

## Determining the Efficacy of Mobile Health Units Providing Integrated Health Services to People Who Inject Drugs



More than 81,000 drug overdose deaths occurred in the U.S. in the 12 months ending in May 2020, the highest number of overdose deaths ever recorded in a 12-month period, according to provisional data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). People who inject drugs (PWID) face more than just the risk of overdose. The lack of access to health care, including medication for opioid use disorder (MOUD), poverty, poly-substance use, and mental health disorders experienced by PWID, combine to worsen the risk of HIV transmission and acquisition along with other serious health issues.

When they exist, the available health services needed to address the diverse health needs of PWID are often distant, presenting significant barriers to access. Opioid use itself is a disorganizing factor in the lives of PWID, interfering with consistent access to healthcare, and the stigma or judgment PWID face from healthcare personnel cause many to avoid seeking care. [HPTN 094](#) addresses the overlapping and intertwined epidemics of opioid addiction and HIV acquisition among PWID. The study is reaching people living with opioid use disorder (OUD) by bringing integrated and judgment-free health services delivered in a mobile unit, supported by peer navigation, to where they live.

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## Shoutouts



HPTN 2019-2020 Domestic Scholar Dr.

Derek T. Dangerfield II, along with co-mentors Dr. Irene Kuo, and Dr. Many Magnus, published an article in the Archives of Sexual Behavior entitled "[Sexual Risk Profiles Among Black Sexual Minority Men: Implications for Targeted PrEP Messaging](#)." The article highlights important data explorations of [HPTN 073](#) and supports the need for culturally relevant, tailored, and targeted PrEP messaging for Black men who have sex with men. Dr. Dangerfield is an assistant professor at the Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing in Baltimore.

Dr. Colleen Kelley, [HPTN 083](#) and [HPTN 083-02](#) protocol team member, and associate professor of medicine at Emory University School of Medicine in the Division of Infectious Diseases in Atlanta, recently received the 2021 HIVMA Research Award. She was recognized for her outstanding contributions to HIV research, including significant contributions in understanding how the mucosal inflammatory milieu mediates the risk of HIV acquisition.



Dr. Brandon Brown, a current member of the HPTN Ethics Working Group and HPTN 2015-16 Domestic Scholar, has been named a 2021 Emerging Leader in Health and Medicine Scholar by the National Academy of Medicine. Dr. Brown is one of only ten emerging leaders chosen this year, all of whom are early- to mid-career professionals from a wide range of health-related fields. He is also an associate professor in the Department of Social Medicine, Population and Public Health in the School of Medicine at the University of California, Riverside.

## Network Member Spotlight

Dr. Susan Buchbinder, [HPTN 091](#) investigator, is director of Bridge HIV, a grant-funded research unit housed in the San Francisco Department of Public Health. She is also a clinical professor of Medicine and Epidemiology at UCSF, where she attends at San Francisco General Hospital and teaches in the Training in Clinical Research program.



**What attracted you to a career in HIV prevention research?**

I came to San Francisco for medical school just as the HIV epidemic started and went through those early, dark years when we didn't know a lot and didn't have tools to help people living with HIV. I had early hope for a safe and effective HIV vaccine (still a dream of mine), and when that was going to be a challenge, I felt we needed other approaches to prevent HIV. Just telling people to use condoms wasn't going to work. It seemed that we needed better biomedical tools (like PrEP) to help prevent new infections and better strategies to ensure that our tools are desired, accessible, and usable by people globally.

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**Awareness Days**



## Hot Off The Press

Leddy AM, Neilands TB, Twine R, Kahn K, Ahern J, Pettifor A, Lippman SA. [Examining Mediators of the Relationship Between Community Mobilization and HIV Incidence Among Young South African Women Participating in the HPTN 068 Study Cohort.](#) AIDS Behav. 2021 Oct 19.

Irvin R, Gamble T, Malone J, Wang Z, Wilson E, Hughes JP, Farley J, Mayer KH, Del Rio C, Batey DS, Cummings V, Remien RH, Beyrer C, Thio CL. [HIV Prevention Trials Network 078: High Prevalence of Hepatitis C Virus Antibodies Among Urban US Men Who Have Sex With Men, Independent of Human Immunodeficiency Virus Status.](#) Clin Infect Dis. 2021 Oct 5;73(7):e2205-e2210.

Stoner MCD, Westreich D, Ahern J, Edwards J, Gómez-Olivé FX, Tollman SM, Lippman S, Kahn K, Pettifor A. [Modeling Combination Interventions to Prevent Human Immunodeficiency Virus in Adolescent Girls and Young Women in South Africa \(HIV Prevention Trials Network 068\).](#) Clin Infect Dis. 2021 Oct 5;73(7):e1911-e1918.

Dangerfield DT 2nd, Kuo I, Magnus M, Beauchamp G, Fields SD, Nelson L, Shoptaw S, Wilton L, Wheeler DP. [Sexual Risk Profiles Among Black Sexual Minority Men:](#)

[Implications for Targeted PrEP Messaging](#). Arch Sex Behav. 2021 Sep 29.

Scheidell JD, Dyer TV, Hucks-Ortiz C, Abrams J, Mazumdar M, Cleland C, Irvine N, Turpin RE, Severe M, Mayer K, Khan M. [Characterisation of social support following incarceration among black sexual minority men and transgender women in the HPTN 061 cohort study](#). BMJ Open. 2021 Sep 29;11(9):e053334.



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