HIV/AIDS and Sexual Health at Altarum Institute

Altarum Institute works to create systems-based solutions to guide, develop and evaluate projects that support the sexual health and well being of all people throughout their lifetime. Altarum works to strategically plan, develop, implement, and evaluate HIV, sexually transmitted infections (STI), viral hepatitis, and family planning programs that address sexual health and serve all ages and diverse communities.

Altarum is working to create new stories about sexual health and HIV/AIDS, based in a systems approach where effective programs reach people with messages of respect, responsibility, prevention, and treatment. In these stories, communities and governments make the best use of scarce resources to reach diverse peoples with effective messages and services, and programs overcome cultural, social, and economic barriers. Altarum’s HIV/AIDS and sexual health portfolio includes the following:

**Action Plan for the Prevention, Care, and Treatment of Viral Hepatitis**

In 2011, DHHS issued *Combating the Silent Epidemic of Viral Hepatitis: Action Plan for the Prevention, Care, and Treatment of Viral Hepatitis (Viral Hepatitis Action Plan)*, the first national action plan to address viral hepatitis in the United States. Altarum was awarded a 3-year contract to assist DHHS in implementing, monitoring, and promoting public awareness about the newly released Action Plan. Altarum is providing support to OHAIDP in managing the Viral Hepatitis Implementation Group, which comprises 16 DHHS and other federal agencies; coordinating consultations with public and private sector stakeholders; providing blogs and reports on hepatitis issues; analyzing programs and policies related to viral hepatitis; and assisting in monitoring and reporting on the federal agencies’ progress in implementing the Viral Hepatitis Action Plan.

**ACT Against AIDS Leadership Initiative (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [CDC])**

Through the CDC National Center for HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention’s Indefinite Deliverable/Indefinite Quantity (ID/IQ), Altarum provided technical assistance and funding support to 16 of the nation’s leading African-American organizations, which enabled them to reach thousands of predominantly African-American individuals with HIV/AIDS awareness messages, HIV testing, and referrals to care and treatment. Altarum provided indepth technical assistance to each of the organizations; developed an online workspace that gave partners access to a vast array of tools and resources; designed and executed a competitive application process that recruited men who have sex with men (MSM) as Act Against AIDS Leadership Initiative partners; and planning and leading two key partner meetings in Atlanta, Georgia, and Washington, DC.

**Title X Family Planning Guidelines (Office of Population Affairs [OPA])**

Altarum is helping the OPA Office of Family Planning (OFP) revise the current Title X Family Planning Program guidelines in order to reflect current standards of care and best practices. Family planning has been designated one of the ten great public health achievements of the 20th century. Since 1970, one source of affordable high-quality family planning care for women, men, and adolescents across the United States has been the network of providers that receive funds through the Federal Title X Family Planning Program. Our work includes facilitating expert workgroups; providing concise and accurate meeting notes; editing the guidelines document; advising on how best to disseminate the guidelines; and providing meeting, writing, and editorial support.

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Training Video to Support CDC’s d-up/ Behavioral Intervention for Black MSM (CDC)

Through the task order awarded under our CDC ID/IQ, Altarum Institute leads a partnership with Banyan Communications on the development and production of an instructional video and promotional video on the d-up!: Defend Yourself HIV prevention intervention targeting African-American MSM. The video will be used during d-up! trainings conducted with health departments and community-based organizations learning how to use the intervention. The production of this video marks the first-ever video product created for use with CDC’s many evidence based HIV interventions.

The Return on Investment of Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Programs and Activities (Robert Wood Johnson Foundation [RWJF])

Altarum is supporting RWJF to examine the existing research on the economic returns from investment in health promotion and disease prevention programs, which include sexual health and HIV/AIDS-related programs. Drawing on our expertise in economic evaluation methods and trends in health spending at the national and state levels, Altarum is providing information and background materials that will establish a sound base of evidence that identifies the key issues, challenges, and research gaps involved in assessing the economic impact and return on investment of disease prevention.

Evaluation of HIV Community Mobilization College (Black AIDS Institute [BAI])

Altarum works with BAI to conduct a comprehensive evaluation of their Community Mobilization College (CMC) program. The CMC is an intensive educational effort to increase the capacity of organizations serving Black communities to engage in HIV/AIDS community mobilization, prevention, and education efforts. Altarum worked closely with BAI leadership to develop an evaluation plan and corresponding evaluation questions aimed at assessing program processes, as well as immediate and intermediate outcomes for individuals and organizations. After data-gathering efforts, Altarum provided BAI with reports on the successes, challenges, and outcomes associated with the project.

The National Partnership for Action (Office of Minority Health [OMH])

With funding from OMH, Altarum is charged with the implementation of the National Partnership for Action to End Health Disparities (NPA). Altarum works with OMH to provide leadership to support and sustain strategies to achieve health equity at the state, regional, national, and federal levels. Our work includes developing and tracking the NPA Implementation Plan, providing technical assistance, and ensuring alignment with HHS Action Plan to Reduce Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities. Health disparities have been prominent in HIV/AIDS and STIs and present challenges for minority populations seeking access to sexual health care and family planning.

The Future of Family Planning Research (OFP)

Altarum, in partnership with the Urban Institute, reviewed the family planning service delivery literature and identified research gaps and opportunities to inform OFP’s future research agenda. By conducting a rigorous literature review and convening a group of technical experts, Altarum guided the development of OFP’s research priorities to improve the availability of family planning services for all. In addition, Altarum is working with OFP to identify best practices and promising strategies for both ongoing research dissemination and collaboration.