

2020-21 Status Report from MN HIV Housing Coalition

Greetings! This is the 16th issue of the HIV Housing Coalition Status Report. The Coalition is comprised of advocates, representatives of government agencies, and HIV housing and service providers. Our current Co-Chairs are Alan Wittmer and Bill Tiedemann. Our Coordinator is Aamina Mohamed. We continually strive to improve our knowledge about good housing policy and practice. Our work in 2020-21 primarily focused on four areas:

- ▶ Pandemic response
- ▶ Encampments
- ▶ Minnesota HIV Housing Coalition Growth
- ▶ HIV Outbreak (page 2)

Pandemic Response

On March 13th, 2020, the United States Government declared a national emergency due to the COVID-19 outbreak. By December 31st, 2020, the Minnesota Department of Health reported 426,387 cumulative cases of COVID-19 in Minnesota. Due to recommended social distancing guidelines, the Minnesota HIV Housing Coalition moved from in-person to virtual meetings. The virtual format resulted in increased participation in the Minnesota HIV Housing Coalition. As a coalition, we were also able to offer strategic support to Coalition members to manage a collaborative Coronavirus response.

Encampments

Throughout 2020 and 2021, Coalition-affiliated agencies coordinated efforts to house community members from the encampment, collaborating cross-sector or creating partnerships to support housing efforts.

Minnesota HIV Housing Coalition Updates

In 2020, a Minnesota HIV Housing Plan Workgroup was formed. The workgroup meets bi-monthly on Thursdays.

In 2021, DHS awarded contract funding to Rainbow Health to hire a full-time coordinator to support the work of the Minnesota HIV Housing Coalition and the Minnesota HIV Housing Plan.

HIV Housing Inventory as of 12.31.21

Facility	Address	Housing Type*	# Units
<u>Clare Housing Supportive Housing Apartment Buildings**</u>	Minneapolis	PSH	149
Clare Housing Community Care Homes	Minneapolis	AFC	12
Clare Housing Scattered Site Housing Program	Various Locations Metro Area	PSH	73
<u>Ford House</u>	Minneapolis	PH	11
<u>Hope House</u>	Stillwater	AFC	4
<u>Indigenous Peoples Task Force - Maynidoowahdak Odena</u>	Minneapolis	PSH	14
<u>Lydia Apartments</u>	Minneapolis	PSH	6
<u>MLK Court (YWCA of St. Paul)</u>	St. Paul	PSH – Families	8
<u>The Salvation Army</u>	Metro Area	PSH – Families (8); Singles (6)	14
<u>Metropolitan Council HRA</u>	Scattered Site: Metro Area	PRA	53
<u>Rainbow Health (formerly JustUs Health and MN AIDS Project)</u>	Scattered Site: Statewide	TH	114
<u>The Aliveness Project</u>	Minneapolis	RRH	20
Total Units Available:			478

* **PSH** (Permanent Supportive Housing); **PH** (Permanent Housing); **PRA** (Permanent Rental Assistance); **TH** Transitional Housing; **RRH**: Rapid Re-Housing; **AFC** (Adult Foster Care).

** Clare Housing is partnering with PPL on "Bloom Lake Flats", a new building that will provide 15 units for families and 27 units for individuals. (Total of 42 units).

The targeted opening date for BLF is September of 2022. That date could change depending on securing final funding for the project, etc.

MN HIV Housing Coalition

Our Mission

To improve accessibility and expand housing options for HIV positive individuals through advocacy, education, and use of best practices.

We meet most months.

Join us!

- ▶ 3rd Thursday
- ▶ 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
- ▶ Meetings are held via Zoom

To be added to the email list or to get a meeting link, contact:

aamina.mohamed@rainbowhealth.org



First Call Resource

Minnesota AIDSLINE

CALL (612)373-2437

EMAIL aidline@rainbowhealth.org

TEXT AIDSLINE to 839863

SUBSCRIBE to the Housing Info Newsletter

CONTACT Kim Lieberman for more info at

kim.lieberman@rainbowhealth.org.



HIV Housing Information & Resources

Affordable housing is one of the greatest unmet needs for people living with HIV/AIDS. It is estimated half of all people living with HIV will need housing assistance at some point in their lives. Compared to people living with HIV who are stably housed, people living with HIV who are homeless are more likely to delay entry to care, be less adherent to medication, have worse overall health outcomes, and are more likely to use emergency rooms and be hospitalized. People who are homeless or unstably housed have HIV infection rates as much as 16 times higher than people who have a stable place to live. When housed, people are more likely to gain access to treatment and adhere to treatment.

We as HIV housing providers are changing this paradigm by putting housing at the core of one's health. Creating a culture of health across all our housing programs helps to build new communities where everyone has the opportunity to live a healthier life.

Federal Resources

- ▶ [HUD Homeless Assistance Programs](#)
- ▶ [HOPWA Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS](#)
- ▶ [National AIDS Housing Coalition](#)
- ▶ [National Low Income Housing Coalition](#)

Minnesota Resources

- ▶ [Housing Benefits 101](#)
- ▶ [HousingLink](#)
- ▶ [MN Coalition for the Homeless](#)
- ▶ [MN Housing Partnership](#)
- ▶ [Minnesota Housing](#)
- ▶ [MN Council for HIV/AIDS Care and Prevention](#)
- ▶ [MN HIV Strategy – END HIV MN](#)

HIV Outbreak Resources

- ▶ [Minnesota Department of Health](#)
- ▶ [Hennepin County](#)
- ▶ [Syringe Service Programs](#)

HIV in Minnesota

In 2020, the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) HIV/AIDS Incidence Report showed HIV cases decreased with 226 cases reported in 2020, compared to 276 cases in 2019. This is below the 5-year average of 274 cases per year from 2016-2020. Minnesota Department of Health 2021 annual data set to be released in June 2022.

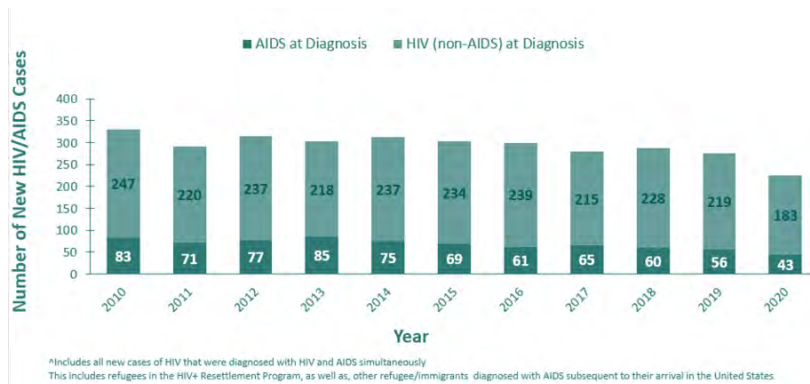


Fig. 1 Minnesota Department of Health Incidence Report. 2020.

HIV Outbreak

In 2020, an HIV outbreak was declared in Hennepin and Ramsey counties with cases dating back to 2018. The Duluth region declared an outbreak in 2021 with cases dating back to 2019. As of March 2022, there are a total of 116 outbreak-specific cases in Minnesota. Minnesota's outbreak-associated cases have risk factors consistent with the national outbreaks. Populations most at risk in this outbreak have been people who use injection drugs (PWID), people experiencing homelessness or unstable housing, and people who exchange sex for income or items they need. **Outbreak cases do not account for all cases of HIV in Minnesota.**

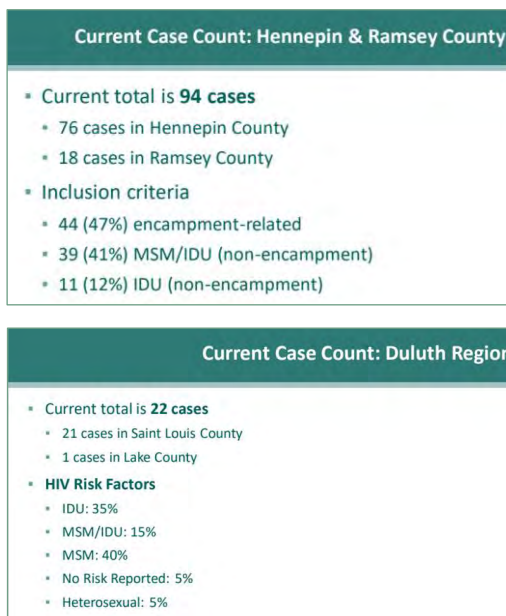


Fig. 2 Minnesota Department of Health Current Case Counts. 3-2022.