

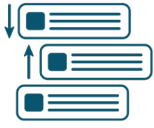


HIV/AIDS Advocacy Insights

Based on 2020 Research Insights
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The Impact of COVID-19 on HIV/AIDS Policy



Issue Reprioritization

“COVID-19 is affecting the HIV/AIDS research drastically, just like all other forms of research. It's taking priority. But rightfully so because right now, we don't know enough about it to be able to get it down to a safe level of interaction. I would say COVID is impacting all biomedical research in a significant manner. It isn't shutting it down completely now. But it's impacting it.”

-Program Manager, Federal Agency



Funding

“COVID-19 is taking all the air in the room as it relates to funding. **We've seen policymakers only have bandwidth to consider COVID funding.** We need additional resources that would support people that have HIV. HIV-critical programs are all being funded through emergency supplementals. If anything, **COVID has exposed the need for infrastructure spending in the healthcare sector.**”

-VP Policy & Advocacy, Non-Profit



Human Capital

“COVID hasn't just impacted HIV / AIDS money. **It's the staff who have been redirected.** The impact of that move has meant that the very people who would normally be managing the End the Epidemic Plan have been redeployed to COVID crisis management. **What we've seen is a reduction in force and a delay in process at multiple levels down the chain.**”

-Senior Advisor, HIV Focused Foundation

How Will Health Policy Priorities Continue to Shift in Coming Years?

- Affordable Care
- Drug Pricing
- Surprise Billing

- COVID-19
- Public Health Response to COVID-19
- Telehealth and Access



2018-2019

2020

2021-2022

HIV/AIDS Infrastructure was Adapted to Support COVID-19 Response Efforts

Clinical Trials

“In many ways, the COVID-19 response really is the HIV response. Whether it’s researchers or even the clinical trials network to study the COVID vaccine, it was adapted, or in some ways, is a subset of the AIDS clinical trial infrastructure. Many of the people responding to COVID are HIV people. Many people are proud that HIV has been able to step up and help this new condition. It also means that it’s created major problems for the ongoing effort against HIV.”

-Program Director, Think Tank



Community Research

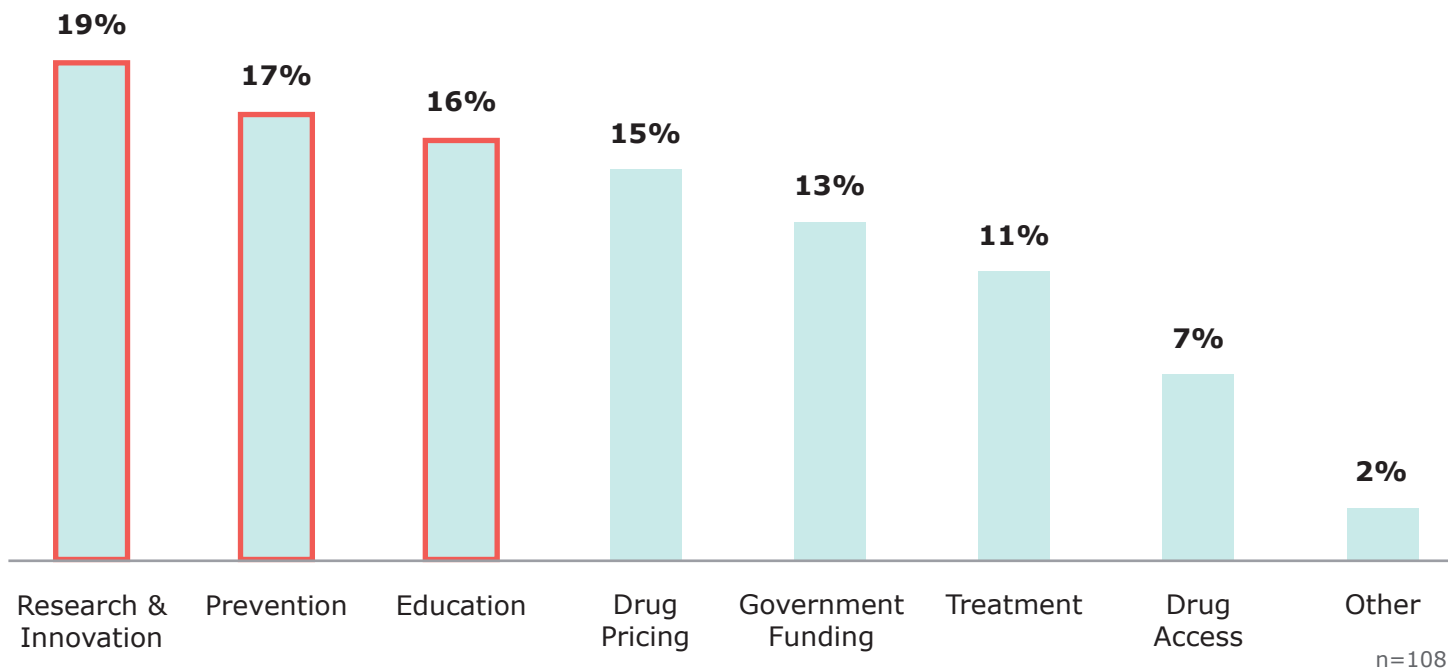
“When you look at the NIH, it’s the HIV vaccine framework that has been modified and added on to create the COVID trial network. Those same infrastructures and mechanisms that we use on the HIV side are now being deployed and used on the COVID clinical trial side. Because the companies are different and don’t really have a history of community research advocacy, many of the lessons that we learned on the HIV side are now being taught to those companies. Many of the things that we just have come to expect as a norm in clinical trials design and outreach.”

-Senior Advisor, HIV Focused Foundation



HIV/AIDS Policy Priorities

Policymakers identified research and innovation, prevention, and education as top policy priorities in relation to HIV/AIDS



Research & Innovation

“Companies can step up to engage on emerging products now and wear the ‘white hat.’ **The new products coming will prevent and possibly treat HIV and will be revolutionary until we find a cure.** There’s no reason industry can’t be engaging policymakers to get buy in now.”

-Former Senior Advisor, Executive Branch



Prevention

“In HIV itself, we still don't have a good vaccine. A vaccine is like the holy grail for a lot of things. That's why we're so focused on COVID. **The whole idea of preventative saves so much time and effort and money from trying to do treatment and cures.**”

-Senior Advisor, Federal Agency



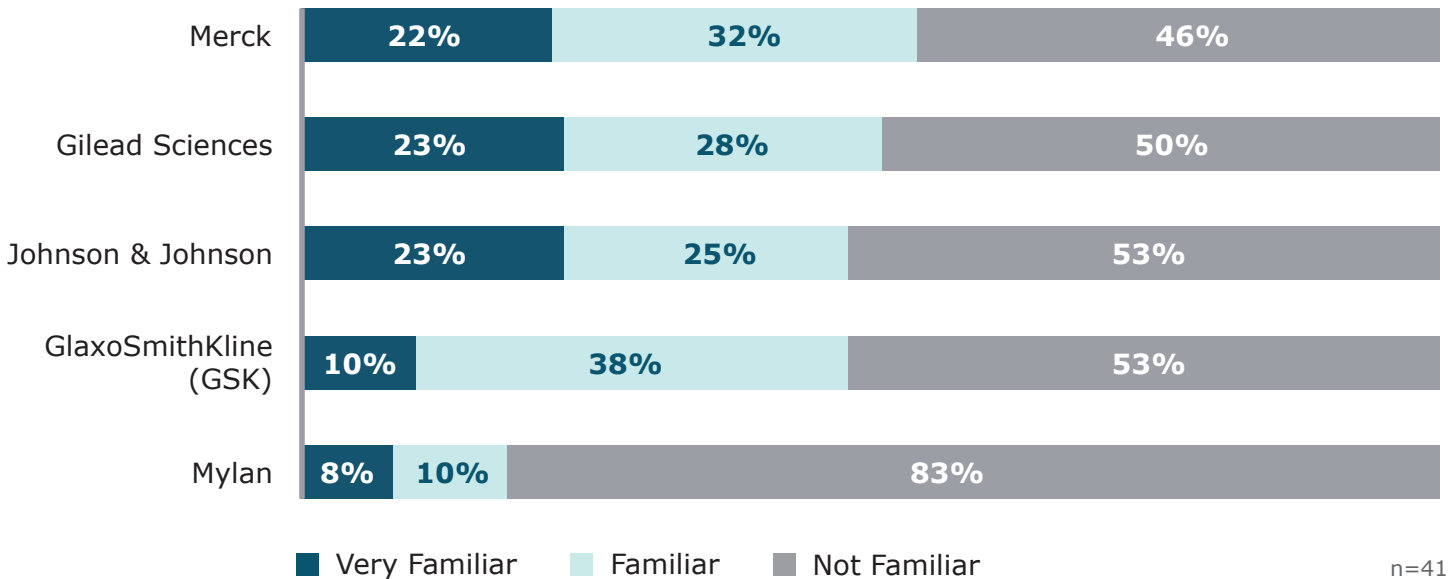
Education

“**From a public health standpoint, you cannot give up on education.** Sex education is very important. Prevention and vaccines are absolutely important, and I think nobody will argue with you on that, but we need more education.”

-Clinical Director, Federal Agency

Pillars of Strong Advocacy in the HIV/AIDS Policy Space

Policymaker Familiarity with Organizations' HIV/AIDS Advocacy Efforts in Washington



Relationship Management

“Merck is very skilled at keeping relationships within the government. **They come in and brief us about where they're heading, what they're doing, and they try to seek alignment for what we may be doing.** They put that into their plans for how they might be able to leverage resources and assets - that includes everything from the research to the clinical trials.”

-Deputy Director, Federal Agency



Community Partnerships

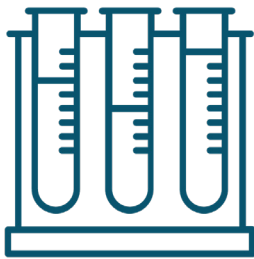
“I think Gilead is still leading the space. No one's doing it like them in my opinion. **They are engaged in community, funding community, getting intel from communities, and developing relationships that hold them in a good place.**”

-Senior Advisor, Foundation

Looking Ahead: A Viable Vaccine is Still a Major Goal in the Eyes of Policymakers

“To this day, we still don't have a vaccine. That is critically important. We are still unable to prevent the infection from spreading and spreading rapidly. The population that is affected is marginalized in our society.”

-Clinical Director, Federal Agency



“There's still an issue on prevention because again, we've kind of proven that it's very hard to change behavior, and it's very hard to get people to practice safe sexual procedures. **We still pursue the vaccine. The vaccine is still our push.**”

-Deputy Director, Federal Agency



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