



Shakira Croce, scroce@amidacareny.org, 646-757-7052

Amida Care Responds to Newest CDC Data, Urges Further Action to Expand Access to PrEP

(New York – July 29, 2019) Doug Wirth, President and CEO of Amida Care, released the following statement in response to [the latest data](#) from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), showing that despite progress, the use of pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) among men at elevated risk for HIV remains low:

“PrEP is a game-changing treatment regimen that has proven to be over 90% effective in preventing the transmission of HIV. We are encouraged by the data in this report showing that knowledge of PrEP is growing in urban areas and usage is increasing in almost all communities.”

“However, this data also confirms that disparities persist among racial lines when it comes to PrEP usage and awareness. Despite the HIV epidemic’s disproportionate impact on black and Latinx men who have sex with men (MSM), PrEP uptake in these populations remains low.”

“If we are going to end the HIV/AIDS epidemic in the United States by 2030, we need to do more to reach these communities that are the hardest hit by HIV. PrEP enables people to take control of their health, and it can save millions of taxpayer dollars associated with treating HIV. In New York, under Governor Andrew Cuomo’s leadership, advocacy and outreach around PrEP is a cornerstone of the Blueprint to End the HIV/AIDS Epidemic by 2020 - a full ten years before the country’s stated goal.”

“At Amida Care, New York’s largest Medicaid Special Needs Health Plan, we are working with the New York State Department of Health to expand access to Special Needs Health Plans, designed to serve those living with or at elevated risk for HIV, to help ensure that PrEP is available to all.”

About Amida Care

Amida Care Inc. is a not-for-profit health plan that specializes in providing comprehensive health coverage and coordinated care to New Yorkers with complex conditions, including HIV and behavioral health disorders; and people who are of transgender experience or who are homeless, regardless of HIV status. Amida Care has a wide network of health care providers throughout New York City and is the largest Medicaid Special Needs Health Plan (SNP) in New York State. For more information, visit www.amidacareny.org.