The 2022 POZ 100: Celebrating Latino Advocates

This list spotlights the work of Latino advocates—both HIV positive and negative—who are making a difference in the fight against HIV/AIDS.

November 14, 2022 By Jilleen Barrett, Joe Mejía , Jennifer Morton , Tim Murphy , Charles Sanchez and Laura Schmidt

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This year's POZ 100 list celebrates 100 Latino advocates—both HIV positive and HIV negative—who are doing their part to end the HIV epidemic. We're thrilled to spotlight these 100 individuals making an impact in their communities, across the country and around the world.

Latinos are disproportionately affected by HIV in the United States. They make up about 19% of the population but account for 25% of people with HIV and 29% of new diagnoses, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Latinos have a lower likelihood of receiving HIV care (74%), remaining in care (59%) and achieving viral suppression (65%) compared with people living with HIV overall. Latinos are also less likely to be taking pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) to prevent HIV.

Racism, homophobia and HIV stigma are some of the factors fueling the HIV epidemic in the Latino community. What's more, for many Latinos, poverty, lower education levels, language barriers, mistrust of the health system and immigration status impede access to HIV care and prevention services.

This year's POZ 100 honorees are addressing these social and structural barriers in an effort to achieve health equity. They are raising awareness about HIV and creating safe and supportive spaces for communities to come together. Whether grassroots or global, their efforts to fight HIV are making a difference.

The POZ 100 list represents only a small fraction of the work being done to combat HIV, but the individuals included on the list are as diverse as the Latino community itself. Some have been

advocates since the beginning of the epidemic; others are new to the movement. We are grateful for their efforts and hope they inspire you as much as they inspire us.

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