best clinical outcomes when care is rendered by HIV-experienced clinicians. The AETC provides much of the educational experience and in so doing, saving lives."

Marla Gold, MD, FACP
(Dean, Professor, Department of Health Management and Policy, Drexel University School of Public Health)



MidAtlantic AIDS Education and Training Center

HIV System of Care: Critical Providers for Targeted AETC Training



Program Services

- Enhances HIV testing, clinical treatment and prevention skills, as well as the acquisition of new skills and knowledge with didactic and skills-building training and consultation;
- Conducts clinical preceptorships for community clinicians, utilizing MidAtlantic AETC clinical experts to improve diagnostic, treatment, and prevention clinical skills and interventions;
- Provides expert clinical consultation and coaching to disseminate best practices and clinical guidelines for prevention and treatment;
- Provides opportunities for clinical treatment co-management and/or facilitation of referral to clinical experts;
- Provides capacity building to health professionals, agencies, programs to improve access to HIV prevention and treatment for minorities, under-served populations, substance users, and women through the Minority AIDS Initiative, by targeting minority health professionals and those serving minorities to improve the HIV Care Continuum;
- Offers specialized training and consultation, to prison clinical providers in state, county, and federal prison systems, hospitals, and federally qualified health centers;
- Serves as a resource, facilitator of forums and meetings to address current and emerging issues facing the health care system for consensus building, problem solving, and coordination of resources;

“I can’t imagine how Pennsylvania and the MidAtlantic Region would have fared with the HIV epidemic without the commitment, skill and vision of the MidAtlantic AETC and staff. They are a resource that is innovative and reliable. Their outreach has connected many disparate groups who interface in the areas of therapeutics, education and policy.”

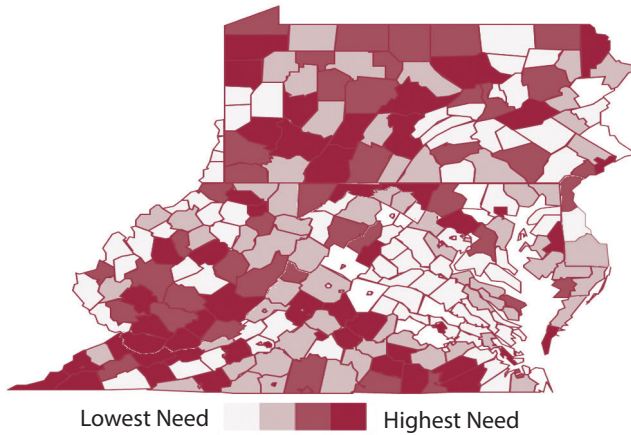
***Ellen M Tedaldi, MD, FACP
(Director, Temple Comprehensive HIV Program)***

“The work of the MidAtlantic AETC has had a significant impact in Maryland on a wide variety of clinical providers diagnosing and treating individuals living with HIV/AIDS. The MidAtlantic AETC training activities have led to improved clinical outcomes for persons living with HIV, increased awareness of HIV in the community and enhanced knowledge and skills to promote primary and secondary prevention of HIV infection.”

***Van T. Mitchell
(Secretary, Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene)***

- Collaborates with state and local government health care agencies, institutions and initiatives to improve the HIV care continuum through collaboration, communication, training, and technical assistance;
- Provides educational programming including distance based platforms to provide capacity building, facilitation of networking among health professionals and programs, and creating and supporting communities of practice;
- Trains treatment teams on culturally competent interventions and care;
- Provides training in the prenatal and gynecological care of women, including reduction of perinatal transmission through screening, testing, and medication protocols;
- Provides training and coaching on trauma informed care to increase the quality of clinical assessment to improve health outcomes;
- Trains clinicians on co-morbidities of substance misuse, hepatitis, sexually transmitted infections, tuberculosis, and psychiatric disorders in the HIV population through linkage with clinical experts and collaboration with other federally funded training centers;
- Provide longitudinal educational intervention with clinics, programs, and care systems to increase continuous quality improvement, expansion to transform clinical services to improve quality, access and reduce barriers to care;
- Provides quality management training to agencies providing HIV care to ensure that prevention and treatment protocols are continually revised to reflect the current standard of care based on the latest research and guidelines;
- Conducts ongoing needs assessments of institutions, clinics, programs, and individual clinicians, so that training can be tailored to specific needs;
- Rapidly disseminates information on advances in treatment and prevention via print, webinars, teleconferences, and the MidAtlantic AETC website and Learner Education and Practice Portal (LEAPP);
- Conducts regular evaluation studies to measure changes in provider knowledge, clinician practice patterns and decision making, patient care outcomes, and HIV care system enhancements.

HRSA Health Professional Shortage Areas (2015)



Achievements

The influence of the MidAtlantic AETC must be measured exponentially, as its far-reaching training efforts touch systems, clinicians and patients alike. MidAtlantic AETC staff members at all regional partners are expert clinicians and trainers in HIV/AIDS care, prevention, treatment, and systems development. The programs offer a continuum of education for health professionals that encourages them to continue to participate in the HIV care field, thus improving access to care and quality of care for persons with HIV. The center's outreach to trainees within programs and agencies serving persons with HIV/AIDS mirrors the epidemiology of the disease within the region.

MidAtlantic AETC Trainees (2005-2015)

Discipline	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15*	Total
Physician	2,065	1,796	2,156	1,921	2,015	1,990	1,919	1,853	1,371	1,830	18,916
Physician Assistant	407	408	353	271	311	296	251	227	147	163	2,834
Advance Practice Nurse	329	349	156	141	145	742	912	886	704	765	5,129
Nurse Practitioner	661	734	783	652	589	†	†	†	†	†	3,419
Nurse	4,475	4,968	5,492	5,066	4,423	4,691	4,787	5,225	4,486	4,188	47,801
Clinical Pharmacist	332	320	369	332	750	500	546	530	475	806	4,960
Dentist	251	307	441	354	424	363	214	215	240	251	3,060
Oral Health Professional	381	545	656	449	478	423	341	212	239	240	3,964
Mental Health Provider/Social Worker/Allied Health	3,321	2,738	3,433	2,401	2,454	2,488	2,595	2,652	2,341	2,839	27,262
Other Health, including Substance Abuse Professional	2,016	504	1,462	2,037	1,770	2,372	1,947	2,215	1,986	2,544	18,853
Other	2,754	2,507	2,613	1,933	1,409	1,544	1,256	1,375	1,370	1,274	18,035
TOTAL	16,992	15,176	17,914	15,557	14,768	15,409	14,768	15,390	13,359	14,900	154,233

*Fiscal year extended from July 2014 to August 2015

† Nurse practitioner now included in the Advance Practice Nurse discipline

“The MidAtlantic AETC, under the leadership of Dr. Linda Frank, has provided critical educational services to community professionals caring for patients with HIV/AIDS. There is no doubt that this training has improved the quality of care delivered to patients and their outcome. As such, the MidAtlantic AETC has proved to be a vital resource in the quest to reduce the morbidity and mortality from the HIV/AIDS epidemic.”

John W. Mellors, MD
(Professor of Medicine and Chief of the Division of Infectious Diseases, University of Pittsburgh; Director of the HIV/AIDS Program, University of Pittsburgh Medical Center)

“Through state of the art education about HIV/AIDS for healthcare professionals, the program continues to help health professionals provide evidence-based quality care to patients and increase testing and linkage to care. It also provides outstanding resources to healthcare professionals for prevention of HIV infection. Education of healthcare professionals is by use of innovative, interactive and learn-centered techniques. Evaluations of programs are extremely positive with many participants stating they are now more aware of the need for HIV testing and the importance of linkage to care.”

Rashida Khakoo, MD, MACP
(Professor of Medicine and Chief of the Section of Infectious Diseases, West Virginia University School of Medicine)



Scope of MidAtlantic AETC Impact

Over the past ten years, the MidAtlantic AETC has trained more than 150,000 health professionals in HIV-related topics, including treatment, prevention, care, and related co-morbidities. The center has assisted in the development and enhancement of more than 60 health care clinics over the past four years through training and capacity building. At least 50% of the center's trainees are clinicians and other staff from agencies and programs funded by the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Treatment Modernization Act. In addition, representatives from the regional partners in each state serve on the Health Resources and Services Administration Ryan White coordinating committees and on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention community prevention planning groups.

To assist with training and consultation on HIV/AIDS issues, the MidAtlantic AETC has developed long-term relationships with local and state health departments. The center serves as a convener of forums to address emerging issues and to share best practices in the prevention, care, and treatment of HIV/AIDS. A major achievement of the MidAtlantic AETC has been innovative educational programming that has addressed key HIV topics relevant to reducing HIV transmission, improving access to care, closing service gaps, and addressing gaps in quality care. Curricula on specific HIV/AIDS topics aim to improve the quality of HIV care delivered by health professionals and expand service delivery and capacity among HIV care professionals. Print and electronic pocket guides, and pamphlets on HIV related topics have been produced and distributed to health professionals for their use.

Distance-based learning technologies are more important now than ever due to limited ability of health professionals to travel to training events. This has been addressed through the development of a robust distance based training initiative as well as online curricula, web-based communication and teleconferences. The MidAtlantic AETC is continually engaged in efforts to engage health professionals with fewer HIV patients and those less experienced with HIV prevention and treatment. This is aimed at intervening with hard-to-reach urban and rural areas in the MidAtlantic region. The MidAtlantic AETC has conducted outcome studies of specific educational interventions to document the outcomes, impact and usefulness of its educational strategies and programs.

Regional HIV Epidemic

At the end of 2014, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimated that greater than 1.2 million people were living with HIV in the USA and approximately 14% of those were unaware of their HIV-positive status. Similarly in 2014, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported 4,039 confirmed HIV diagnoses and an estimated 120,000 people living with HIV in the MidAtlantic AETC region. From the beginning of the epidemic to the end of 2015, the cumulative total of AIDS cases was 132,609 for the five states and District of Columbia that constitute the MidAtlantic AETC’s region. These data represent nearly 10% of HIV-positive individuals and 11% of all reported AIDS cases in the United States.

The MidAtlantic region encompasses three locations that rank among the top twelve in the nation for both HIV prevalence and AIDS prevalence: District of Columbia (1), Maryland (3), and Delaware (12). Also within the region, metropolitan areas with high prevalence of known and/or increasing HIV infection include Baltimore, Philadelphia, Norfolk, Pittsburgh, Wilmington, and Richmond. The District of Columbia has the highest HIV prevalence and mortality associated with HIV in the nation.

HIV/AIDS Epidemiology in Region by State

Area of residence (Population 2015)	Cumulative AIDS cases through 2015	Living with AIDS through 2014	Living with HIV/100,000 persons-2015 (state ranking)
Delaware 959,100	4,503	3,213	406.9 (10)
District of Columbia 676,800	21,445	15,200	2665.0 (1)
Maryland 5,900,500	40,100	32,002	638.9 (4)
Pennsylvania 12,595,900	42,298	33,593	308.6 (21)
Virginia 8,217,200	22,257	21,740	311.3 (20)
West Virginia 1,797,500	2,006	1,896	120.2 (44)

“The Northern Virginia Regional Commission and the MidAtlantic AETC have a strong history of collaboration with a variety of education presentations made at the Ryan White Part A and Part B HIV Consortium in our region. The AETC always brings objective and current factual information to this venue, enlightening the viewpoint of all who attend.”

Michelle Simmons
(Director of Human Services, Northern Virginia Regional Commission)

“The program has had an extremely important role in enhancing clinical care, improving care systems, and increasing the workforce for HIV ... In addition, the MidAtlantic AETC has participated in the local Ryan White Part A planning process. The MidAtlantic AETC is a valued partner and an important support for the continuum of care in Philadelphia and surrounding areas.”

Coleman Terrell
(Director, AIDS Activities Coordinating Office, Philadelphia Department of Health)

“The MidAtlantic AETC has been an invaluable partner to the United Medical Center HIV team. Specifically, Dr. Daftery has provided insightful, skilled, and informed advice and guidance to our HIV treatment providers in ART regimen selection and switching. In addition, they have provided nursing education on HIV in support of Nurses Week”

Nnemdi Elias, MD, MPH
(United Medical Center Washington DC)

Early Identification, Better Access

The MidAtlantic AETC recognizes that the early identification of HIV infection translates to more immediate care, a proven advantage in delaying disease progression and further transmissions to others. The MidAtlantic AETC is dedicated to promoting early detection by training primary care providers in HIV testing approaches and technology, as well as the integration of HIV testing into all clinical settings.

Thanks to earlier identification and clinical intervention, HIV-positive patients are now living longer. This change, however, brings additional obstacles. Providers must now meet the challenges of managing a chronic condition that is often aggravated by aging and co-infection with other chronic and acute infections such as hepatitis, tuberculosis, sexually transmitted diseases, substance use, and mental illness. There is also a shift toward non-HIV/AIDS related co-morbidities such as non-AIDS related malignancies, cardiovascular disease, and diabetes.

The shift from terminal illness to chronic disease due to effective antiretroviral treatment has led to an increased life expectancy for people living with HIV. With persons living longer there is a corresponding need for more clinicians and health professionals qualified and educated to administer the latest clinical treatment, and effective interventions for prevention and long-term management. Clinical guidelines and best practices change rapidly for HIV, related complications, and co-morbidities. It is critical that health professionals keep current with clinical management to improve length and quality of life for persons with HIV.

HIV CARE Systems Training

In the three decades of the MidAtlantic AETC's existence, the nation's health care delivery system has become increasingly complicated. The MidAtlantic AETC leads the way in guiding the region's hospitals, community health centers, and other providers in applying for federal funding under the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Treatment Modernization Act and similar funding sources. The MidAtlantic AETC assists facilities with practice transformation, program development, policy modification, expansion of services, long-range planning, and other capacity-building initiatives. It also provides technical assistance to improve organizational functioning and delivery of clinical services.

Maintaining Relationships and Quality

The MidAtlantic AETC is always striving to do more. The staff and faculty are constantly seeking opportunities to measure their performance and to identify ways to better serve their trainees. Focus groups, program evaluation forms, formal audits, and other needs assessment instruments help in planning the MidAtlantic AETC's programs and budget. Every dollar is meaningful in the fight against HIV/AIDS, and the program devotes more than 90% of its annual budget to direct program training costs, with the remainder dedicated to evaluation and coordination costs. Striving to provide the region's health professionals with the best possible tools, the

MidAtlantic AETC is innovative in its approaches to reaching these providers where they work by offering on-site training, teleconferences, phone consultation, and online information and resources.

Through the MidAtlantic AETC's ongoing organizational, government, and trainee contacts, it continues to assess community health needs and offer targeted, tailored trainings, consultations, and technical assistance. This longitudinal training approach ensures that the MidAtlantic AETC builds capacity at all levels – local, community, regional, and national – through mentoring and support for clinicians and healthcare teams treating those at risk or infected with HIV.



Under-served Communities

The MidAtlantic AETC recognizes the dedication and hard work of providers in under-served populations. From trouble accessing care to difficult legal and financial circumstances to language barriers, the MidAtlantic AETC appreciates the diverse challenges that under-served communities encounter on a daily basis. Limited access to health care and strained financial circumstances result in clinic populations that are characteristically sicker, poorer, and more reliant on public programs. Creating innovative ways of diminishing these significant barriers to effective HIV prevention, care, and treatment is indeed a challenge. The MidAtlantic AETC is committed to overcoming these challenges as it collaborates with providers in these communities for joint program planning and solution development.

Ryan White programs, community and migrant health centers, and other federally funded programs constitute the primary target audience of the MidAtlantic AETC. Through regional cluster training, the MidAtlantic AETC benefits rural and urban areas by creating a network of experts, collaborators, and partners to ensure that training interventions meet the needs of providers and build capacity to improve systems of care. Similar training also helps programs serving the homeless, minorities, migrant workers, immigrants, and the uninsured.

"Our collaboration with the MidAtlantic AETC is one of mutual benefit and support... the MidAtlantic AETC is an important member of the Ryan White community in Delaware. As recognized leaders, they are often involved in the development and implementation of system-wide changes, such as the recent transition to medical case management."

Arlene Bincsik, RN, MSN, CCRC, ACRN
(Director, HIV Program, Christiana Care Health Services)

"The MidAtlantic AETC is always quick to provide new and updated resources for use by our clinical staff and eager to assist in any areas that we identify for training and/or consultation. All of these trainings and support opportunities provided by our local AETC continue to be an integral part of continuing education of all of our Ryan White staff. The program has had an extremely important role in enhancing clinical care, improving care systems and increasing the workforce for HIV in the region."

Christine Teague, PharmD, MPH, AAHIVP
(Program Director, CAMC/WVU Ryan White Park C Program, Charleston Area Medical Center)

"In all of [these] interactions, the MidAtlantic AETC staff has demonstrated great resourcefulness, ingenuity, professionalism and a passionate commitment to improving HIV education and care services through our region."

Timothy Friel, MD
(Medical Director, AIDS Activities Office Lehigh Valley Health Network)

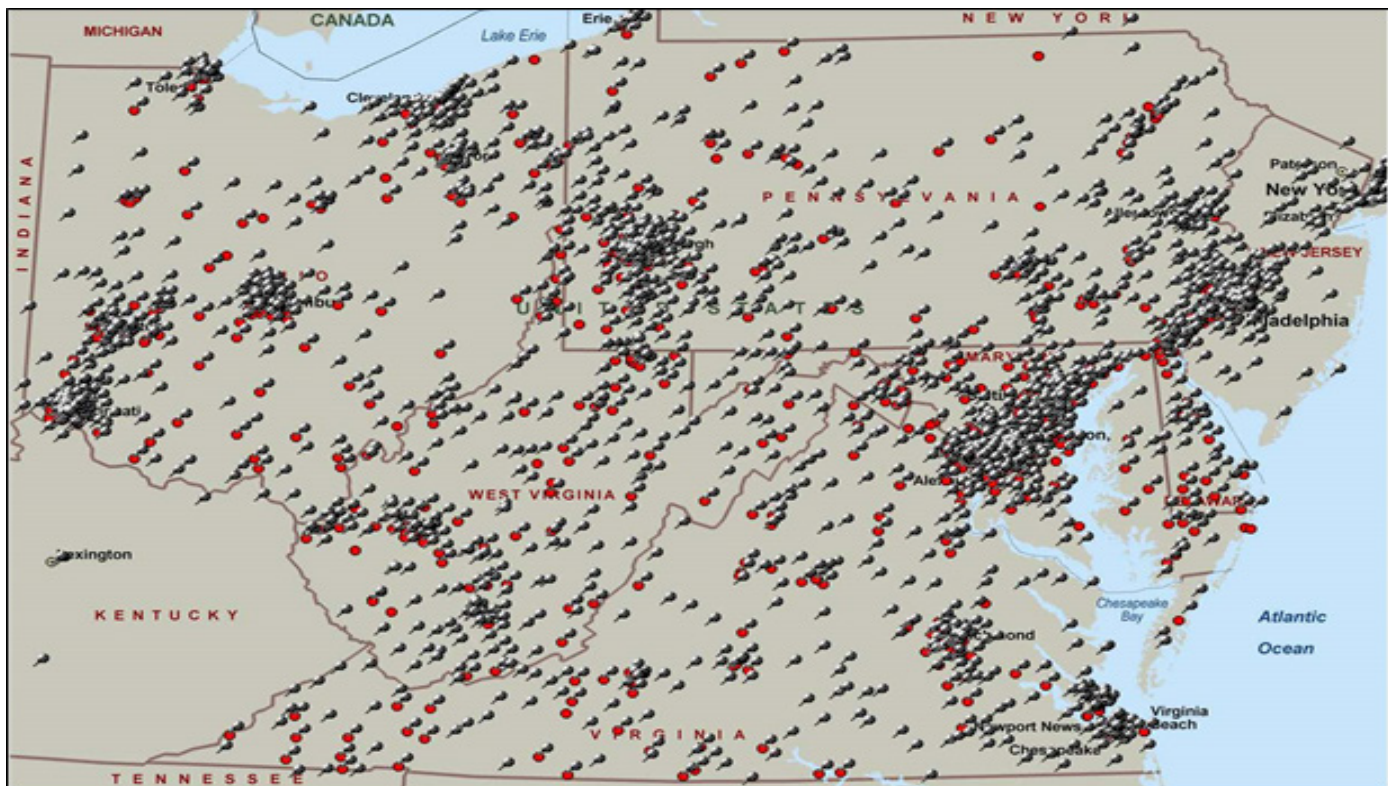


Target Audiences

The most effective educators guide their teaching based on the principles of adult learning. The MidAtlantic AETC is proud of its tradition of training and education based on the unique needs of trainees, and provides the foundation for workshops, seminars, symposia, preceptorships, teleconferences, and other training sessions that prepare providers and clinicians to provide effective HIV prevention, care, and treatment.

The MidAtlantic AETC trains health professionals from various backgrounds, qualifications, and locations throughout the region. Training is tailored to meet the HIV prevention, care, and treatment challenges of specific geographic areas, clinics, and individual clinicians. The MidAtlantic AETC works diligently to provide HIV care teams with skill and knowledge that is tailored to the populations they serve. This individualized focus is a key element of the center's success.

Health Professional Trainees and Events from MidAtlantic Region (2010 -2015)



- MidAtlantic AETC training events
- Un-duplicated health professional participants by ZIP code

“The programs make a difference in a very real way to providers at all levels of experience – trainee to expert – and across all the many specialties that care for these very complex patients living with HIV...”

Margaret Hoffman-Terry, MD, FACP,
AAHIVS
(Infectious Disease Specialist, Lehigh Valley Health Network)

“We are pleased that the AETC seeks to provide health professionals in primary care settings with additional training, skills and tools to increase HIV counseling and testing.”

Leana Wen, MD, MSc
(Commissioner of Health, City of Baltimore Health Department)

“We regularly turn to the AETC to meet our clinical staff’s training needs. We continue to have overwhelmingly positive responses from our medical providers and care coordination nurses about the quality of the training and educational opportunities offered.”

Anje Van Berckelaer, MD, MS
(Clinical Director, Delaware Valley Community Health)



Minority AIDS Initiative

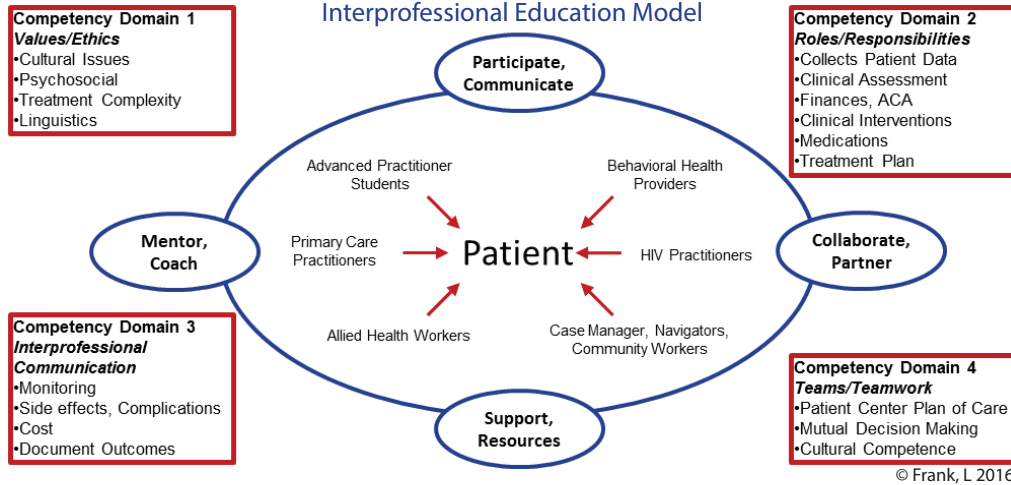
The AETCs recognize that HIV infection and AIDS have a disproportionate detrimental impact upon persons of color and other historically disenfranchised populations. The program emphasizes the training of minority clinicians and those serving minority and disenfranchised patients. The goal is to provide training, consultation and technical assistance using diverse educational modalities to increase competencies and build capacity of minority health professionals and providers serving minorities to improve quality of services, access to care, and enhance behavioral health integration. Extensive and tailored educational intervention is provided to clinics, programs, and healthcare facilities serving minority populations, including the African-American, Hispanic/Latino, Asian, Appalachian, and transgender communities. MidAtlantic AETC supports and encourages regional partner collaboration with community programs and local leaders to tailor and develop training in a culturally competent and sensitive approach, relevant to the populations being served.

CDC HIV Testing Recommendations

In recognition that 1 in 8 persons living with HIV are unaware of their diagnosis, the AETC actively supports the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) recommendations for routine HIV testing. The AETC provides intensive educational and consultative interventions to initiate and improve the implementation and expansion of the CDC's recommendations to establish HIV testing as a routine component of primary care. The program has particular emphasis on conducting training and consultation in primary care facilities including hospitals, emergency departments, community health centers, migrant health centers, labor and delivery services, and urgent-care facilities. The program offers consultation to regional agencies, and local health care leaders to increase HIV testing in all areas of our geographical region.

MidAtlantic AIDS Education and Training Center

Interprofessional Education Model



Practice Transformation (PT)

The AETC has identified regional areas of service gaps in under-served populations, inner cities, and rural areas and conducted capacity building for new and low volume HIV providers and to support existing primary care providers. Central to this work of capacity building is continuous quality improvement, based on approaches developed by the HRSA National Quality Center, faculty and staff expertise, and ability to establish and maintain relationships with administrative and clinical leadership of clinic sites. Practice Transformation is aimed at improving the ability and capacity of clinics and other health care settings to deliver high-quality, comprehensive, and efficient HIV primary care. MidAtlantic AETC is committed to assessing HIV care delivery systems, assisting in the development of customized processes and plans, providing individualized capacity building and education, and evaluating progress through quality improvement processes.

Interprofessional Education (IPE)

Practicing clinicians and health professions students must work interprofessionally to assure that care is provided in a manner that reduces costs, optimizes individual health outcomes, and enhances coordination, communication, and team functioning. The project goal for the MidAtlantic AETC Interprofessional Education Project is to assist in preparing new and current health and service-delivery professionals with interprofessional practice opportunities, skills, and approaches to improve patient and population health outcomes, increase the size and strength of the HIV clinical workforce. Students in the schools of dentistry, law, medicine, nursing, pharmacy, and social work and health professionals are provided the opportunity to receive training in HIV testing, prevention, and treatment. The IPE Project utilizes existing academic and community partnerships for both service learning and skill-building learning experiences. (see model)

"Over the past quarter of a century, the HIV/AIDS pandemic has emerged as a significant challenge to clinicians and the multi-disciplinary health care professional team central to treatment success. The MidAtlantic AETC has been instrumental in responding to the needs of clinicians, nurse practitioners, nurses, social workers, adherence counselors, psychologists, dentists, and hygienists, and other key health professionals who are involved in the treatment of those living with HIV Infection. The MidAtlantic AETC provides comprehensive, timely, and top-quality HIV education by experts in the field in order to increase the provider and healthcare professional's knowledge of HIV infection through training activities, consultation, and preceptorships.

Through dedicated leadership of its Principal Investigator and Executive Director, Dr. Linda Frank, and Professor in the Department of Infectious Diseases, University of Pittsburgh, the MidAtlantic AETC continues to enhance the professional capacity of all the health care professionals involved in HIV care, treatment, prevention, and the quality of life of all of those infected or affected by HIV/AIDS in our region."

Robert Redfield, MD
(Director, Clinical Care and Research Division, University of Maryland Institute of Human Virology)

Teaching Methods

The MidAtlantic AETC offers intensive training geared to the provider's base knowledge and unique clinical setting. Fighting HIV – a disease in which treatment evolves quickly – requires constant updates, not only on the pathogenesis of the disease, but also on rapidly evolving identification, treatment, and prevention strategies. Programs, taught by expert, interprofessional faculty, provide health professionals with the latest information on tested, state-of-the-art, “best practice” interventions and clinical guidelines. Because health care delivery systems vary by locale, the MidAtlantic AETC customizes programs to ensure that their information is relevant in each regional site. Training is classified by modality, with the training modality selected according to the training content, recommendation of expert faculty, and trainee preferences and needs. Trainings may be offered as an in-person, live event or as a distance-based event, occurring by telephone or internet either live or recorded.

Didactic Training: The format for the training primarily includes lectures, but may also include panel discussions, self-instructional materials, journal clubs, webinars and teleconferences. Programs vary in length from one-hour lectures to full-day conferences.

Interactive, Skill-Building Training: Teaching consists of interactive skill-building activities characterized by trainee participation that may include discussion of cases supplied by trainees/trainer, role-play, simulated patients, train-the-trainer, and other activities.

Communities of Practice: A community of practice consists of a group of health professionals who share knowledge to develop a shared, best practice. The MidAtlantic AETC convenes health professionals and groups to share and disseminate knowledge and best practices at regional collaborative meetings, state-wide HIV planning groups, and other venues, including online venues hosted via distance technology and the MidAtlantic AETC Learner Education and Practice Portal.

Self-Study: Health professionals may wish to gain knowledge on their own time. The MidAtlantic AETC provides print materials, videos, web-based materials, learning modules, and links health care professionals with resources on the National Coordinating Resource Center.

Clinical Preceptorships: Custom-designed clinical experiences are offered to physicians, nurses, advanced practice nurses, dentists, and physician assistants. Programs are tailored to fit the educational objectives of each provider. Clinical mini-residencies are aimed at improving clinicians' abilities to provide the current standards of care and best clinical practices in HIV prevention and treatment. The clinical training programs offer case-driven learning experiences that include topics such as antiretroviral regimens, diagnosis and treatment of opportunistic infections, comprehensive care, and HIV primary care. These programs are typically one to three days in length, are held in diverse settings ranging from urban hospitals to rural clinics to private practices, and are taught by leading HIV/AIDS clinical experts. The MidAtlantic AETC uses principles of evidence-based practice and bolsters what is taught through consultation, both on site and using distance-based learning technology methods.

Clinical Consultation: A MidAtlantic AETC clinical expert provides patient care-specific consultation to health care professionals. Trainees may seek counsel on patient specific clinical questions via telephone or email. Consultation is also offered at a trainee's clinical site or in groups. The center's HIV/AIDS telephone consultation line is available 24 hours a day to clinicians in the MidAtlantic AETC region. During normal business hours, regional partners may be reached at a toll-free number. Outside of these hours, they are linked to the AETC National Clinician Consultation Center, which provides consultations via the Warmline (live, on-call clinical consultation), Post Exposure Prophylaxis line (PEPline), Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEPline), and the Perinatal Hotline.

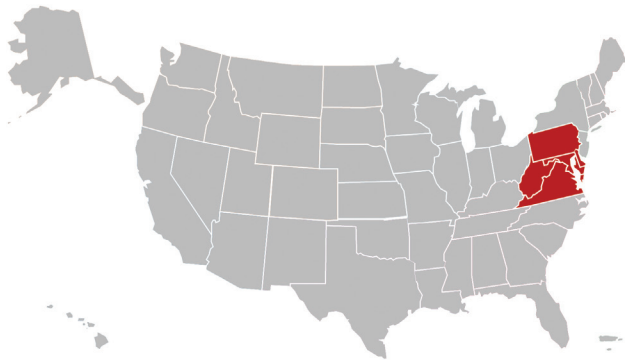
Coaching for Organizational Capacity Building: Activities include quality management and organizational, administrative, and policy support that assists in building clinical capacity, and improves the core system at the individual, clinic, or institutional level.

Appreciation to Our Government Partners

The work that the MidAtlantic AETC does would not be possible without the support of various governmental organizations and other outside sources. The main source of funding for the MidAtlantic AETC is provided through a cooperative agreement with the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), HIV/AIDS Bureau through the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Treatment Modernization Act of 1990.

In addition, funding is provided to both local and state governments to expand the MidAtlantic AETC's abilities and scope in reaching primary medical care and support services, reaching health care providers to offer training, and providing ongoing consultation and technical assistance.

Regional Partner Training Sites



Delaware Regional Partner

The Delaware Regional Partner is part of the Christiana Care Health System, one of the region's largest not-for-profit health care providers with five clinical sites in the state.

Christiana Care Health System

Wilmington Hospital Annex
1400 N. Washington Street, Room 201
Wilmington, DE 19801
Phone: 302-320-1404 Fax: 302-320-1370

District of Columbia Regional Partner

The Howard University Regional Partner is located directly across the street from Howard University Hospital. It serves the four quadrants of the District of Columbia.

Howard University

600 W Street NW, Room 114
Washington, DC 20059
Phone: 202-806-0220 Fax: 202-806-5226

Maryland Regional Partners

The Johns Hopkins University Regional Partner is an urban medical center providing HIV care to those who are indigent or subsisting on minimal resources and services provided through the University AIDS Service and the John G. Bartlett Specialty Practice.

Johns Hopkins University

School of Nursing
1909 McElderry Street, Room 211
Baltimore, MD 21205
Phone: 443-287-4779 Fax: 410-502-6138

The University of Maryland, Baltimore Regional Partner is an urban medical center providing HIV care through the Institute of Human Virology.

University of Maryland, Baltimore

Institute of Human Virology
22 South Greene Street, Suite 300
Baltimore, MD 21201
Phone: 410-328-2436 Fax: 410-328-9106

University of Maryland Dental School

650 West Baltimore Street, 7 North
Baltimore, MD 21201
Phone: 410-706-1189 Fax: 410-706-0519

Pennsylvania Regional Partners

With an academic affiliation with Drexel University College of Medicine and School of Public Health, the Philadelphia Regional Partner, housed at the Health Federation of Philadelphia, provides training to health care professionals in eastern Pennsylvania.

Health Federation of Philadelphia

1211 Chestnut Street, Suite 700
Philadelphia, PA 19107
Phone: 215-557-2101 Fax: 215-557-2100

The Pittsburgh Regional Partner at the University of Pittsburgh, Graduate School of Public Health and the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center responds to the unique training needs of both urban and rural providers in western and central Pennsylvania and also serves as headquarters for the MidAtlantic AETC.

University of Pittsburgh

Graduate School of Public Health
Department of Infectious Diseases and Microbiology
Crabtree Hall, 130 Desoto Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15261
Phone: 412-624-1895 Fax: 412-624-4767

Center Headquarters

University of Pittsburgh

Graduate School of Public Health
Department of Infectious Diseases and Microbiology
Crabtree Hall, 130 DeSoto Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15261

Linda Rose Frank, PhD, MSN, ACRN, FAAN
Principal Investigator/Executive Director
Professor of Public Health, Medicine, and Nursing
Phone: 412-624-1895 Fax: 412-624-4767

Virginia Regional Partners

The Inova Regional Partner, which serves northern and northwest Virginia, is housed at the Inova Juniper Program. The Inova Juniper Program is the largest provider of HIV care in northern Virginia.

Inova Health System

Juniper Program
2740 Prosperity Ave, Suite 200
Fairfax, VA 22031
Phone: 703-321-2600 Fax: 703-321-2603

The Virginia Commonwealth University Regional Partner, located in Richmond, is housed at the HIV/AIDS Center, a hub of clinical, research, educational, and support services that covers central and eastern Virginia.

Virginia Commonwealth University

HIV/AIDS Center
1200 East Broad Street, Room 3-222
Richmond, VA 23298
Phone: 807-828-2447 Fax: 804-828-1795

West Virginia Regional Partner

West Virginia University serves as the regional partner for the entire state of West Virginia.

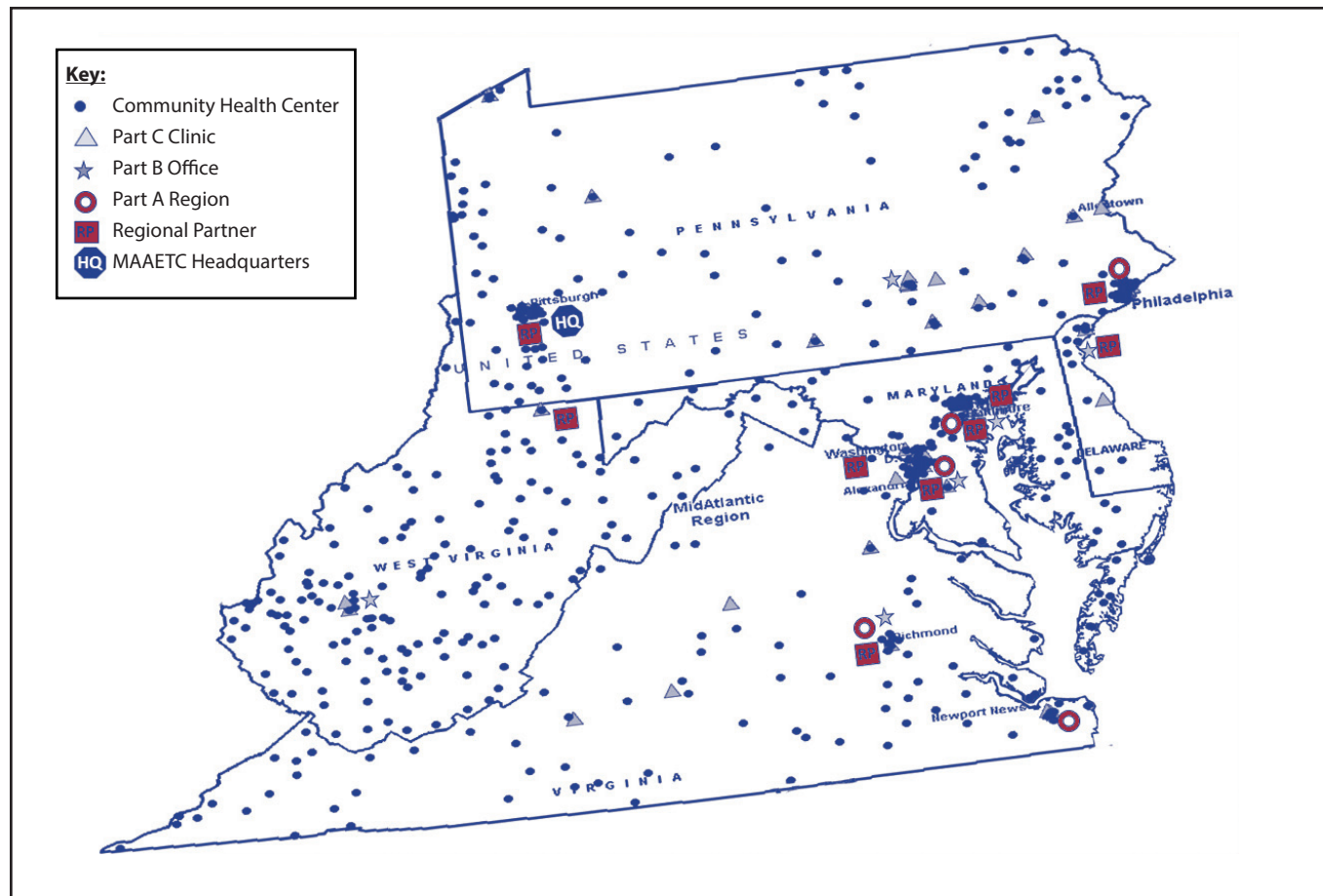
West Virginia University

Department of Medicine
Section of Infectious Diseases
P.O. Box 9163
Morgantown, WV 26506-9163
Phone: 304-293-3305 Fax: 304-293-2608

Community Partners

Ryan White HIV/AIDS Treatment Modernization Act Programs
Community and Migrant Health Centers
State and Local Health Departments
Hospitals and Clinics
Women's Health Centers
Prison Facilities
Community-Based Organizations
AIDS Service Organizations
Historically Black Colleges and Universities
Health Professional Associations
Rural Health System and Clinics
Substance Abuse Treatment Programs

Managed CARE Organizations
Veterans Affairs
Adolescent Treatment Programs
Faith-Based Communities
Addiction Technology Transfer Centers (SAMHSA)
Area Health Education Centers (HRSA)
Geriatric Education Centers (HRSA)
Primary Care Associations (HRSA)
Public Health Training Centers (HRSA)
STD/HIV Prevention Training Centers (CDC)
Telehealth Resource Centers (HRSA)





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Supported by a grant from HRSA, HIV/AIDS Bureau
Health Resources and Services Administration HRSA Grant No-U1OHA29295
The University of Pittsburgh is an affirmative action, equal opportunity institution.
Published August 16, 2017