



Every person deserves full access to quality sexual and reproductive health care, information, and education that meets their needs, no matter who they are or where they live.

INNOVATING FOR IMPACT

PPLM has been working for nearly 40 years to address health inequities in communities where we can make an impact, yet stigma and systemic racism still deny people access to care and information.

Outcomes and evaluation results from our current work in Worcester and Springfield will inform PPLM's work in these regions – and beyond – for years to come.

Worcester Public Schools is among the most racially and ethnically diverse districts in the state, with 45% of students identifying as Latino/a/x. These populations face systemic barriers such as a lack of school-based sex education and difficulty accessing services, resulting in higher rates of unintended pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections (STIs). PPLM's objectives in **Worcester** are:

- 1 build the political power of the Latino/a/x and/or Hispanic communities;
- 2 improve access to and quality of education and information; and
- 3 increase access to culturally responsive health care.

In **Springfield** Black and/or Latina/o/x people face critical barriers to care, including stigma and limited access to services. To reduce the burden of STIs, including HIV, PPLM's objectives in the greater Springfield are:

- 1 expand access to medications to prevent new HIV infections such as pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) and post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) in our health centers through telehealth and by offering the services to younger patients;
- 2 support community partners who provide HIV testing, treatment, and prevention services;
- 3 advocating for city- and state-level policies that support efforts to eliminate HIV transmission and related deaths, including improving minors' access to PrEP and securing state funding for HIV programs.



ACCOMPLISHMENTS

2021

Springfield became a Fast-Track City, joining a global program to achieve zero new HIV infections and zero AIDS-related deaths by 2030.



Comprehensive sex education was offered to K-12 students in Worcester Public Schools for the first time.

2022

In the 2022-2023 school year **Get Real Teen Council (GRTC) peer educators reached 2,688 teens** in their communities.

A law was passed that allows minors to access PrEP care without parental involvement, making this essential HIV prevention care more accessible to young people.

2023

PPLM's Youth Education team **grew the central Massachusetts GRTC by 250%** increasing youth representation to five public and one private school in Worcester.



The Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) approved a new health and physical education framework that includes vital aspects of effective sexual health education: consent, LGBTQ+ inclusivity, and age-appropriate, medically accurate lessons.