

**THE
UNDETECTABLES**

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**

HOUSINGWORKS IS A HEALING COMMUNITY OF PEOPLE LIVING WITH
AND AFFECTED BY HIV/AIDS. OUR MISSION IS TO END THE DUAL CRISES
OF HOMELESSNESS AND AID-SIT-ROUG-RELENTLESS ADVOCACY
THE PROVISION OF LIFE-SAVING SERVICES AND ENTREPRENEURIAL
BUSINESS THAT SUSTAIN OUR NETWORK.



WHO ARE THE UNDETECTABLES?

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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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