

DHIT/HIV/  
Innovation  
Sprint

# Help Us End the HIV Epidemic



# // HIV PREVENTION: WHAT'S NEXT?

The fight to end the HIV epidemic in the US has made encouraging progress in the past few years. And yet the job is not close to being finished.

What comes next? And how can we get there? The Digital Health Institute for Transformation (DHIT), in collaboration with Gilead, is engaging communities in three cities in the Southeast to facilitate insights and answers to these critical questions.

The DHIT HIV Innovation Sprint in collaboration with Gilead is convening people who could benefit from HIV prevention with those serving the community. Through the sprint, community members (advocates, innovators, technologists, etc) will ideate and co-develop solutions that can make a meaningful difference toward ending the HIV epidemic.

This guide provides an overview of the Innovation Sprint, how it works, and what we hope to achieve. It's your chance to shape the next wave of efforts to end the HIV epidemic — and help increase the health and wellness of communities most impacted by HIV.



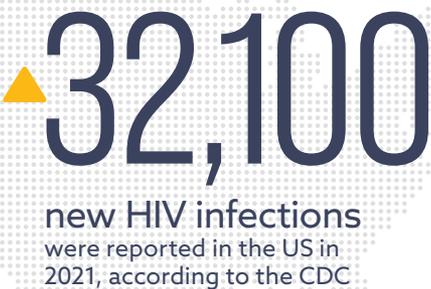
## // THE CHALLENGE

A lot of progress has been made toward ending the HIV epidemic. New infections fell by nearly 8% from 2019 to 2021, for example, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). And overall infections decreased by 18% between 2018 and 2022.

While these improvements are worth celebrating, we all recognize there's more work to be done. Achieving the "last mile" of HIV prevention will require some new approaches and interventions that leverage what's worked so far to create new opportunities to reach, activate, and engage those who could benefit from HIV prevention.

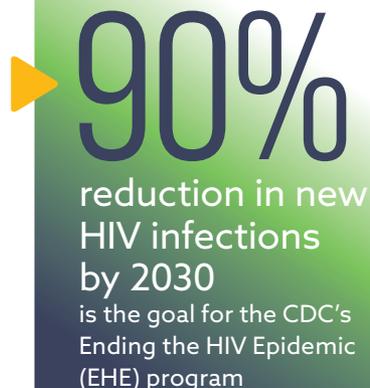
Patients, caregivers, individuals who could benefit from prevention, and populations most affected by HIV very often don't have access to the resources they need. At the same time, health educators, innovators, and entrepreneurs who have a lot to offer the HIV community often struggle to reach those in need.

Ending this mismatch is a driving force behind the DHIT HIV Innovation Sprint in collaboration with Gilead.



32,100  
new HIV infections  
were reported in the US in  
2021, according to the CDC

The infographic features a stylized map of the United States in the background, composed of a grid of small dots. A large orange triangle points to the number 32,100.



90%  
reduction in new  
HIV infections  
by 2030  
is the goal for the CDC's  
Ending the HIV Epidemic  
(EHE) program

The infographic features a green-to-blue gradient background. A large orange triangle points to the number 90%.

# // THE INNOVATION SPRINT

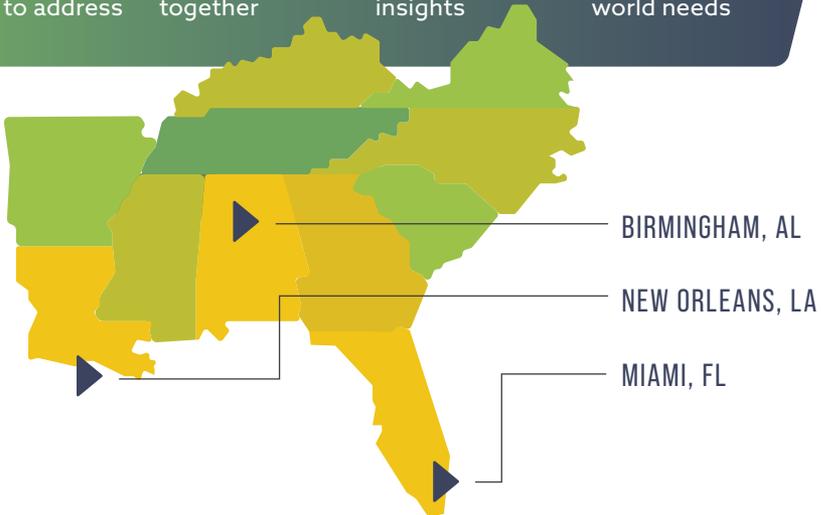
The DHIT HIV Innovation Sprint in collaboration with Gilead is designed to engage all parts of the HIV prevention community in an inclusive, facilitated five-month effort.

Community members across Miami, Fla., Birmingham, Ala., and New Orleans, La. are invited to join the sprint, which runs from November 2024 through March 2025.

The program includes a Discovery Day and a two-day Design Challenge in each city. Community members will learn about the most pressing challenges, explore available resources that exist, and form teams to develop solutions that will be supported with additional resources as teams develop against their mission. DHIT will continually facilitate discussions and curate input from each city. The sprint will culminate in discussions, knowledge-sharing, and report-outs at a National Health Innovation Summit in March 2025 in Charlotte, NC, where the best solutions will be featured.

## DHIT HEALTH INNOVATION SPRINT PROCESS

- ▶ **Convene** each local community to understand their discrete needs and identify gaps to address
- ▶ **Connect** the multi-disciplinary and multi-sector ecosystem to co-create value together
- ▶ **Catalyze** adoption and implementation cycles based on real-world feedback and insights
- ▶ **Collaborate** with the supply chain of innovators and solutions to impact real-world needs



# // THE CHALLENGE

What does it take to see the world from someone else's perspective? Can we even begin to understand what another person in our community is experiencing?

In the Innovation Sprint, you'll adopt a mindset that's open to how others see both the possibilities and barriers in front of them. You'll move from "That's just how it is" to "What if?" and "Why not?" You'll surface the ideas that others might be thinking but haven't had the opportunity — or voice — to pursue.

The open innovation and human-centered design process is an iterative approach to problem seeking and solving. Here's how it will play out over the course of the sprint:

## 4D PROCESS

**Discover:** Curiosity to discover ignites the process. Driven by purpose, discovery involves broad exploration and eventual narrowing of focus with clarity and alignment on the problems to solve for.

**Define:** Defining the area of focus, identifying and understanding the end user (or customer) and their unmet needs allows us to frame the opportunity and begin to envision a better future.

**Design:** An iterative process involving ideation, feedback, and refinement. Design considerations are intuitively rooted in the needs of the user and are supported by a multi-disciplinary team of subject matter experts.

**Develop:** Solutions are developed and monitored for success and adoption by intended users. Opportunities for continued refinement often arise and support from the broader ecosystem is facilitated.

The process is fully collaborative. DHIT supplies the experience of leading dozens of Innovation Sprints in Healthcare. You bring your expertise in HIV prevention, knowledge of community resources, and an open mindset. And we'll all value the perspective of community members — those living with HIV and those who could benefit from HIV prevention — who are sharing their experiences.

# // THE SPRINT, STEP-BY-STEP

## STEP 1

### DISCOVERY DAY

This full-day event brings together a diverse set of stakeholders in each community. We'll hear "reverse pitches" from community members who will share their needs and expectations around HIV prevention. Facilitators will share data and insights to learn the full scope of the challenge.

- **Birmingham**  
Nov. 22, 2024
- **New Orleans**  
Dec. 6, 2024
- **Miami**  
Dec. 13, 2024

## STEP 2

### DESIGN CHALLENGE

A kickoff session over dinner where learning is shared from Discovery Day and sets the stage for the next day's Design Challenge. You'll be part of a team that spends the day exploring the problem, designing solutions, and working with subject matter experts. From there, a panel of community experts will choose two teams per city to move forward.

- **New Orleans**  
Jan. 23-24, 2025
- **Miami**  
Jan. 29-30, 2025
- **Birmingham**  
Feb. 5-6, 2025

## STEP 3

### DESIGN SPRINT

Selected teams will work virtually to give their ideas structure. This eight-week portion of the program is where participants roll up their sleeves to develop and refine their vision and solutions, including developing an implementation roadmap. DHIT facilitates and provides guidance to each team.

## STEP 4

### DEMO DAY

It's time to showcase the innovations emerging from each team. Participants are invited to the National Health Innovation Summit in Charlotte, March 18-19, 2025, to pitch their solutions and requirements. It's an opportunity to receive valuable input and bring new community partners and resources on board. From there, teams will work to implement and promote their innovations, armed with the knowledge and relationships gained through the Innovation Sprint.

# // READY FOR THE NEXT STEP?

The Innovation Sprint will only work if all groups with a stake in HIV prevention come together to participate and collaborate. Your participation will play a valuable role in the steps to advancing HIV prevention.

If you're involved in any facet of HIV prevention or health innovation at large, you can contribute to the Innovation Sprint in many ways — by participating in sessions in your city, by promoting the events to your networks, and by sharing knowledge and resources, to name but a few (see the back page for more details on how to join).

## **Working together, we can reach our shared goals of:**

- ▶ **Enhanced** community awareness, engagement, and trust
- ▶ **Increased** access to best practices and resources in preventing HIV
- ▶ **Access** to new innovations driving health improvement
- ▶ **Greater capacity** to create and sustain community programs aimed at ending the HIV epidemic



Digital Health Institute  
*for Transformation*

The Digital Health Institute for Transformation, a North Carolina-based nonprofit with more than a decade of experience in designing and facilitating health innovation, is leading the sprint.



This effort is being conducted in collaboration with Gilead Sciences, a company whose mission is to discover, develop, and deliver innovative therapeutics for people with life-threatening diseases.

# DHIT//HIV// Innovation Sprint



## HOW TO JOIN



### Learn

[dhitglobal.org/gilead](https://dhitglobal.org/gilead)



### Contact

Email us at [info@dhitglobal.org](mailto:info@dhitglobal.org)



### Register

Scan the  
QR code  
to register  
your interest

