



# SMILE/Connect to Protect

Memphis, TN



## Snapshot

TARGET POPULATION

Youth ages 12-24

SETTING

Hospital

FOUNDED

2007

DESIGN/THEORY

Motivational Interviewing  
Community Mobilization?

HIV CARE CONTINUUM

Bar before the Bars to Retention in Care

Diagnosis

Prevention

Linkage to Care

Retention in Care

HAART Therapy

Viral Suppression

STAKEHOLDERS

Connect to Protect Coalition Partners

## SMILE/Connect to Protect Program Overview Video



## Innovations

The Connect 2 Protect (C2P) program is part of a multi-city initiative to reduce the transmission HIV/AIDs among youth through local collaborative partnerships with health researchers. The objectives of C2P are to determine whether community mobilization catalyzed by C2P stakeholders produces structural change within selected communities, and to determine whether these structural changes reduce HIV transmission and acquisition among young persons. C2P-Memphis provides HIV care and treatment for adolescents and coordinates with SMILE, or Strategic Multi – Site Initiative for the Linkage and Engagement of HIV Positive Young MSM. SMILE is a

partnership between St. Jude's Children's Hospital and the Shelby County Health Department. Through linkage to care (LTC) service provision and intensive case management, the SMILE program works to alleviate barriers that mitigate care access and engagement among Black same gender loving men residing in Memphis and surrounding areas.

The C2P coalition leverages multi-disciplinary and multi-sectoral leadership to coordinate comprehensive and accessible HIV prevention and care services and engages more than 20 community partners to address client needs. One key partnership provides C2P-SMILE with public health authority to expedite care coordination for newly diagnosed youth. C2P-SMILE clients access HIV/STI screening and testing, mental health services, social support services and intensive case management for care coordination through timely access to medical records.

## Services

### Community Outreach and Education

C2P and SMILE staff members and community partners conduct outreach and sexual health education within the local community including schools, clubs, and places of worship. The SMILE LTC coordinator utilizes text messaging to engage patients regarding their individual needs (e.g., housing referrals, Ryan White and ACA applications and sign up) and to remind patients of upcoming medical appointments.

### Sexual Health Services

Patients that participate in the SMILE program receive on-going risk reduction counseling, HIV and STD/STI screenings, referrals for personal/professional development resources, and other health services necessary to develop a comprehensive, individualized health and wellness plan. C2P/SMILE offers the following HIV and STD/STI screening to clients:

- Confidential HIV antibody test (via community partners)
- HIV NAT testing
- Chlamydia
- Gonorrhea Hepatitis C
- Syphilis
- Trichomoniasis
- Hepatitis B and HPV vaccinations

The SMILE linkage program is administered by an LTC coordinator with extensive experience and knowledge of the local health department. Thus, the LTC coordinator can effectively reduce time to linkage for the first medical



## Public Health Authority

shortens the time needed to communicate between agencies- from

**60** DAYS to **2** WEEKS

### SMILE PROGRAM DATA SNAPSHOT



Eligible for LTC\*

**84%**

(175/208)



Linked to Care

**82%**

(143/175)



Of LTC,  
Engaged in Care

**95%**

(130/137)



Of EIC,  
Retained in Care

**90%**

(81/90)

*\*This excludes youth that were out of jurisdiction or already linked with medical care as of June 2015*

appointment following a confirmatory diagnosis by accelerating access and transfer of medical records between the clinic and the health department. St. Jude Children's Hospital provides numerous services to patients free of cost including transportation, food vouchers, and housing referrals. Additionally, SMILE assists with patient referrals for the following services:

- Care Coordination
- Behavioral Interventions
- Domestic Violence Prevention/Services
- Educational and Employment Services (Job Corps)
- Family Counseling
- Food Pantries
- HAART Support and Information
- Housing Services
- Medicaid Enrollment
- Spiritual Counseling
- Social Services
- Transportation Services

“ You cannot always define what makes a LTC worker appealing to youth. It is people who love what they are doing; who are able to speak the language of the youth and who are ready to meet them wherever they are.”

DR. ADITYA GAUR, MD, CLINICAL DIRECTOR, PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR



### Contact

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### Downloads

Community Resource Guide



### Links

Website  
St. Jude Research Hospital  
Adolescent Trials Network



### Podcasts

Coming Soon!

## Other Featured Models

**BROTHERS UNITED / THE DAMIEN CENTER**

Two of Indianapolis' oldest ASOs join forces to offer targeted linkage services for Black LGBT communities.

[READ MORE](#)

**CRUSH PROJECT**

Oakland is onto something great with CRUSH Project, an integrated sexual health clinic created for an by LGBT youth of color

[READ MORE](#)

**PROJECT SILK: A SAFE SPACE PROGRAM**

In downtown Pittsburg, a recreation based community health center unapologetically centers the needs of Black LGBT patients in sexual health service delivery.

[READ MORE](#)

