Implementing The Undetectables Program to Support Viral Load Suppression for Vulnerable Populations in NYC

Ending the Epidemic Summit
Albany, NY
December 5, 2018

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Overview

- Program Background
- Scaling Up in New York City: ETE-Funded Implementation
- Sustainability
Program Background
How It All Began

- Housing Works launched The Undetectables in March 2014 with support from the Robin Hood Foundation

- Goals:
  1) Help each client achieve and maintain durable viral suppression
  2) Celebrate the heroic actions of our clients
  3) Create an agency-wide culture shift around ending AIDS
Notable Features

- **Integrated:** Dual enrollment in primary care and at least 1 form of case management

- **Innovative:** $100 financial incentive for viral suppression (<50 copies/mL) every quarter

- **Creative:** Empowering and visible social marketing using The Undetectables superhero theme
Program Model

- PRIMARY CARE
- CASE MANAGEMENT
- UNDETECTABLES TOOL KIT

THE CLIENT
Inside the Tool Kit

ARV ADHERENCE PLANNING AND SUPPORT

- Financial Incentives
- Behavioral Health
- Adherence Devices
- CBT Support Groups
- Integrated Case Conferences
- Motivational Interviewing
- Subsistence Needs
- Directly Observed Therapy
I have to be... GUESS THAT THE MONSTERS TOUCH... UNANSWERED FEELINGS OF NON-EXISTANCE.

GRRR! REACH OUT TO ME!

I NEED YOUR POWER!!!

NO, WE ARE TERRIBLE!

NOW LET'S SHOW THEM...

WHO THE UNDETECTABLES ARE!

YOU ARE UNDETECTABLES...

THAT MAKES ME RESPONSIBLE...

AND THE VIRUS INVADABLE...

...I AM AN UNDETECTABLE!!!

KE-RAAAASHHHH!!!
Evaluation Design

- 24-month pilot evaluated by the University of Pennsylvania

- Community-based participatory approach and intent-to-treat analysis

- Each participant used as their own control to assess viral load and cumulative viral exposure pre- and post-enrollment

- Examining: Feasibility, Efficacy, and Cost-Effectiveness
Key Pilot Findings

• Significant positive impact on time spent virally suppressed found in pre/post evaluation (n=502):
  • 17% increase post-intervention in proportion of all time points undetectable (≤50 copies/ml)*
  • 20% increase post-intervention in proportion of clients virally suppressed at all time points (≤50 copies/mL)*

• Significant social/racial disparities in viral suppression found at baseline disappeared post-enrollment

*p<.0001 (paired t test)
Scaling Up in New York City

ETE-Funded Implementation
Preparing to Scale Up

• **June 2014**: Governor Cuomo announced New York State’s plan to end the AIDS epidemic by 2020

• **Spring 2015**: The Ending the Epidemic Task Force introduced its *Blueprint to End AIDS*
Ending the Epidemic

The Undetectables aligns with Pillar 2 of the ETE Blueprint:

1. Identify persons with HIV who remain undiagnosed.
2. Link persons diagnosed with HIV to health care to achieve viral suppression and prevent further transmission.
3. Facilitate access to Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) and non-occupational post-exposure prophylaxis (nPEP) for high-risk persons to keep them HIV-negative.
Scale-Up Process

• Housing Works and NYC DOHMH prepared the model for replication with a VLS “Learning Lab” that included Amida Care and other stakeholders

• The VLS Learning Lab focused on Essential Elements, Organizational Readiness, Curriculum, Evaluation, and Social Marketing

• NYC DOHMH issued Ending the Epidemic RFP and awarded contracts to 7 agencies in July 2016, with Housing Work as TA provider
ETE-Funded Agencies

The Alliance for Positive Change

HARLEM UNITED

BRIGHTPOINT HEALTH

HOUSING WORKS

Ryan Health

Community Healthcare Network

Wyckoff Heights Medical Center
The Undetectables Program locations in relation to HIV prevalence in NYC

- 16 program sites as of December 2018

HIV prevalence, NYC 2016

PLWHA as a percent of population¹ by ZIP code

- 0.1 - 0.5
- 0.6 - 1.0
- 1.1 - 1.7
- 1.8 - 5.3
- Non-residential zones

Undetectables Program Site (2017-18)

ETE-Funded Implementation

- Program model integrated into existing HIV care management programs
  - Including: RWPA Care Coordination, RWPB Retention and Adherence Program, Health Homes, and ADHC

- Start-up and ongoing training and TA by Housing Works

- Over 1870 people enrolled in The Undetectables as of June 30, 2018
ETE-Funded Implementation

- Most common barriers to ART adherence documented at enrollment:
  - Income below FPL (81%)
  - Food insufficiency (38%)
  - Unstable housing (24%)
  - Mental Health Symptoms (22%)

- Suppression status of clients at program enrollment (n=1870)
  - 67% virally suppressed*
  - 11% unsuppressed
  - 22% unknown

- As of June 30, 2018, 90% of clients engaged in care (n=1376) were virally suppressed

* VLS defined as <200 copies/mL
Implementation Challenges

- Integrating the model into a range of existing HIV care management programs
  - Care management program capacity
  - Staff buy-in
- Advancing *agency-wide* organizational change with limited pilot funding
- Data collection and reporting
Sustainability
Program Expansion

- **November 2017**: Community Care of Brooklyn (CCB) replicated The Undetectables in Brooklyn
  - Supported through the DSRIP Program
  - 3 hospital sites and 3 FQHC sites
  - Currently serves 500+ clients and growing

- **November 2018**: Amida Care announced their “Live Your Life Undetectable” viral suppression program
  - Features key elements of The Undetectables
  - To be offered to all eligible Amida Care members
  - Set to go live in December 2018
What’s Next?

• Anticipated renewal of NYC DOHMH Undetectables contracts

• Sharing the digital Undetectables Program Guide to other agencies seeking to adopt the intervention

• Seeking continued expansion throughout New York State to advance Ending the Epidemic goals in all key regions

• Promoting The Undetectables to urge replication in other parts of the United States
The power to LIVE UNDETECTABLE is yours

UNDTECTABLES

You are living your life with HIV.
Now harness your power to Live Undetectable.

www.LiveUndetectable.org
Acknowledgments

**Housing Works**
Charles King
Ginny Shubert
Matthew Bernardo
Vaty Poitevien
Andrew Greene
Alison Kliegman
Naomi Harris Tolson
Cheyanda Onuoha
Elizabeth Koke

**Amida Care**
Doug Wirth
Jerry Ernst
Lee Garr
Jason Lippman

**NYC DOHMH**
Demetre Daskalakis
Oni Blackstock
Graham Harriman
Anna Thomas-Ferraioli
Matthew Feldman
Kelsey Kepler

**ETE-funded Agencies**
The Alliance for Positive Change
Brightpoint Health
Community Healthcare Network
Harlem United
Housing Works
Ryan Health
Wyckoff Heights Medical Center

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LiveUndetectable.org