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

Ending the Epidemic Summit
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Gina Gambone, MPH
NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

Greg Wersching, MA
Housing Works

NYC Health

HOUSING WORKS

UNDETECTABLES

Overview

- Program Background
- Scaling Up in New York City: ETE-Funded Implementation
- Sustainability

Program Background

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How It All Began

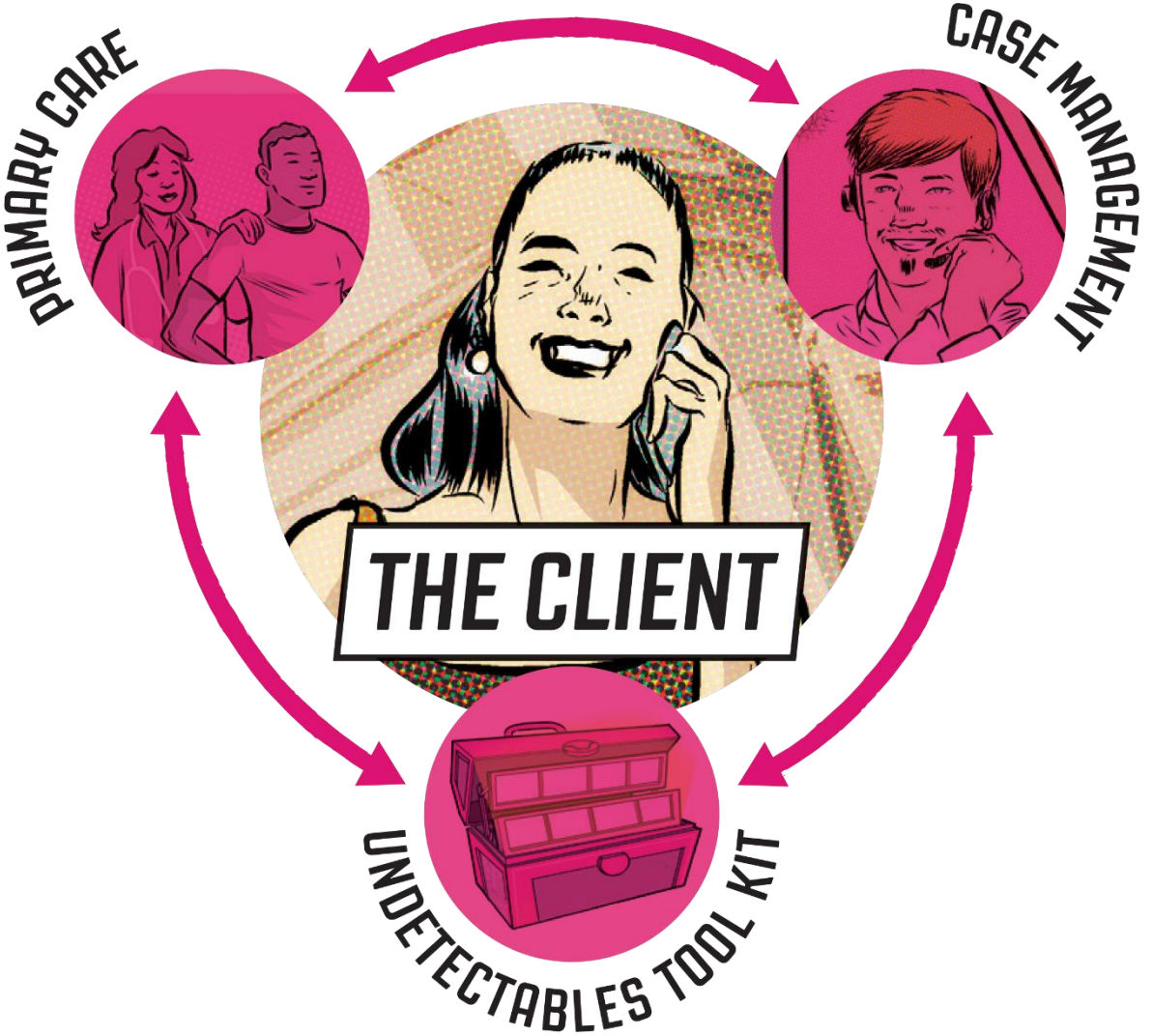
- Housing Works launched The Undetectables in March 2014 with support from the Robin Hood Foundation

- 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

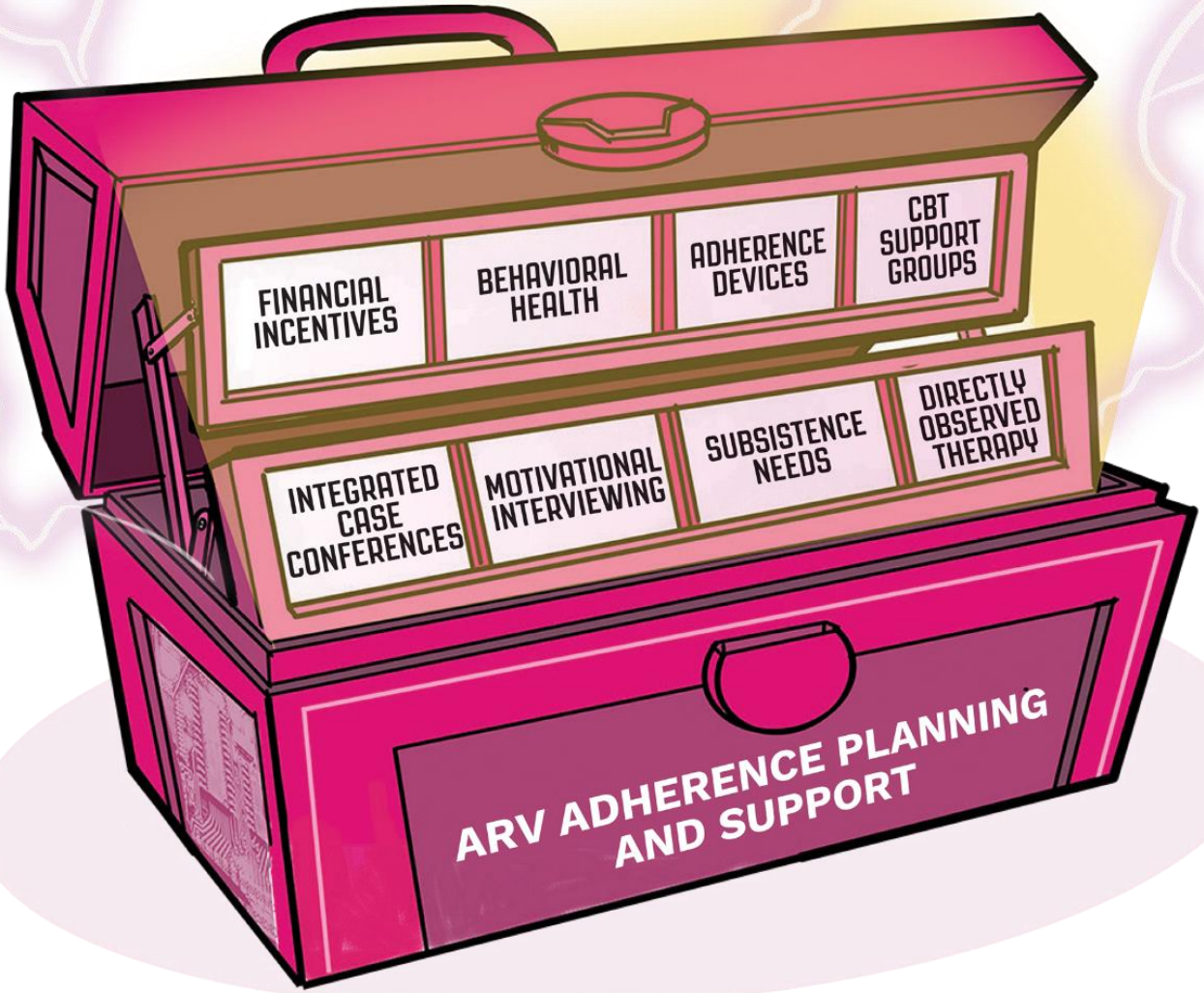
Notable Features

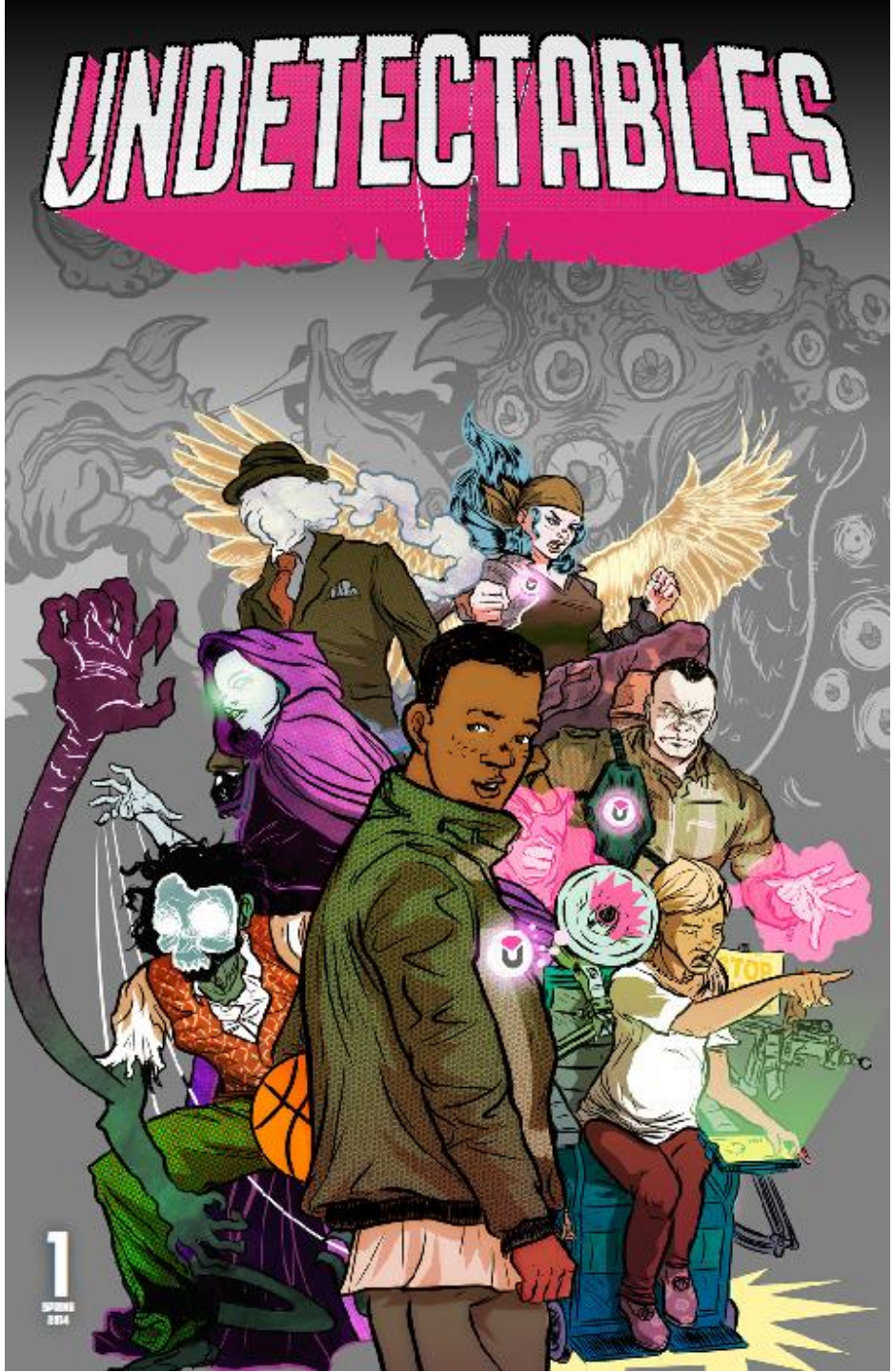
- **Integrated:** Dual enrollment in primary care and at least 1 form of case management
- **Innovative**: $100 financial incentive for viral suppression (<50 copies/mL) every quarter
- **Creative:** Empowering and visible social marketing using The Undetectables superhero theme

Program Model



Inside the Tool Kit




UNDETECTABLES
1
SPRING 2014

I HAVE TO BE QUICK!! JUST THE MONSTERS TOUCH UNLEASHES MASSIVE FEELINGS OF REMORSE.
GUYS! REACH OUT TO ME!!!
I NEED YOUR POWERS!!
HERE WE ARE TERRANCE
NOW LET'S SHOW THEM...
WHO THE UNDETECTABLES ARE!
MY HIV IS UNDETECTABLE...
...THAT MAKES ME IRREPRESSIBLE...
...AND THE VIRUS INTRANSMISSIBLE...
...I AM AN UNDETECTABLE!!!
KE-RAAAAASHHHH!!!

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

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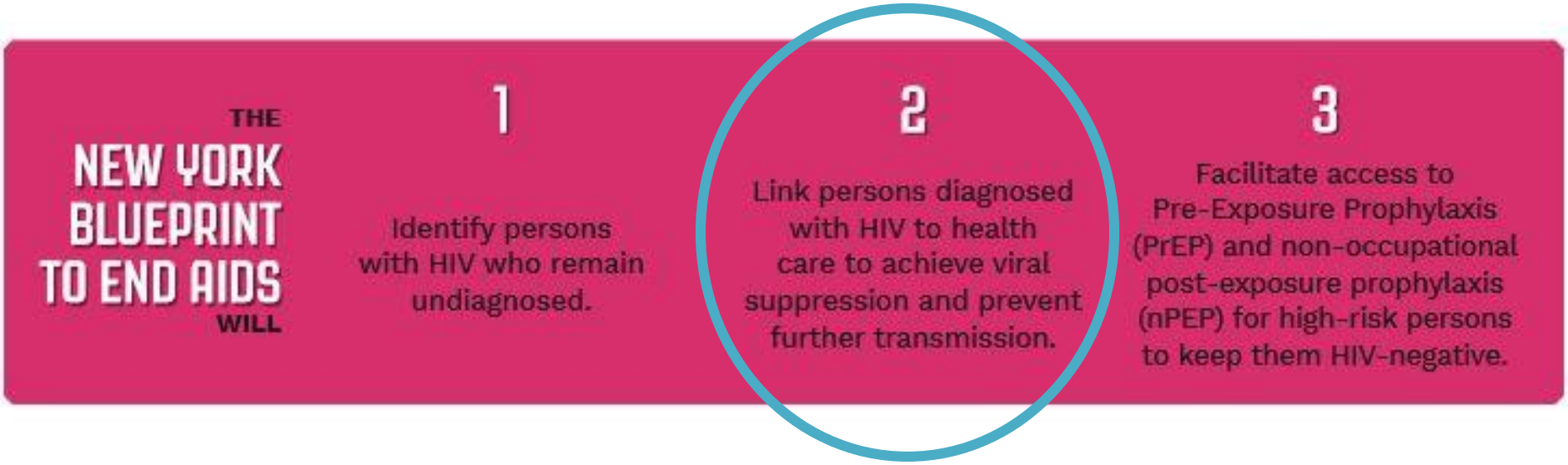
Preparing to Scale Up

- **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:



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

Caring for New York. Here for You.

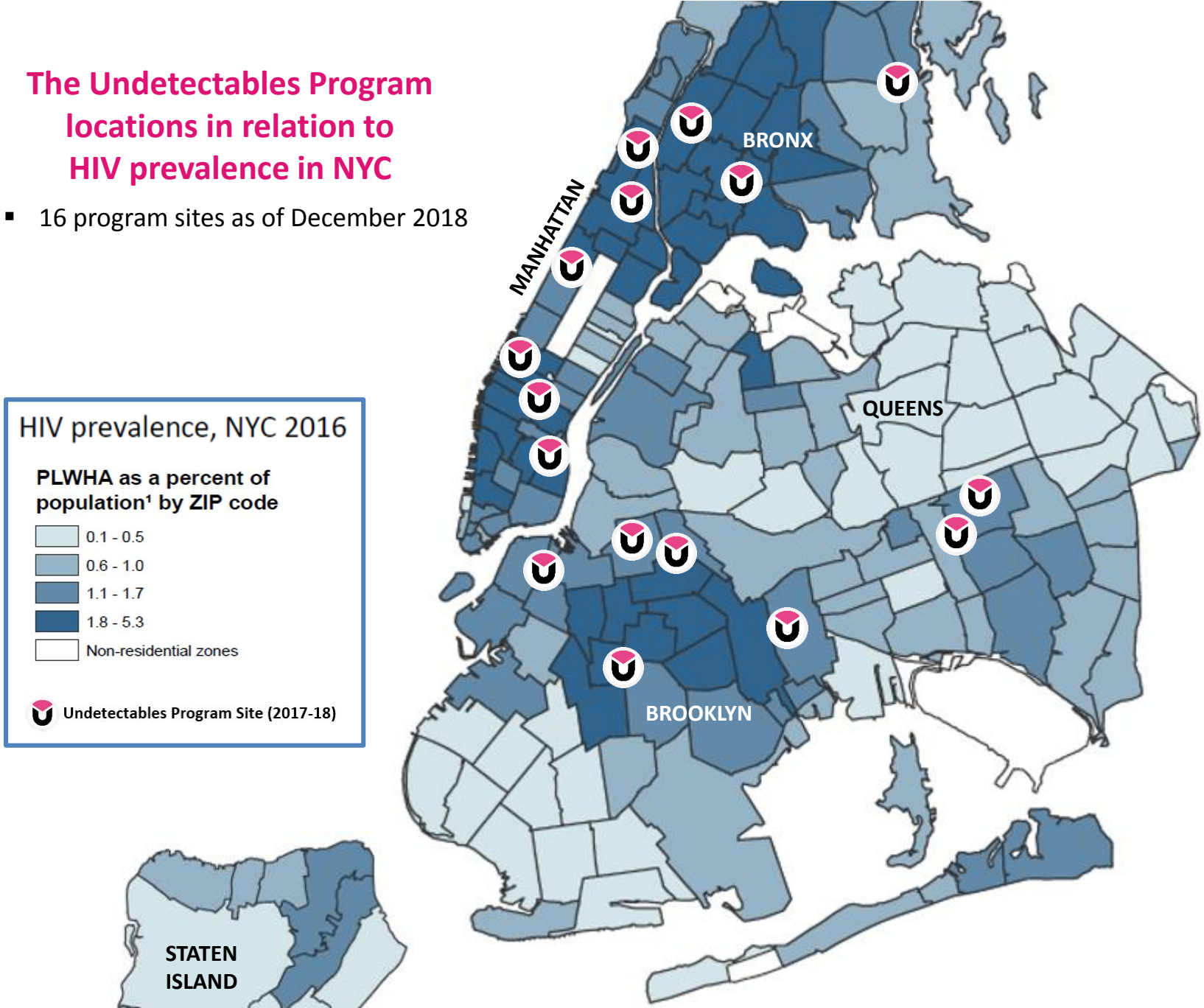
Community Healthcare Network

Wyckoff

Wyckoff Heights Medical Center

The Undetectables Program locations in relation to HIV prevalence in NYC

- 16 program sites as of December 2018



Source: HIV Epidemiology and Field Services Program. *HIV Surveillance Annual Report, 2016.* New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene: New York, NY. December 2017.

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

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Program Expansion

- **<u>November 2017:</u> 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

- **<u>November 2018:</u> 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

www.LiveUndetectable.org

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ETE-funded Agencies
The Alliance for Positive Change
Brightpoint Health
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Harlem United
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Ryan Health
Wyckoff Heights Medical Center

University of Pennsylvania
TJ Ghose

Contact Us

Housing Works

Greg Wersching
Director of Project Management
g.wersching@housingworks.org

NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

Gina Gambone
Program Manager, HIV Care Management Services
ggambone1@health.nyc.gov

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