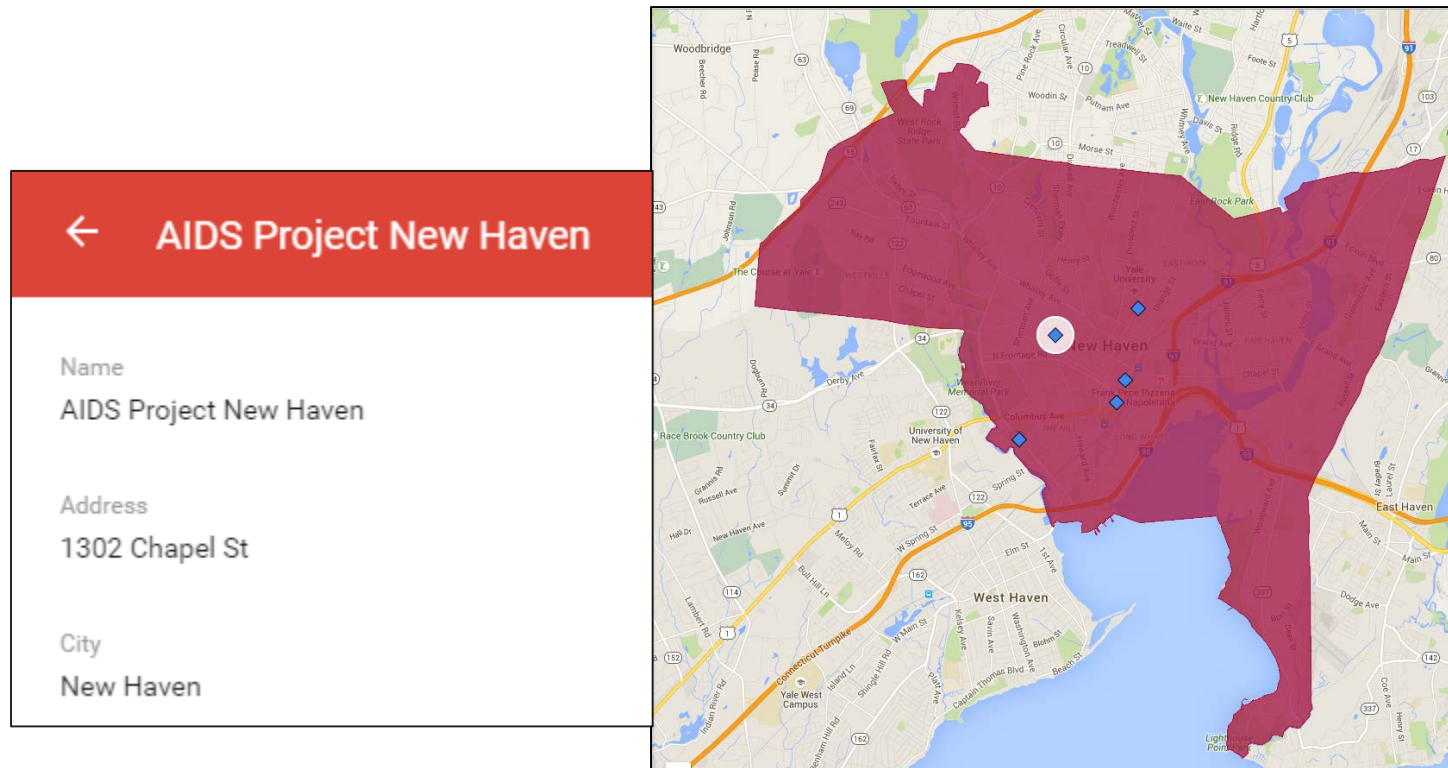


# Developing a Comprehensive Model of the HIV Care Continuum in Nine Small Cities in Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island



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# Purpose

To begin to:

- Create a **more comprehensive HIV Care Continuum (HCC) model**
- Identify **successes** and **challenges** along the HCC
- Highlight HCC outcomes in nine small cities in **Southern New England** (Lowell, Springfield, Worcester, New Bedford, Providence, Hartford, Waterbury, New Haven, Bridgeport).

# Methods

## Quantitative:

- Identify and compile publicly available and private data sources that can inform the current status of the HIV care continuum across the nine small cities of focus in Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Connecticut.

## Geospatial:

- Use GIS and spatial epidemiological approaches to characterize spatial access to the HCC services within the nine cities.

## Qualitative:

- Conduct 45 qualitative in-depth interviews with key informants who play an integral role in all phases of the HCC in the nine small cities to compare local experiences.

# Progress to Date

Aim	Progress
Aim 1: Quantitative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Compiled fact sheets and epi profiles.</li><li>• Coordinating with MDPH, RIDOH, and CTDPH to create city specific fact sheets and maps.</li></ul>
Aim 2: Geospatial	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Made 130 static service and socio-economic maps.</li><li>• Created an interactive map: <a href="https://www.google.com/maps/d/viewer?mid=zhdavvBxWKzw.kReckrn-odKA">https://www.google.com/maps/d/viewer?mid=zhdavvBxWKzw.kReckrn-odKA</a></li></ul>
Aim 3: Qualitative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Conducted 40 interviews.</li><li>• Created codebook, reviewed transcripts to ensure inter-coder reliability, and began coding and analysis.</li></ul>

# Building Collaboration

## Principal Investigators

- Laretta Grau, Yale
- Thomas Stopka, Tufts



## Co-Investigators

- Amy Nunn, Brown
- Robert Heimer, Yale



## Research Coordinators

- Abbie Kundishora, Yale
- Caitlin Towey, Brown
- Marga Hutcheson, Tufts



# Lessons for the Network

- Foster community collaboration through regular email updates, convening meetings, and conducting interviews
  - Meetings and interviews with: state DPHs, ACT, APNH, EIS, Waterbury, Miriam, and UMass Memorial Hospitals, Lowell Community Health Center, Seven Hills Behavioral Health Center, New North Citizens Council, Cities of Worcester and Waterbury, RI EOHHS, AIDS Care Ocean State...and many more!
- Flexibility in scheduling internal research meetings and tasks.
- Appropriate use of technology (e.g. Dropbox and WebEx).

# Next Steps and Plans for Growth

- NIH research proposal: R01 employing qualitative, quantitative, and geospatial interviews and analyses with PLWHA & New England HCC Surveillance Data.
- Development of city-specific interventions in collaboration with communities and state DPHs.
- Continued collaboration: MDPH, RIDOH, and CTDPH; Tufts, Yale and Brown, and local stakeholders.