

THE HIV TREATMENT CASCADE

Some key points about the HIV treatment cascade

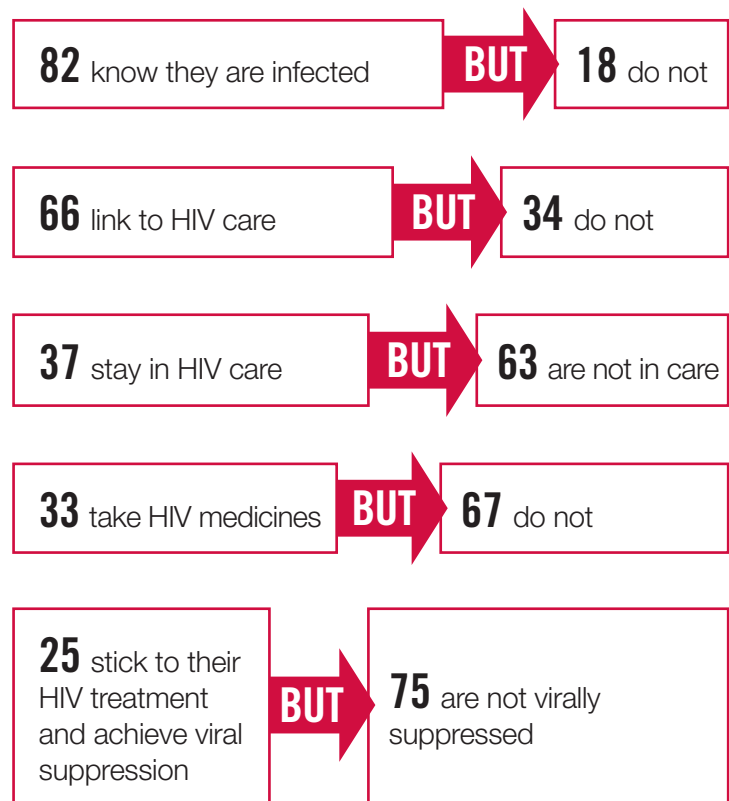
- The HIV treatment cascade is a model that is used to identify the gaps in HIV care¹
- The HIV treatment cascade shows¹:
 - The number of people living with HIV in the United States at various stages along the HIV care continuum, from diagnosis to viral suppression
 - Opportunities to improve engagement in HIV care across the entire continuum

The HIV treatment cascade has 5 stages of HIV care¹

- 1** HIV testing and diagnosis
Linkage to HIV care if HIV positive. Linkage involves getting under the care of an HIV healthcare provider as soon as possible after being diagnosed
- 2** Linkage to HIV care if HIV positive. Linkage involves getting under the care of an HIV healthcare provider as soon as possible after being diagnosed
- 3** Retention in HIV care over time. Retention in care involves regular visits to an HIV healthcare provider and getting all required lab tests done on time
- 4** Provision of HIV medicines
Achieving viral suppression (undetectable viral load) through the continued use of HIV medicines
- 5** Achieving viral suppression (undetectable viral load) through the continued use of HIV medicines

The HIV treatment cascade in 2012

Of every 100 people living with HIV in the United States¹...



References: **1.** HIV in the United States: the stages of care. CDC Fact Sheet, July 2012. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Web site. http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/pdf/research_mmp_StagesofCare.pdf. Accessed June 19, 2013. **2.** Del Rio C. Cascade of care and its relevance to seek, test, treat and retain strategy. American Psychological Association Web site. <http://www.apa.org/about/gr/issues/substance-abuse/del-rio-nida.pdf>. Published July 2012. Accessed June 19, 2013. **3.** Gardner EM, McLees MP, Steiner JF, del Rio C, Burman WJ. The spectrum of engagement in HIV care and its relevance to test-and-treat strategies for prevention of HIV infection. *Clin Infect Dis*. 2011;52(6):793-800. **4.** Mascolini M. HIV care cascade analysis not so dire in large US healthcare system. Paper presented at: 20th Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections; March 3–6, 2013; Atlanta, GA. National AIDS Treatment Advocacy Project Web site. http://www.natap.org/2013/CROI/croi_109.htm. Accessed June 19, 2013.

THE HIV TREATMENT CASCADE AND THE STAGES OF HIV CARE

Closing the gaps: what you can do

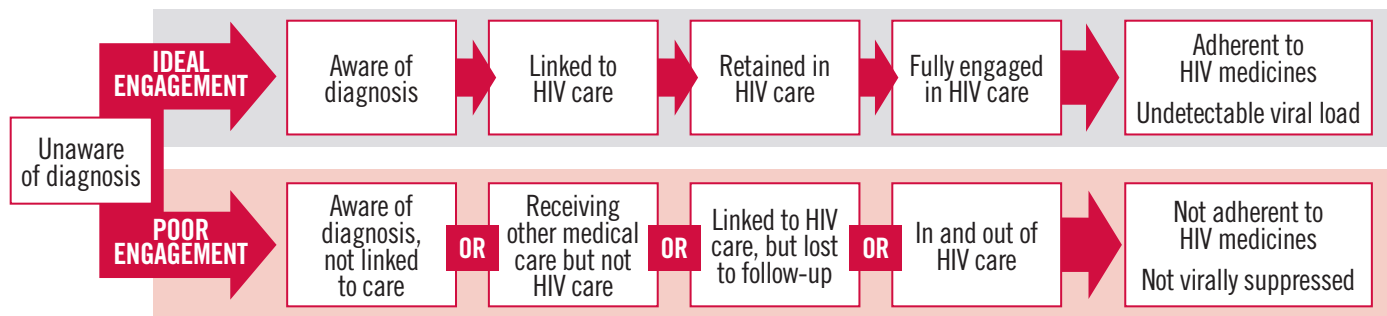
- Guide your clients to²:
 - Get an HIV test
 - Get into medical care for HIV and receive counseling to prevent HIV transmission if they test positive
 - Stay in HIV medical care
 - Take their HIV medicines as prescribed and stay on them in order to increase their chances of achieving viral suppression
- Ask your clients questions such as:
 - Have you been tested for HIV? If so, what was the result? If not, how can I help you arrange to be tested?
 - Have you seen an HIV healthcare provider since being diagnosed? If so, how many times have you visited your HIV healthcare provider in the last 6 months? How often does your HIV healthcare provider want to see you?
 - When was the last time you had lab tests done?
 - Have you started taking HIV medicines? If so, how many times have you missed a dose?
 - Are you responding to your HIV medicines? Is your viral load going down?

Your role is key

- Understanding the HIV treatment cascade may help you better understand the gaps in HIV care that so many people with HIV experience³
- By working to keep your clients on track and engaged in their HIV care, you play an important role in bringing about improvements in the HIV treatment cascade
- Improvements at each stage of the HIV treatment cascade may help prevent the spread of the virus and may help stop the HIV epidemic³

Engagement in HIV care^{2,4}

Engagement in HIV care means being actively involved in and committed to care across the entire spectrum of HIV care, from testing and diagnosis, through linkage, retention, treatment initiation, and adherence, with the goal of treatment being an undetectable viral load



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