The National Alliance for HIV Education and Workforce Development (NAHEWD) represents the national network of AIDS Education and Training Centers (AETCs). The AETCs national, regional, and local centers are a part of the HRSA-funded Ryan White Program. The AETCs provide clinical education to the HIV workforce and capacity-building support to care systems. NAHEWD and its members support the work of the AETCs to build and maintain a well-educated and culturally-sensitive health professions workforce to ensure comprehensive care and treatment to people at-risk for and living with HIV across all phases of the HIV Care Continuum.

HIV INFECTED – estimated number of people living with HIV Infection (PLWH) in the U.S.
NAHEWD ROLE: Support of evidence-based prevention education and training for service systems nationally.
The AETCs teach health care providers about evidence-based prevention methods, including prevention with positives (PWP), pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP), post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP), other sexually transmitted infections (STI), risk-reducing cognitive-behavioral Interventions, and prevention counseling methods.

HIV DIAGNOSED - estimated number of PLWH who have been tested and given an HIV diagnosis
NAHEWD ROLE: Implementation of best practices in the diagnosis of PLWH through routine HIV testing in all health care settings nationally.
The AETCs have a national HIV Testing Workgroup to support implementation of the CDC Testing Guidelines. Local and regional AETCs increase the skills and abilities of health care teams to provide HIV testing with a focus on rapid testing strategies, post-test counseling methods, and clinic logistics for efficient testing. The AETCs pioneered HIV testing in dental clinics.

LINKED TO CARE – estimated number of PLWH diagnosed with HIV who were linked to care services after HIV diagnosis
NAHEWD ROLE: Promote stronger communication between those providing HIV testing and HIV primary care providers within communities nationally.
The AETCs have a national Engagement in Care Workgroup to support these efforts. Local and regional AETCs provide education in communities across the country about best practices to link all people with a diagnosis of HIV infection into care. The AETCs are actively involved in educating healthcare teams about Affordable Care Act opportunities, including Disease Prevention Initiatives to help with workforce development, cost containment, and reimbursement issues related to providing comprehensive care services to PLWH.

RETAINED IN CARE – estimated number of PLWH who attend appointments for HIV care on a routine basis
NAHEWD ROLE: Promote the development and strengthening of culturally-sensitive, patient-centered care models of care for PLWH nationally and the utilization of evidence-based models of care that keep PLWH engaged in care.
The AETCs use the national Engagement in Care Workgroup, the national Minority AIDS Initiative (MAI) Workgroup, and cognitive-behavioral evidence-based interventions for diverse populations to provide the most cutting-edge and effective education for health care teams. AETCs teach about promoting retention in care, long-term engagement in care, and re-engaging those who have dropped out of care. Many PLWH have had negative experiences in obtaining health care services with healthcare systems, but receiving regular care is the best way for them to stay healthy, live longer, and prevent new infections.

PRESCRIBED ART – estimated number of PLWH who have been given a prescription for medications to treat HIV
NAHEWD ROLE: Support implementation of current ART prescribing guidelines by HIV care providers along with education regarding evidence-based interventions to initiation of ART by PLWH in a timely manner.
The AETCs are actively involved in providing providers with up-to-date, evidence-based guidelines and resources for clinical management of ART in diverse groups of PLWH, including men who have sex with men, drug users, heterosexual men and women, pregnant women, children, and adolescents in all racial/ethnic groups. The MAI Workgroup promotes safe, culturally appropriate care. The AETCs provide education about the Affordable Care Act and insurance/medication payment options for PLWH, many of whom live in poverty and are not currently insured.

UNDETECTABLE VIRAL LOAD/VIRAL SUPPRESSION – estimated number of PLWH for whom ART is working in an optimal manner
NAHEWD ROLE: Support of achieving 100% viral load suppression in all PLWH.
The AETCs teach health care teams about the importance of ongoing clinical care, appropriate and up-to-date ART, evidence-based interventions to increase long-term medication adherence, and the importance of life-long ART to reduce morbidity and mortality for PLWH and to prevent new HIV infections by significantly reducing the community viral load.