



Metro Public Health Dept

Nashville / Davidson County

Protecting, Improving, and Sustaining Health

Resolution

In support of the Prevention Access Campaign's Consensus Statement including its Undetectable = Untransmittable (U=U) message

- WHEREAS,** Scientific advances have shown that combination antiretroviral therapy (ART) preserves the health of people living with HIV; and
- WHEREAS,** In addition to some smaller studies conducted since 2000, three larger studies evaluating risk of HIV transmission were conducted between 2007 and 2016, and across these 3 studies involving thousands of couples and many thousand acts of sex without a condom or pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP), no HIV transmissions to an HIV-negative partner were observed when the HIV-positive person was virally suppressed ⁽¹⁾; and,
- WHEREAS,** Persons on ART who have a sustained undetectable viral load (defined as <200 copies/ml for at least six months) have levels of virus that are untransmittable, even if having sex without condoms ⁽²⁾; and,
- WHEREAS,** The "Undetectable = Untransmittable" (U=U) slogan and Consensus Statement was launched in 2016 by the Prevention Access Campaign to promote this finding; and,
- WHEREAS,** The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Division of HIV/AIDS Prevention joined the U=U movement by endorsing the science in a "Dear Colleague" letter released on September 27, 2017; and,
- WHEREAS,** In December, 2017, the office of the Mayor of Metropolitan Nashville, the Metro Public Health Department and Nashville community partners committed to Ending the HIV Epidemic in Davidson County; and
- WHEREAS,** A thorough and shared understanding of current scientific knowledge about HIV and its transmission is a critical element in achieving that end; and,
- WHEREAS,** The U=U is a simple but profound message that can influence public opinion and cause more people with HIV (and their friends and families) to understand they can live long, healthy lives, have children, and not have to worry about passing on their infection to others through sexual activity ⁽¹⁾; and,
- WHEREAS,** The clarity of the U=U message makes it easier to promote the undeniable benefits of HIV treatment, which will encourage more people with HIV to seek treatment and bring our community closer to achieving the UNAIDS' 90-90-90 goals by 2020 ^(4,5); and,
- WHEREAS,** The U=U message helps eliminate some of the stigma still faced by many people living with HIV, which can be a barrier to treatment ⁽⁶⁾;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Metropolitan Board of Health of Nashville and Davidson County, on this 12th day of April, 2018:

- 1) Endorses the Prevention Access Campaign's Consensus Statement including its Undetectable = Untransmittable (U=U) message, and affirms that a person living with HIV who takes combination antiretroviral therapy (ART) daily as prescribed and maintains an undetectable viral load for at least six months and thereafter has effectively no risk of sexually transmitting the virus to an HIV-negative partner;
- 2) Urges the Metro Health Department and its partners to spread the U=U message broadly and to integrate it in client education, especially to people living with HIV who may not be seeking or accessing antiretroviral treatment, or who are not remaining in treatment, due to stigma, fear, misinformation or other barriers;
- 3) Supports efforts to provide universal access to treatment and care for all people living with HIV;
- 4) Encourages interventions that increase retention in HIV care and sustained viral suppression, both as a means to improve the lives of individuals living with HIV and as a highly effective strategy for preventing the spread of HIV in the community;
- 5) Endorses efforts to remove stigma associated with HIV status or risk.

Carol Etherington, MSN, RN, Vice Chair

Metropolitan Board of Health of Nashville/Davidson County

Francisca Guzman, Vice Chair

Thomas W. Campbell, M.D., Member

A. Alex Jahangir, M.D., Member

Samuel L. Felker, J.D., Member

Margreete Johnston, M.D., Member

¹ "U=U taking off in 2017," Lancet HIV, Vol. 4., No. 11., e475, November, 2017

² Consensus Statement, Prevention Access Campaign. Available at:
<https://www.preventionaccess.org/consensus>

³ Eugene McCray, MD, "Dear Colleague – Information from CDC's Division of HIV/AIDS Prevention," Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Sept. 27, 2017. Available at:
<https://www.cdc.gov/hiv/library/dcl/dcl/092717.html>

⁴ "90-90-90 – An Ambitious treatment target to help end the AIDS epidemic: By 2020, 90 percent of all people living with HIV will know their HIV status. By 2020, 90 percent of all people with diagnosed HIV infection will receive sustained antiretroviral therapy. By 2020, 90

percent of all people receiving antiretroviral therapy will have viral suppression.” UNAIDS (The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS), January 1, 2017. Available at: <http://www.unaids.org/en/resources/documents/2017/90-90-90>

⁵ Their 5th citation is specific to Jefferson County; it would be analogous to the Ending the Epidemic Summit held here in December, I think.

⁶ “Activities Combating HIV Stigma and Discrimination,” HIV.gov. Available at: <https://www.hiv.gov/federal-response/federal-activities-agencies/activities-combating-hiv-stigma-and-discrimination>