

# IMPACTREPORT

## 2023



**Address**  
30 Danforth St.  
Suite 309  
Portland, ME 04101

**peabodycenter.org**  
**PrEP207.org**

**prevention:**  
207.749.6818  
**main office:**  
207.774.6877

Staff

*Katie Rutherford, Executive Director*  
*Lorena Delcourt, Finance Director*

*Celine Burrows*  
*Kristin Espey*  
*Ashley Fowler, MSW*  
*Stephanie Fry*  
*Gillian Kramer, MSW-CC*  
*Emily Miller*  
*Estelle Ngossanga*  
*Linda Plourde*  
*Jenna Proffenno*  
*Charlotte Rogers, LCSW*  
*Rick Sprague, PhD*  
*Robert Trainum*  
*Laura Vecchio*

Board of Directors

*Justin Burkhardt, President*  
*Michael McDonald, Vice President*  
*David Masengesho, Treasurer*

*Patrick Afthim*  
*Paul Andrews*  
*Caitlin Eldridge, MSW*  
*Theo Greene, PhD*  
*KJ Gormley*  
*Sarah Lewis*  
*Jimmy Lucibello*  
*Peter Mandly*  
*Deborah Shields, JD, MPH*  
*Chloe Swerdlow*  
*Tiffany Townsend, NP AAHIVS*



**Through our dedicated staff, Board of Directors, and generous supporters, we are making a difference in the lives of the people we serve, and building on the collective strength of our community.**



- Justin Burkhardt, Board President

## ■ Contents

### **Introduction**

Who We Are 02

### **Demographics + Services**

Who We Serve 03

### **Impact**

Health Outcomes + Response 04

### **Advocacy Highlights**

Policy + Action 05

### **Looking Ahead**

Celebrating Life 06



**Katie Rutherford**  
Executive Director

2023 was a year of significant challenge and perseverance for our staff and clients. Our team continues to draw on the shared strength of each other as we head into a new year with a renewed sense of hope and commitment.

This new year brings opportunities for capacity growth, enhanced service delivery, new partnerships and increased advocacy to ensure our work is not only supporting people in Maine living with HIV/AIDS, but also contributing to the national and global goals of ensuring equitable access to quality care.

“  
**Our client-centered compassionate care, and the determination of those we serve are what propels our work forward.**  
”

## Introduction

### Our Team

Our staff is made up of 15 dedicated, talented and collaborative individuals committed to providing a high level of care for people impacted by HIV/AIDS in Maine. With diverse experiences and backgrounds, we work as a team to support each other and those we serve.

### Our Board

Our Board of Directors dedicates their time, resources and unique expertise across a variety of professional sectors to support and guide the agency’s programs and strategic direction.

### Our Services

**Case Management.** Comprehensive specialized care coordination that assists individuals living with HIV/AIDS achieve and maintain health stability. This includes linkage to health coverage, medical care, medications and wrap-around services that address food insecurity, housing, mental health, substance use, and transportation.



**Housing.** Administering statewide federally funded housing grants that include a subsidy program as well as short-term rent, mortgage and utility assistance for people in Maine living with HIV/AIDS. These “HOPWA” grants are the only HUD-funded program that includes additional supportive services such as case management and transportation assistance.



**Prevention.** Free, low-barrier, confidential HIV and Hepatitis C Testing Services and Linkage to Care. FPC performs over 400 in-person tests annually and administers the state’s largest self-test kit program, distributing over 1000 free HIV self-test kits in partnership with 20 organizations across the state.

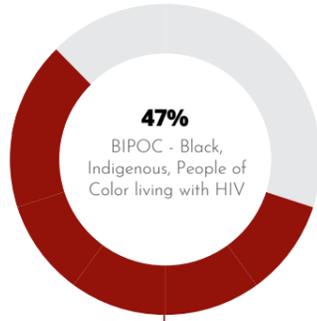


**Advocacy.** FPC serves on the National HIV/AIDS Housing Coalition Board of Directors, The Advisory Council to the US Business Action to End AIDS, Maine’s HIV/AIDS Advisory Committee and serves as the Provider co-chair of Maine’s HIV/AIDS Advisory Board. Together with partners and community, we have expanded access to HIV prevention services through state legislation and contributed to increased funds for Federal HIV/AIDS Housing Grants.



## DEMOGRAPHICS

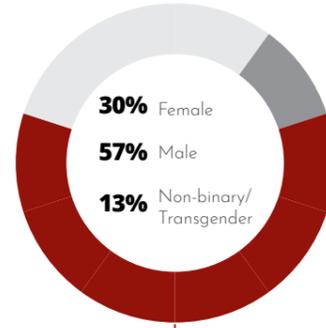
People Enrolled in HIV Case Management:



83% of individuals enrolled in case management are low-income, with over half living at or below 100% of the Federal Poverty Line.

Individuals range in age from 6 to 81 years of age.

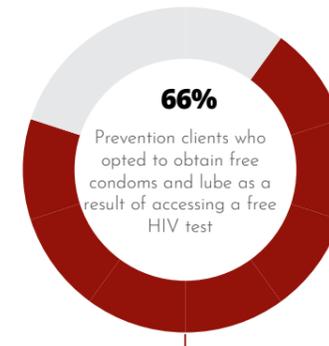
People Accessing Prevention Services:



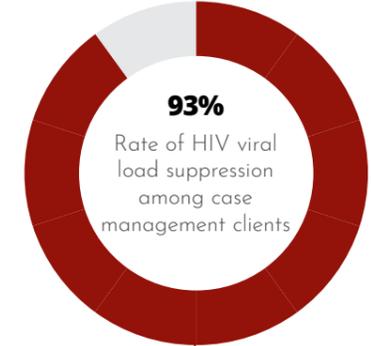
100% of clients receiving a test report more than one risk factor for acquiring HIV.

## IMPACT

Health Outcomes + Response



Half of people receiving an HIV test had never heard of PrEP and were provided with education and referral resources.



Viral load suppression is a key indicator of health with HIV, and prevents HIV transmission. National rate is below 70%

## SERVICES

1,038

People who received a free HIV and/or Hepatitis C test

30% of people report never having been tested for HIV.

397

People served by HIV Case Management and Housing Services

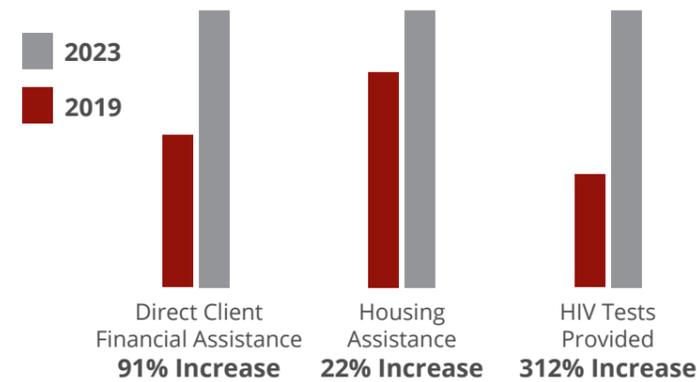
An additional 182 household members are supported by these services.

163

People living with HIV/AIDS that received housing support through a subsidy, or assistance with rent, utility or security deposit

100% of these individuals maintained contact with their case manager

Program Enhancement Since 2019

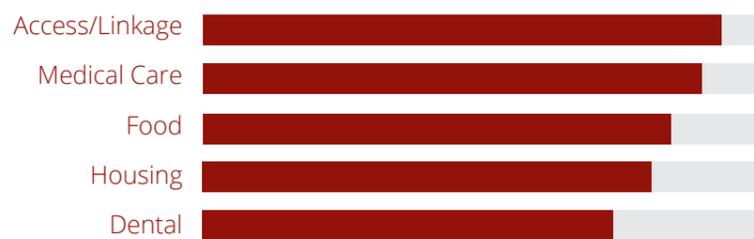


FPC serves around 400 people annually through case management and housing. The increases shown to the left indicate significant growth in financial assistance provided annually to our client base.

Direct client financial assistance helps with critical needs including durable medical equipment, medication copays, emergency food cards, transportation, and dental care.

Increase to testing is a direct result of the addition of HIV self-test kit distribution reaching more individuals throughout Maine.

Top 5 Needs Reported Among Clients Enrolled in HIV Case Management:



Clients work with their case manager to develop care plans and goals, which inform service delivery. Progress toward goals and health outcomes are monitored and reviewed routinely. Goals are adjusted as necessary.



**FPC Services have been invaluable to me. Not only has the psychological support been important - the financial and linkage to care support that I have received has made a huge difference between getting my needs met and going without.**

## ADVOCACY HIGHLIGHTS

### Commentary: HIV Testing Should Be a Routine Part of Patient Care in Maine

Special to the Press Herald | May 2, 2023 In Support of LD 1736  
Deborah Shields, JD MPH, Board Member

"We know these low-barrier testing services are a key part of the effort to increase HIV testing access, but we must do more, as a state, to ensure everyone is aware of their status and how to protect themselves."



### Amicus Brief | US Court of Appeals for the Fifth District

Filed along with 24 other HIV and Hepatitis Organizations in support of the US Government in Braidwood Management v. Bacerra | June 23, 2023

"The United States Preventive Services Task Force ("USPSTF") and its recommendations have been essential to the prevention of HIV, hepatitis, and many other infectious and chronic diseases for millions of Americans. After the passage of the Affordable Care Act ("ACA"), USPSTF's recommendations became a critical first step in ensuring effective interventions are covered by health insurance. A wholesale invalidation of the coverage requirement for USPSTF's recommendations would strike a critical, unnecessary, and costly blow to the battle to end HIV, hepatitis, and other infectious diseases."

### US Business Action to End HIV

Expanding Access to Care Through Community Pharmacies

In November, 2023, FPC Board member, Tiffany Townsend, NP AAHIVS, and FPC Executive Director, Katie Rutherford, attended advocacy meetings as panelists and advisory members with business leaders, public health experts, and the Office of National HIV/AIDS Policy as part of a national effort to expand access to HIV care in community pharmacies.



### Letter: Eliminating HIV Program is Wrong

Letter to the Press Herald | December 21, 2023  
Justin Burkhardt, Board President



"St. Mary's failure to take into account the needs of individuals living with HIV is both unacceptable and poses a serious threat to their lives... We are committed to ensuring those who received care through its program have the essential resources needed to attain and sustain stable health while exploring viable solutions for the continuity of care."



## LOOKING AHEAD



In 2023, Frannie Peabody Center established The Tim Stein Catalyst Fund following the passing of our friend, Board member, and supporter, Tim Stein. It was made possible by his fierce generosity and dedication to HIV/AIDS services, and reflects the values we share as a community.

At his Celebration of Life, Tim's friends and loved ones shared stories of his unwavering support and his innate ability to recognize and celebrate human potential. These stories, and our memories of Tim have helped shape this Fund, and we are grateful to Tim and our community in moving this initiative forward.

We believe Tim's legacy gift was more than a statement; it was an invitation to unite as a community in the fight against HIV/AIDS. Sustaining and growing these services will require all of us.

### Celebrating Life

Frannie Peabody Center honors the lives of those we have lost to HIV/AIDS in 2023. We remember the vibrancy and resilience of each individual, and cherish all the lessons we have learned and experiences shared.

We also want to celebrate the growing families of those we serve. Through birth and partnership, we are grateful for the opportunity to provide support throughout each journey.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Our services are supported by Maine's Department of Health and Human Services, Maine Center for Disease Control & Prevention, Office of MaineCare Services, The US Department of Housing and Urban Development, The Tim Stein Catalyst Fund, United Way of Southern Maine, Sam L Cohen Foundation, Maine Community Foundation, John T Gorman Foundation, Fisher Charitable Foundation, Stephen & Tabitha King Foundation, Dorree Taylor Charitable Foundation, Bank of America Charitable Foundation, and many state and national foundations.

This work would not be possible without our incredible community of supporters, advocates, local businesses and partners that help us elevate and strengthen comprehensive care for people affected by HIV/AIDS in Maine.

“ We’ve come through lots of storms.  
But, we’re still paddling hard. ”

- Frannie Peabody



# Compassion. Resilience. Courage.

[peabodycenter.org](https://peabodycenter.org)

