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| **Developing sustainable partnerships with faith communities to reach communities that are disproportionately impacted by health, social, and economic disparities, to enhance health promotion efforts and practices** |
| **Setting/problem**Reaching communities disproportionately impacted by health issues and who do not consistently utilize traditional health systems to access medical care and services. **Intervention**State-wide community level intervention designed to actively engage faith communities (FC) as partners in New York State’s (NYS) efforts to effectively reach communities with disproportionate disease impact. Intervention goals are aligned with NYS’s Ending the Epidemic efforts and are designed to: Identify individuals who are unknowingly living with HIV and/or AIDS; Link individuals living with HIV to rapid treatment and social services to achieve sustained viral suppression, and Promote Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis and Post Exposure Prophylaxis for individuals who are HIV negative.**Rationale to and process for including faith communities in public health and health promotions efforts:** Recognize the role of FC in populations being served; Invite faith leaders (FL) to participate in initial discussions related to responding to public health emergencies; Assess FL and congregations’ knowledge, attitudes and beliefs regarding issues, their need for training or technical assistance to fully participate in the response; and provide initial and on-going trainings and workshops to update them on changes; Develop a clergy task force or workgroup to provide guidance and develop recommendations on policies and practices; and Conduct focus groups with FL on best practices for health care and prevention services and;**Outcomes**Access to a cadre of faith leaders available to actively participate in public health meetings and to advocate for services and programs; Increased visibility of persons living with HIV or AIDS to mitigate stigma and discrimination; Established partnerships with divinity schools and seminaries to promote awareness about importance health promotion and public health concerns.**Implications**Public health and FC can develop an active and sustainable partnership which can inform public policy in response to health concerns. Together, these entities can advocate for policies to improve health care, health promotion and prevention programs, and services **Preferred presentation format**: Oral presentation |