

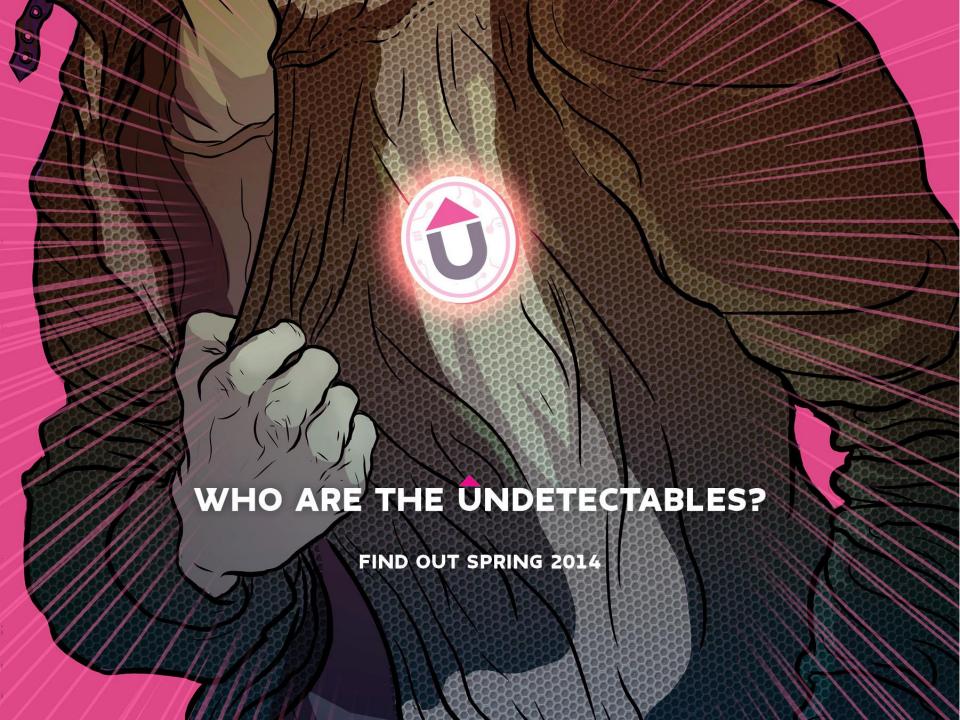
The Undetectables Project!

International Association of Providers of AIDS Care (IAPAC)

Controlling the HIV Epidemic with Antiretrovirals:

Avoiding the Cost of Inaction

18-19 September 2014 – Royal Garden Hotel, London Ginny Shubert • Housing Works, Inc.
www.housingworks.org



Who's participating?

- Housing Works is a NYC community-based organization providing integrated care for homeless and formerly homeless people with HIV/AIDS
 - Primary health care
 - Behavioral health services
 - Housing and assistance with other basic subsistence needs
 - Case management and care coordination
- Approximately 1,500 active HIV+ clients
 - 84% black or Hispanic
 - 33% identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual, trans or gender non-conforming
 - > 50% histories of incarceration
 - > 50% co-infection with HepC
 - 100% living at or below poverty line
 - 90% extended histories of mental illness and/or chemical dependence

What is the Undetectables Project?

- 24-month grant funded pilot with a goal of assisting at least 80% of HIV+ participants to achieve and maintain undetectable viral load (≤50 copies/ml)
- Projected enrollment: 500 at 12 months & 700 at 24 months
- Uses a community support model
- Launched in March 2014
- A core component of Housing Works' commitment to a New York State plan to end AIDS by 2020

What's in the toolkit?

Stepped approach to ARV adherence

- ✓ Individual-level ARV adherence planning and support
 - case conferences among client, health providers & case manager
 - motivational interviewing & assistance to meet subsistence needs
 - Behavioral health assessment/referral
- \$100 gift card incentive for quarterly lab result showing
 undetectable viral load (≤50 copies/ml), up to 4 per year
- ✓ Cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT) adherence support groups
- ✓ Adherence devices such as pill-boxing and text or other daily medication reminders
- ✓ Directly observed ARV therapy (DOT)



Evaluation design

- Community based participatory approach in collaboration with academic partners at the University of Pennsylvania
- Study examining efficiency, feasibility & cost-effectiveness
- Using each participant as his/her control, assess viral load and cumulative viral exposure pre and post enrollment
- Qualitative interviews with participants and staff to examine attitudes regarding program efficacy
- Standard methods of cost analysis to evaluate cost-utility as a function of incremental program costs and medical costs saved through averted downstream infections

First look at 6 months: viral loads

- Pre-enrollment: among 441 clients eligible for enrollment at project launch:
 - 54% virally suppressed using ≤50 copies/mil as the measure
 - 37% detectable
 - 9% unknown (refused testing or inconclusive result)
- Baseline for 511 clients enrolled through September 11, 2014:
 - 62% virally suppressed using ≤50 copies/mil as the measure
 - 25% detectable
 - 13% unknown (refused testing or inconclusive result)
- Current for 490 clients enrolled at September 11, 2014:
 - 77.35% virally suppressed using ≤50 copies/mil as the measure
 - 19.39% detectable
 - 3.27% unknown (refused testing or inconclusive result)

First look at 6 months: viral exposure

VLs for least 2 time points prior to and following enrollment Analysis includes 75% of enrolled clients (n= 363)

	At and before baseline	Post enrollment
Proportion suppressed at all timepoints	28.4 (n=103)	52.1*
Proportion detectable at all timepoints	15.7 (n=57)	22.9**
Mean proportion of suppressed timepoints	0.57	0.67***

^{*}Chi sq p <.0001

^{**}chi sq p<.05

^{***}p<.01



Why become an Undetectable?

- Becoming an Undetectable is becoming a Hero!
- Becoming an Undetectable improves your health, well being, and your life expectancy!
- Becoming an Undetectable can reduce the likelihood of transmitting HIV to sexual partners!
- Becoming an Undetectable helps to end the HIV epidemic!



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