



September 25-27, 2023 | RAI Amsterdam Convention Center

UNDECTECTABLE = UNTRANSMITTABLE

In 2016, Prevention Access Campaign, activists, researchers, healthcare providers, and health officials launched U=U with the following goals:

- ✓ Build a global science-based consensus on U=U.
- **2. Disseminate** the widely unknown U=U science.
- **3.** Advocate for access to quality treatment and care for people living with HIV to stay healthy and prevent new transmissions.



UNDETECTABLE = UNTRANSMITTABLE

People living with HIV who are on treatment and have an undetectable viral load* have zero risk of transmitting HIV through sex.

*(<200 copies/MI)







The role of HIV viral suppression in improving individual health and
reducing transmission: policy brief - July 2023





- **Undetectable viral load** = **ZERO** risk of sexual transmission
- Any WHO-prequalified test or sample type, including dried blood spot samples, can confirm an undetectable viral load and all categories
- "Recommends breastfeeding for women taking antiretroviral therapy."
- Suppressed (but detectable <u>200 to ≤ 1,000 copies/ml) = "Almost ZERO"</u> or "Negligible" risk

Are you thinking this?

U=U is just about people with HIV having sex without condoms







One of the most effective and historic counter-narratives to HIV stigma -UNAIDS, December 2022

With U=U, treatment has transformed the prevention landscape. -WHO, UNAIDS, Ministry of Thailand, February 2020

A simple but hugely important campaign built on a solid foundation of evidence. -The Lancet, November 2017

U=U is the foundation of being able to end the epidemic. -Dr. Anthony Fauci, July 2019

> *U=U set me free.* -Maria Mejia, 2017





U=U education is a global mandate



U=U is in the Paris Declaration





U=U education is a global mandate



$\begin{array}{c} & \textbf{PEPFAR} \\ \textbf{U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief} \end{array} \longrightarrow U=U \text{ is a core standard} \end{array}$

THE GLOBAL \rightarrow U=U is a program essential **FUND**





U=U education is a global mandate



U=U was adopted in the 2021 Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS

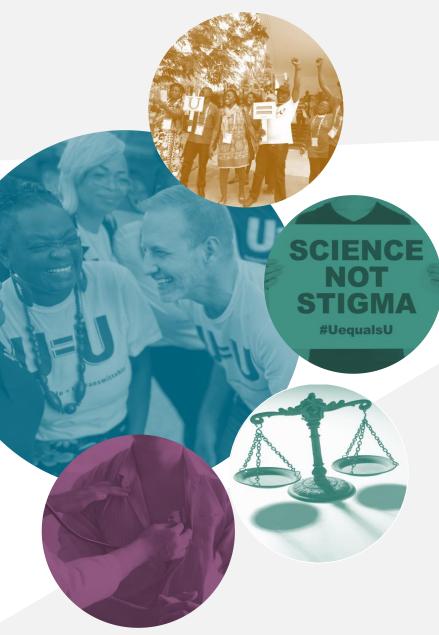


@PreventionAC

2022 PCB Report: Undetectable = Untransmittable = Universal Access (U=U=U) $rac{1}{2}$

WHY IS U=U A GAME CHANGER?

- Improves quality of life of people living with HIV
- Reduces HIV stigma
- Propels progress towards 95-95-95 goals
 - Diagnosis: Reduces anxiety associated with HIV testing
 - *Treatment*: Incentive to start treatment and engage in care
 - *Viral suppression*: Motivation to stay on treatment and in care
- Supports ending discriminatory laws, policies and practices
- Calls for universal access to treatment, care and diagnostics







Making the case to withhold U=U INFORMATION

"We need to focus on getting men tested, not talking about U=U."

"People are not staying on treatment (not accessing care) why is it important to talk about U=U? Isn't it dangerous?"

"We haven't reached the third 95 yet..."





U=U accelerates global targets



95% AWARE

EDUCATING ABOUT U=U IN TESTING OUTREACH REDUCES ANXIETY & INCREASES TESTING RATES

EDUCATING ABOUT U=U CAN BE A POWERFUL MOTIVATOR TO START AND STAY ON TREATMENT AND ENGAGED IN CARE

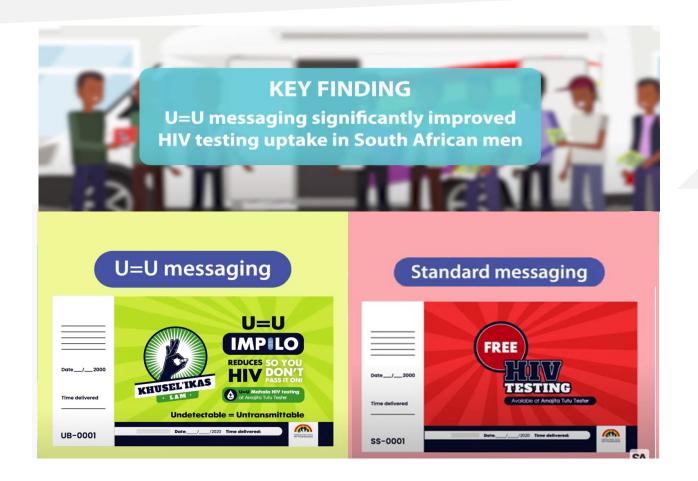
95% VIRALLY

SUPPRESSED





IMPACT: U=U INCREASES HIV TESTING UPTAKE



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89% more likely with U=U

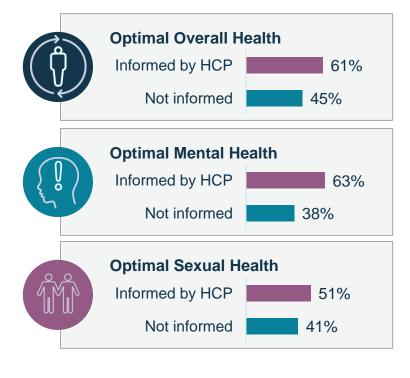
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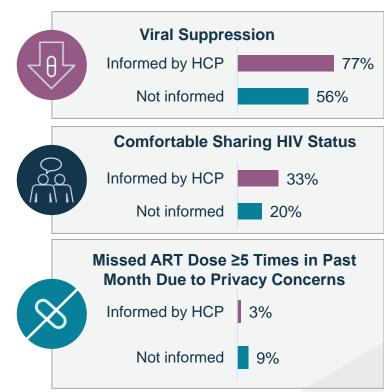


IMPACT: U=U EDUCATION LEADS TO POSITIVE HEALTH OUTCOMES

When health professionals inform their patients living with HIV about U=U:



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Positive Perspectives Wave 2 study

Okoli C, Van de Velde N, Richman B, et al Undetectable equalsu Untransmittable (U=U): awareness and associations with health outcomes among people living with HIV in 25 countries Sexually Transmitted Infections Published Online First: 30 July 2020 doi: 10:1136/sextrans-2020-054551



U=U reduces new HIV transmissions

U=U is Drastically Reducing HIV Rates in Australia



A recent report shows new HIV cases have gone down by 66 percent due to using treatment as prevention.

plus

- 27% increase in people accessing effective HIV treatment, which has resulted in a 66% decrease in new HIV transmissions.
- Each 1% increase in the proportion with an undetectable viral load was associated with a 6% reduction in new HIV cases, with PrEP available 20% reduction.





THIS IS OUR TIME





WIN-WIN AGENDA

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EVE

TEL

TREATMENT ACCESS



U=U WIN! TO END HIV

LEAD

UNDETECTABLE

EQUALS

UNTRANSMITTABLE

TO END HIV MARKEN LEAD!

P Face r

TO END HIV WE MUST INVEST IN PLHIV

2

HIV

WITH HIV

TO END HIV WE MUST INVEST IN PLHIV

THE YOUTH

TO

235

WOMEN

U=U

TREATMENT Access

NGING

+ 510 à 525 710 à 730 VIP

> TO END HIV WE MUST LET TRANS PROPILE LEAD!

44

J=U



Articulating U=U as a Win-Win-(win)

U=U perpetuates a 'virtuous cycle' of reinforcing impact. These include both the individual and public health benefits associated with reduced viral load and prevention of onward transmission, as well as broad-based (and in some cases still to be quantified) economic and societal benefits.

Econor Individual and Public Health

- Reduced mortality and improved health outcomes for people with HIV;
- Decreased HIV transmission;
- Improved mental and sexual health of people with HIV;
- Improved HIV testing rates, treatment uptake and adherence;
- Investment in service delivery with broad-based health implications;

Economic

- Economic gains estimated at \$4.02 trillion by 2030 (based on 90-90-90 targets);
- Lower death rates, longer lives and decreased healthcare utilization all have significant economic benefit at the national, individual and community level;

Societal

- Dismantling of HIV stigma;
- A policy tool to remove legal barriers facing people living with HIV;
- A tool to address systemic and structural barriers facing people living with HIV/AIDS and members of key populations;



Health

Social

SCIENCE

DOESN'T HAVE A PUBLICIST





TELL THE TRUTH OR WE WILL TELL IT FOR YOU





HIV STIGNA is a public health emergency

UEU is an <u>immediate</u> and <u>effective</u> <u>response</u>.

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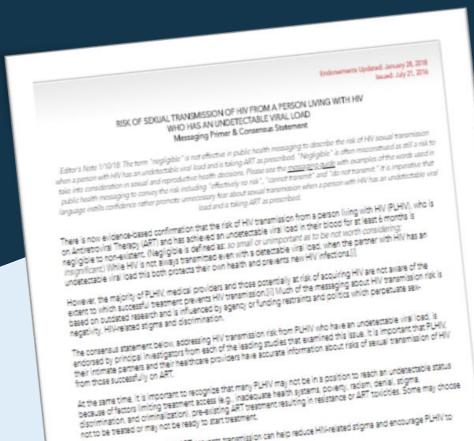


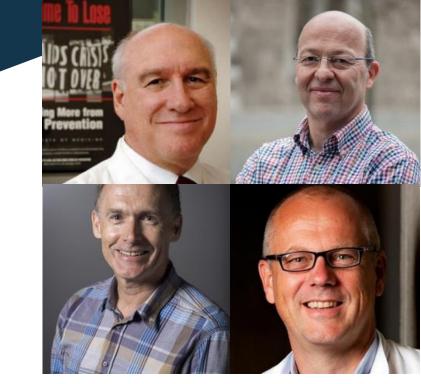


U=U CONSENSUS STATEMENT

"Risk of Sexual Transmission of HIV from a Person Living with HIV Who Has an Undetectable Viral Load"

Issued July 21, 2016





Statement authors











U=U 1100+ PARTNER NETWORK 105 COUNTRIES

- Argentina
- Armenia
- Australia
- Austria
- Azerbaijan
- Bahamas
- Bangladesh
- Belarus
- Belgium
- Bermuda
- Brazil
- Bulgaria
- Cambodia
- Cameroon

@PreventionAC

- Canada
- Chile
- China

- Colombia
- Côte d'Ivoire
- Croatia
- Cyprus
- Czech Republic
- Denmark
- Democratic
- Republic of
- the Congo
- Egypt
- Estonia
- Finland
- France
- Georgia

- Germany

- El Salvador
- England

- Ghana • Greece
- Guatemala
- Guinée
 - Guyana

- - Japan

- Kenva
- Kosovo
- Kyrgyzstan
- Latvia
- Lebanon
- Haiti

- - Israel
- Italy

- Hong Kong Iceland
- India
- Indonesia
 - Ireland

- Jamaica

 - Kazakhstan

Prevention Access Campaign - As of Dec. 8, 2021

• The

Netherlands

• New

Zealand

Northern

Ireland

Norway

Pakistan

Panama

• Peru

• The

Poland

Portugal

Romania

Paraguay

Philippines

www.preventionaccess.org/community

Nigeria

Russia

Serbia

Spain

Scotland

• Singapore

South Africa

South Korea

Swaziland

Switzerland

• Sweden

Taiwan

Tajikistan

Tanzania

Thailand

Tobago

Trinidad and

Slovenia

Tunisia

• Turkey

• Uganda

Ukraine

States

Uzbekistan

Venezuela

Zimbabwe

Npac

Vietnam

Zambia

United

- Liberia
 - Luxembourg
 - Macedonia
 - Malawi Malaysia

Mauritius

Mexico

Moldova

Monaco

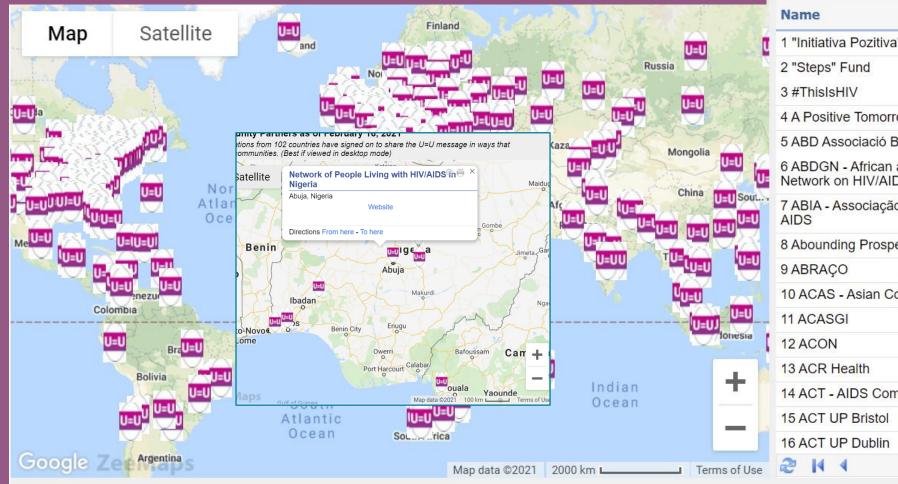
Namibia

Nepal

Montenegro

1100+ PARTNERS IN 105 COUNTRIES

www.preventionaccess/community



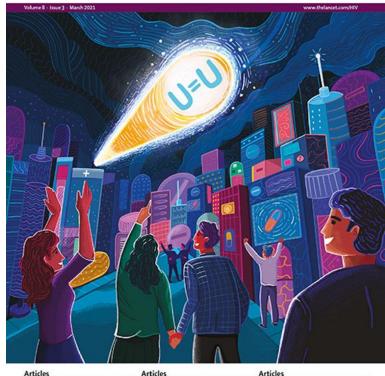
Name or Location

	Name	>>
Ľ	1 "Initiativa Pozitiva"	Ê
	2 "Steps" Fund	
	3 #ThisIsHIV	
	4 A Positive Tomorrow	
KA	5 ABD Associació Benestar i Desenvolupament	
=U U=	6 ABDGN - African and Black Diaspora Global Network on HIV/AIDS	
U Sout	7 ABIA - Associação Brasileira Interdisciplinar de AIDS	
7	8 Abounding Prosperity Inc	
	9 ABRAÇO	
	10 ACAS - Asian Community AIDS Services	
U=U	11 ACASGI	
hesia	12 ACON	
	13 ACR Health	
T	14 ACT - AIDS Committee of Toronto	
	15 ACT UP Bristol	
	16 ACT UP Dublin	-
of Use	2 🛛 🕈 Page 1 of 1	M



U=U IN MEDICAL JOURNALS

THE LANCET HIV



Impact of COVID-19 lockdown on HIV care in South Africa

See page e158

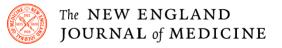
SMS reminders for PrEP adherence in young women nconates See page e130 See page e149



HIV Viral Load and Transmissibility of HIV Infection Undetectable Equals Untransmittable

In 2016, the Prevention Access Campaign, a health equity initiative with the goal of ending the HIV/AIDS pandemic as well as HIV-related stigma, launched the Undetectable = Untransmittable (U = U) initiative.¹ U = U signifies that individuals with HIV who receive antiretroviral therapy (ART) and have achieved and maintained an undetectable viral load cannot sexually transmit the virus to others. This concept, based on strong scientific evidence, has broad implications for treatment of HIV infection from a scientific and public health standpoint, for the self-esteem of individuals by reducing the stigma associated with HIV,² and for certain legal aspects of HIV criminalization.³ In this Viewpoint, we examine the underlying science-based evidence supporting this important concept and the behavioral, social, and legal implications associated with the acceptance of the U = U concept.

Subsequent studies confirmed and extended these findings. The PARTNER 1 study determined the risk of HIV transmission via condomless sexual intercourse in 1166 HIV-discordant couples in which the partner with HIV was receiving ART and had achieved and maintained viral suppression (HIV-1 RNA viral load < 200 copies/mL). After approximately 58 000 condomless sexual acts, there were no linked HIV transmissions.³ Since a minority of the HIV-discordant couples in PARTNER1 were men who have sex with men (MSM), there was insufficient statistical power to determine the effect of an undetectable viral load on the transmission risk for receptive anal sex. In this regard, the Opposites Attract study evaluated transmissions involving 343 HIV-discordant MSM couples in Australia, Brazil, and Thailand, After 16 800 acts of condomless anal intercourse there were no linked HIV transmissions during 588.4 couple-years



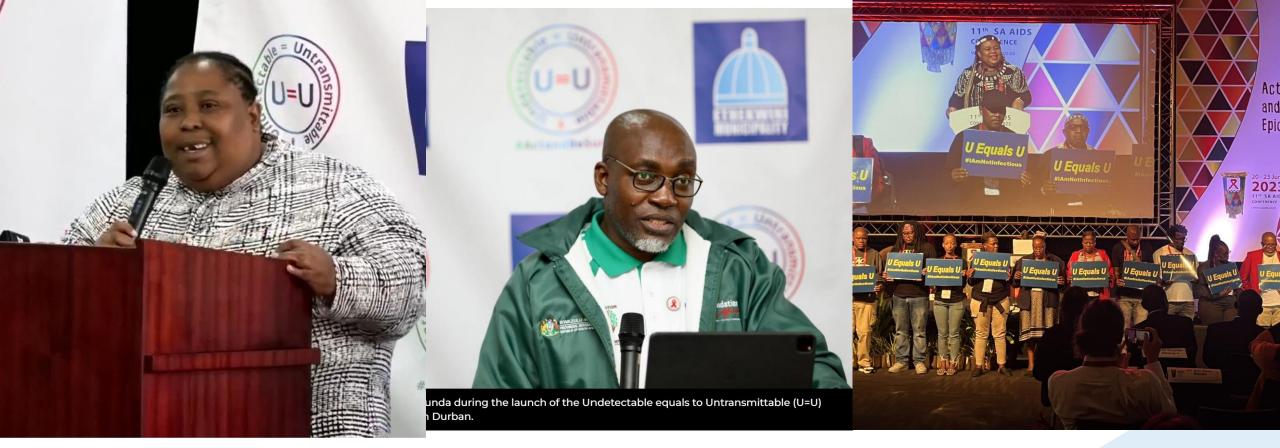
A Failure to Disseminate Transformative Science — HIV Treatment as Prevention, 10 Years On

Jacob Bor, S.D., Dorina Onoya, Ph.D., Bruce Richman, J.D., and Kenneth H. Mayer, M.D.

manifestations of HIV disease. Not only did ART provide a nearly normal life expectancy for most people with HIV who adhered to their treatment regimens, it also eliminated the risk of transmitting the virus to an uninfected sexual partner.⁵ It became clear that treating people with HIV was a highly effective means of preventing HIV spread. "Treatment as prevention" proved to be a critical addition to the prevention tool kit that also contained measures such as condom use, voluntary medical male circumcision, and screening of the blood supply. Studies of these interventions also provided the critical evidence base for the principle that "undetectable equals untransmittable," or "U=U," which has helped reduce some of the external and sometimes self-imposed stigma associated with HIV infection.







Durban, South Africa









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AFASOR

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U=U NATIONAL CAMPAIGNS

Zambia

Kenya

Vietnam



NATIONAL CONFERENCES

India 13th National Conference of AIDS Society of India (ASICON) - 2022



We can #endAIDS now if "undetectable equals untransmittable" becomes a reality for all persons living with HIV

Not only will this ensure optimal quality of life for every person living with HIV but also will help translate the promise of our governments to end AIDS by 2030.



https://www.citizen-news.org/2022/04/we-can-endaids-now-if-undetectable.html

NATIONAL CONFERENCES



NATIONAL U=U CAMPAIGNS

Ukraine

Government Campaign



H-H

https://arv.phc.org.ua

Info page / Сайт

або близька вам людин поділилася із вами нови про те. що вона ВіЛ- Informational Campaign Информационная кампания

> National BrandingНац иональный брендинг



Promotional video Рекламные ролики



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h3pl9tPs7Yk Info-company 1st December Инфокампания к 1 декабря

TEENERGIZER!



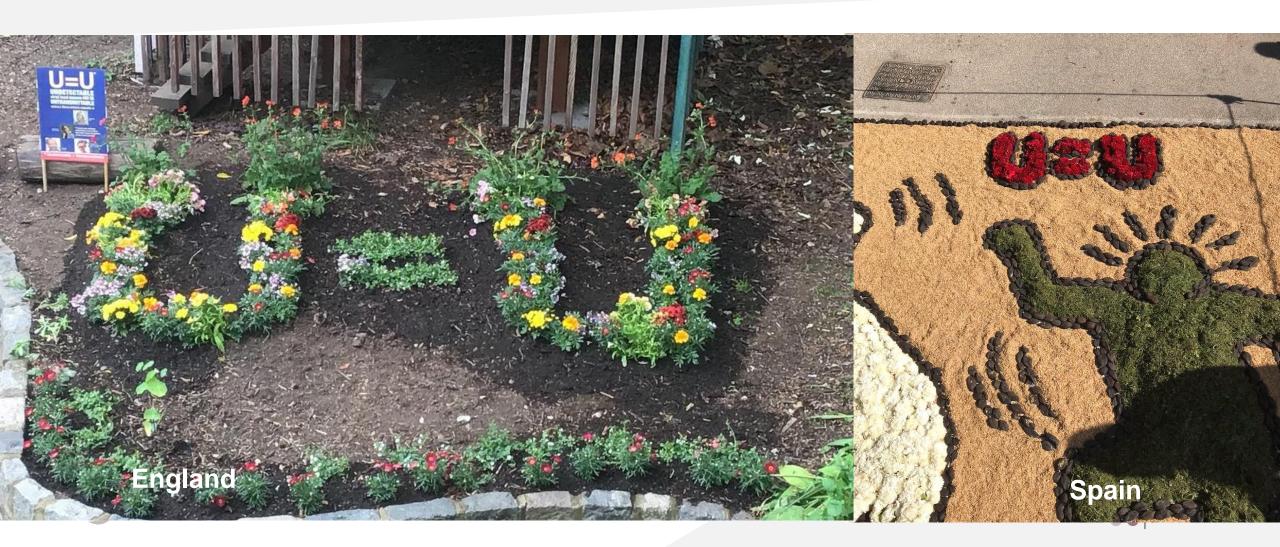




НЕ ПЕРЕДАСТЬСЯ

Targeted advertising

Таргетированная реклама

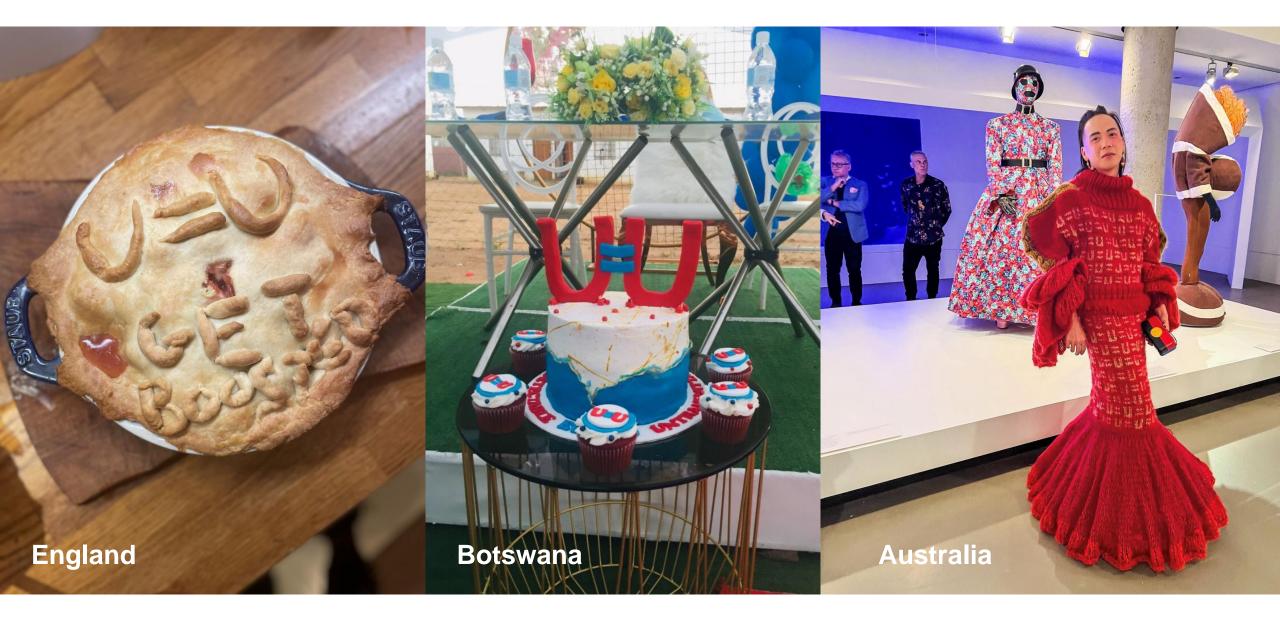


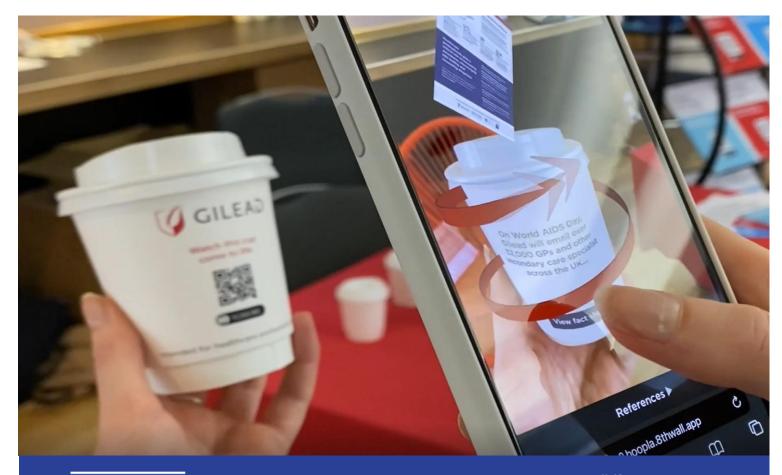


CUEAD









U=U Undetectable equals Untransmittable is a scientifically validated and guidelines supported fact¹¹⁻¹⁴ that everyone should be aware of. U=U offers the potential to reduce stigma within communities and healthcare settings, whilst improving health outcomes of people living with HIV.^{15,16}

To access healthcare professional training and information visit the Terrence Higgins Trust Can't Pass It On campaign

This HIV campaign has been developed by Gilead Sciences with input from and endorsed by:







prevention

campaign









MASHOSAKA

TOKYO

dista











Ireland

Vietnam

Argentina





IS GAME CHANGER DISMANTLES HJV STIGMA DISMOTES GOOD ADHERENCE TAXI

Kampala, Uganda

INDÉTECTABLE ÉGALE INTRANSMISSIBLE

Montreal, Canada

Saint-Laurent

UEQUALSU UNTRANSMITTM

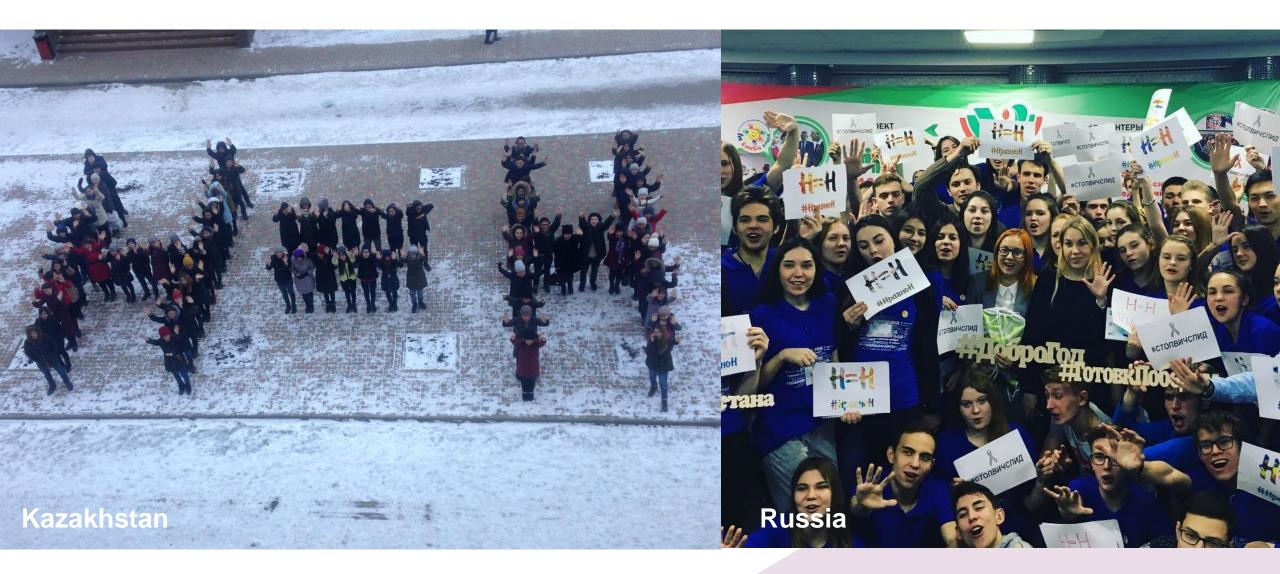
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DAVIDS

OAITSE GORE

T3808537 ceyoho@btcmail.co.bw ССЕУОНО

Gaborone, Botswana













Communicating U=U





Reaching men in South Africa with HIV testing, treatment and prevention

South Africa

















Negligible Extremely unlikely Helps prevent Virtually impossible Close to zero



Zero risk Can't pass it on Can't transmit Prevents HIV Impossible 100% effective



Don't Say:

I believe in U=U but use a condom and/or PrEP just in case.



Do Say:

Condoms or PrEP aren't clinically necessary to prevent HIV with U=U.





Do Say:

Condoms or PrEP aren't clinically necessary to prevent HIV with U=U.

You might want to also consider condoms/and or PrEP:

- to prevent other STDs or pregnancy
- if the HIV positive partner w/HIV is struggling with adherence
- for an added emotional feeling of security and agency





Don't Say:

You're only as good as your last viral load test.



Do Say:

If you're taking you medication as prescribed and having regular viral load tests you don't need to worry.







Do Say:

If you're taking you medication as prescribed and having regular viral load tests you don't need to worry.





Don't Say:

You never know...



Do Say:

We do know.







Do Say:









Change is uncomfortable!

- Must be heard repeatedly from the right messengers and credible sources.
- Use targeted channels including social media, outreach activities, patient information, newsletters, clinical/waiting rooms settings
- Make U=U information prominent, not buried in text.

- Make U=U central to speeches/events including AIDS Walks, and other public events.
- Have a conversation with those living with or vulnerable to HIV at every opportunity.
- Celebrate U=U!







Viral load ≠ Value

- Not everyone can achieve and maintain an undetectable viral load.
- Structural and social barriers make it difficult or impossible for people to start and stay on treatment especially for marginalized communities.
- No one with HIV is a danger. All people with HIV have options for safer sex such as condoms and, in some parts of the world, PrEP.





Viral load ≠ Value

Treatment is a personal health decision and not a public health responsibility. Use the U=U win-win strategy to increase access and remove barriers to information, treatment and care.

#LeaveNoOneBehind





What constitutes "viral suppression"?

Source

Measurement (copes/mL)

WHO "suppressed but detectable"CDC "viral suppression"PEPFAR "viral suppression"

1,000 and below <200 <50

https://www.cdc.gov/hiv/risk/art/index.html#:~:text=If%20taken%20as%20prescribed%2C%20HIV,HIV%20per%20millilite r%20of%20blood.

https://www.state.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/FY-2024-PEPFAR-Technical-Considerations.pdf (Page 41)



What constitutes "viral suppression"?

PEPFAR:

It should be noted that for calculating the third 95 (virological suppression) a cutoff of <1000 cps/ml is used. This is not the clinical definition of viral suppression. Any viral load over 50 cps/ml is actionable and should prompt ascertainment of barriers to treatment and provision of support...(Page 266)

A quantifiable VL above 50 cps/ml should prompt an evaluation of barriers to treatment, enhanced adherence counseling and a repeat viral load. (Page 267)

https://www.state.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/FY-2024-PEPFAR-Technical-Considerations.pdf





Goal of therapy

PEPFAR

The goal of treatment for all people living with HIV is durable viral suppression, which reduces morbidity and mortality and prevents HIV transmission

*<50 copies/mL

WHO

The ultimate goal for all people living with HIV is to reach and sustain undetectable viral loads. Taking antiretroviral therapy as prescribed will support this goal, prevent transmission to their sexual partner(s) and/or children, and improve their own clinical well-being

* Not detected by the test or sample type used.





EMBRACING INNOVATION

Choose facts over fear

Recognize cognitive dissonance

Separate feelings from facts

Consider the negative and positive impacts Borrow confidence from the experts





Are you still thinking this?

U=U is just about people with HIV having sex without condoms





MULTINATIONAL U=U CALL TO ACTION

Throughout the history of the global HIV epidemic, rarely has such a clear opportunity emerged to alter its course.

There is a worldwide possibility to fight HIV stigma and improve HIV prevention, care, and treatment outcomes by following the science and disseminating the evidence-based U=U message at scale.

Doing so will propel nations, and the entire world, one step closer to finally ending the epidemic.

United States & Canadian Government Multinational Undetectable=Untransmittable (U=U) Call-to-Action issued at the World AIDS Conference 2022





JOIN THE MOVEMENT



Integrate U=U into global and national strategies, policies, laws, guidelines



Educate and encourage dialogue about U=U among healthcare professionals, policymakers, and community



Promote U=U clearly, repeatedly, and prominently in health communications reaching key populations and the public



Advocate to remove barriers to treatment, care and services to improve the quality of life of PLHIV and prevent new transmissions





TO END WE MUST LET **PEOPLE LIVING** WITH HIV LEAD!

Bruce Richman bruce@preventionaccess.org Preventionaccess.org #UequalsU #WinWinAgenda

