



We at the California Center for HIV Syndemic (CalCenSyn) Policy Research are pleased to meet you!



Community Partners: Dennis Alvarez & Aaron Armer (Sacramento LGBTQ Center), Maurice Tobin (Oakland LGBTQ Center) Tara Stamos-Buesig (Harm Reduction Coalition of San Diego), CJ Tobe (DAP Health); **Academic Partners:** Drs. Jamila Stockman, Tommi Gaines, Natasha Martin, Nicole Kelly, Maryam Hussain (UCSD)



Leadership: Drs. Laramie Smith (UCSD), Orlando Harris (UCSF); **Coordinators:** Martín Ibarra, Myiesha Phelps, Aaron Gutierrez (UCSD)

Who are we?

CalCenSyn is a policy research center. We focus on the social and structural issues that link HIV to other (syndemic) health inequities in California (e.g., violence, immigration, housing, and substance use). We are funded* to lead this collaborative work with communities often overlooked in California's HIV response.

CalCenSyn leadership, coordinators, community and academic partners are personally connected to the needs and impact we want our policy work to have in our communities.

How can we support your organization's important work?

California has led advances in HIV treatment and prevention and policy efforts to End the HIV Epidemic (EHE). Still, multiple marginalized and underserved groups, including sexual and gender minorities, Black, Brown, Indigenous, and low-income communities, are often left behind.

Our goal is to partner with frontline organizations committed to serving these communities. This way, we can work together to inform policies addressing the social and structural issues that matter to you. Through our partnership, we aim to lead local and statewide change in HIV and other syndemic health-related policy, research, and practice.

What will we do?

In the coming years (Jan. 2025 – Jan. 2027), we aim to build community partnerships and co-lead policy projects that address the needs of organizations across Sacramento, Alameda, Riverside, San Bernardino, and San Diego Counties. We are prioritizing counties that remain underrepresented in California's EHE response.

Our community-academic collaborative (CAC) policy research involves frontline organizations from start to finish:

1. Our CAC leads three policy work in progress meetings a year with local organizations in our EHE counties to ensure community voices and syndemic-related needs are prioritized in our Center's work.
2. Our CAC members use these priorities to co-develop, lead, and disseminate rapid policy research projects to address the syndemic drivers of HIV inequities in our EHE counties.
3. Our CAC partners with local organizations to share research findings and identify solutions to ending the HIV epidemic in California communities with the highest burden of HIV diagnoses and related disparities.

How do we hope to change the HIV syndemic-related policy outcomes locally and statewide?



Ending the HIV epidemic requires a bold, comprehensive, innovative approach that is community-engaged and scientifically driven. Our mission is to expose the root causes of HIV and syndemic conditions and serve as a leading community-focused policy center that pushes boundaries in HIV policy, research, and practice to achieve health equity in all California communities.

Contact Us: CalCenSynPolicy@health.ucsd.edu – www.chprc.org

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