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U.S. and Canada affirm importance of Undetectable = Untransmittable (U=U) in Montreal

Top health officials call for global support of U=U's critical message

MONTREAL, Canada/New York, NY, USA—July 28, 2022—Today the United States federal government joined Canada in formally supporting the Undetectable = Untransmittable (U=U) message at the U=U Global Summit, a gathering preceding the 2022 International AIDS Conference, in Montreal.

The U=U campaign was launched in 2016 by the Prevention Access Campaign to build and communicate the scientific consensus of a largely unknown fact: People living with HIV who are on treatment and have an undetectable viral load (<200 copies/mL) cannot sexually transmit HIV.

U.S. federal U=U support was announced by Harold Phillips, Director of the White House Office of National AIDS Policy (ONAP), Kaye Hayes, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Infectious Disease and Director of the Office of Infectious Disease and HIV/AIDS Policy (OIDP) at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), and Dr. Demetre Daskalakis, Director of the Division of HIV Prevention (DHP) at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Calling U=U a “key message that’s critical to ending HIV,” Harold Phillips shared how U=U counteracted internal stigma he experienced as a person living with HIV. He continued, “The White House Office of National AIDS Policy is committed to furthering the critical work for U=U and will seek opportunities to work with our government and stakeholders to incorporate U=U messaging in federal training, grants, and educational programs. I look forward to our continued collective work.”

The U.S. federal leaders were followed by Dr. Theresa Tam, Canada’s Chief Public Health Officer, to publicly announce the U.S. and Canada’s joint support for a [Multinational Undetectable = Untransmittable \(U=U\) Call-to-Action](#). The call-to-action urges all nations to support and leverage U=U to accelerate progress towards national and global goals to end the HIV epidemic.

“U=U is a transformative message for people living with, and affected by, HIV. It is also an important tool to help us reach our shared targets for diagnosis, treatment and prevention,” said Dr. Tam. “The evidence behind U=U holds tremendous power to reduce the stigma that can prevent people from getting tested and freely accessing the treatment and support they need. Together, let’s spread the message widely that Undetectable = Untransmittable and recommit to ending HIV-related stigma once and for all.”

The call-to-action highlights the accumulating evidence that shows U=U is associated with improved HIV prevention, care, and treatment outcomes. These benefits must be realized at a national level to help reach goals to end the HIV epidemic. PAC is working with global partners to ensure U=U research is prioritized as well as preparing for increased requests for training, technical assistance, and capacity building.

“We know that U=U knowledge decreases stigma, improves mental health, and leads to better health outcomes. But in the U.S. and across the globe, far too many people – especially those from Black and Brown communities – do not have access to the U=U message or the care, treatment, and services that make U=U possible,” said Deondre Moore, PAC Director of U.S. Partnerships and Community Engagement. “We believe this national and global support is a step in changing that. We can’t fully celebrate U=U until it is a reality for all, not just the privileged.”

As countries incorporate U=U education into programs, policies, and services, it will be more important than ever to measure and optimize the positive impacts U=U has on prevention and care outcomes and broadly disseminate the emerging and best practices.

“We look forward to partnering with officials from the U.S., Canada, and other nations who answer this call, as well as those providing services to people affected by HIV,” said Mariah Wilberg, PAC Senior Director of U.S. Strategy and Ending the Epidemic. “U=U is a win-win. By improving the health, well-being, and quality of life of people living with HIV, we will also improve the public health of communities and accelerate progress in ending the epidemic.”

About Prevention Access Campaign

Prevention Access Campaign (PAC)’s mission is to end the dual epidemics of HIV and HIV-related stigma by empowering people living with HIV with accurate and meaningful information about their social, sexual, and reproductive health. Since launching in 2016, the U=U message is changing what it means to live and love with HIV through a growing community-led movement of HIV advocates, activists, researchers, public officials, and other supporters from all sectors.

PAC provides U=U training, capacity building, and technical assistance; community engagement, activation, and input; subject matter expertise and message development; partnership and consultation for U=U research and evaluation; and insights and lessons learned from over 1,050 U=U Community Partners from 105 countries. Visit [The U=U Global Community](#) to learn more or become a U=U partner.

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