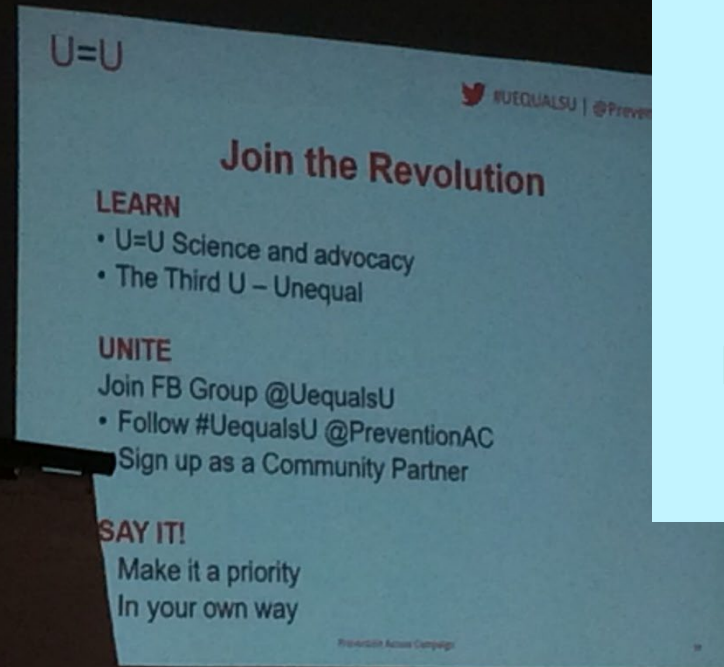


U=U in South Carolina



It takes a Village...
and
Champions!

Early Days...September 2017



Bruce Richman

introduces **U=U**



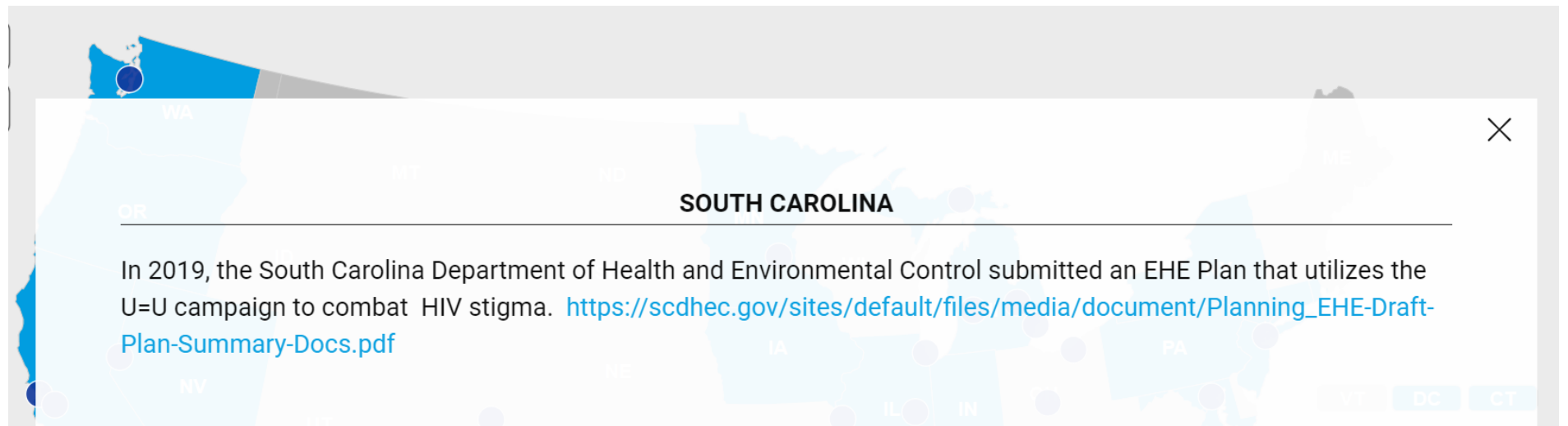
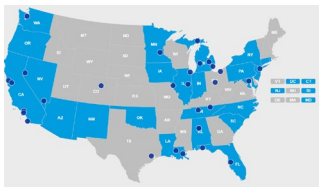
Positive Living Conference
Fort Walton Beach, FL

SC then followed
developments...



Excitement grows - 2019

Ali Mansaray, Director, Division of STD, HIV, & Viral Hepatitis, signs SCDHEC on as one of the early endorsers of Prevention Access Campaign's U=U Consensus Statement. Partners throughout the state involved in the planning process of EHE include U=U as a key component in fighting stigma.



<https://nastad.org/resources/undetectable-untransmittable-health-department-engagement-map>

Blast off! 2020



EtE SC arranged a public-private partnership between a global AIDS nonprofit, an HIV ministry, EtE SC, DHEC and two local set designers to create two large modular U=U displays to use at the State House for EtE SC World AIDS Day 2020.



We created the (U=U)+PrEP+Condoms=EHE campaign. A volunteer set up the QR code and EtE SC Linktree site, which includes Prevention Access Campaign (PAC). EtE SC added PAC to our webpage.

(U=U) + PREP + CONDOMS = EHE

(UNDETECTABLE = UNTRANSMITTABLE)
+
PRE-EXPOSURE PROPHYLAXIS
+
CONDOMS
=
ENDING THE HIV EPIDEMIC

FOR MORE INFORMATION:



STD/HIV/VH Division Social Media expert and DHEC's videographer created a 20-minute EtE SC WAD video showing DHEC leadership, staff, and community advocates living with HIV, all of whom emphasized U=U in their remarks.

https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=pe8de8xOQjg&feature=share&fbclid=IwAR3AeZiHWS4dVWE2ReBiqZfETbu4heCOqIMLKeen25_xpbqN3X9ieGkN5

YouTube Recorded Video Statements

Top Level Endorsement

2020



State of South Carolina
Governor's Proclamation

WHEREAS, the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) reports that as of December 31, 2019, over 20,000 South Carolina residents were living with HIV (including AIDS) and estimates that over 6,000 of these individuals are not currently receiving medical treatment; and

WHEREAS, while the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) shows a Viral Suppression Rate of 65 percent nationally among People Living With HIV (PLWH), SCDHEC and its partners statewide have assisted 69 percent of South Carolinians Living With HIV to achieve Viral Suppression through ongoing treatment and care; and

WHEREAS, UNAIDS states that with 20 years of evidence demonstrating that HIV treatment is highly effective in reducing the transmission of HIV, the evidence is now clear that achieving an undetectable viral load means *Undetectable equals Untransmittable (U=U)*; and

WHEREAS, the U=U movement dismantles HIV-related stigma on the community, clinical and personal levels, encouraging PLWH to start and stay in treatment in order to achieve Viral Suppression and bringing us closer to ending the HIV epidemic once and for all; and


WHEREAS, the Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services (DAODAS) states the opioid crisis, which resulted in 876 overdose deaths in 2019, is also exacerbating the spread, progress, and burden of infectious diseases such as HIV, STDs, and Hepatitis C in our state; and


WHEREAS, public and private partners throughout South Carolina are working to implement the vision of the ENDING THE EPIDEMICS SC campaign, "A South Carolina free of new cases of HIV, STDs, Viral Hepatitis and Substance Use Disorders".

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Henry McMaster, Governor of the great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim December 1, 2020, as

ENDING THE EPIDEMICS SC WORLD AIDS DAY

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to learn more about these intersecting issues, take action to protect their health and the health of others, treat people living with these issues and their families with *fairness, compassion and understanding*, and to remember all those who have lost their lives.




HENRY McMASTER
GOVERNOR
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

2021



State of South Carolina
Governor's Proclamation

WHEREAS, in this 40th anniversary year of the HIV/AIDS pandemic, we recognize that this crisis is far from over, but we now have the tools necessary to end this epidemic; and

WHEREAS, public and private partners throughout South Carolina are working to implement the vision of the ENDING THE EPIDEMICS SC campaign, "A South Carolina free of new cases of HIV, STDs, Viral Hepatitis and Substance Use Disorders; and

WHEREAS, for the two-year period 2018-2019, the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) reports that 40 percent of new HIV/AIDS cases were among young people ages 20-29; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services (DAODAS) states that the opioid crisis, which has resulted in increasing overdose deaths each year, is also exacerbating the spread, progress, and burden of infectious diseases such as HIV, STDs, and Hepatitis C in our state; and

WHEREAS, DHEC shows that as of December 31, 2019, over 20,000 South Carolina residents were living with HIV (including AIDS) and estimates that almost 4,500 of these individuals are not currently receiving medical treatment; and


WHEREAS, DHEC and its partners statewide have assisted 62 percent of South Carolinians living with HIV to achieve viral suppression through ongoing treatment and care; and

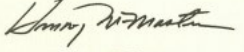
WHEREAS, UNAIDS states with over 20 years of evidence demonstrating that HIV treatment is highly effective in reducing the transmission of HIV, the evidence is now clear that achieving an undetectable viral load means *Undetectable equals Untransmittable (U=U)*.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Henry McMaster, Governor of the great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim December 1, 2021, as

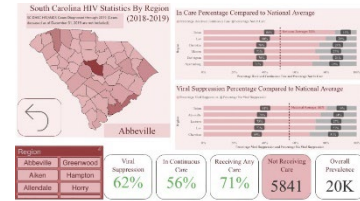
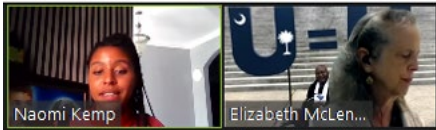
ENDING THE EPIDEMICS SC WORLD AIDS DAY

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to learn more about these intersecting issues, take action to protect their health and the health of others, treat people living with these issues and their families with *fairness, compassion and understanding*, and to remember all those who have lost their lives.




HENRY McMASTER
GOVERNOR
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

Statewide Engagement 2021



Online on @EndingtheEpidemicsSC on Facebook and Instagram:





South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control
Healthy People. **Healthy Communities.**

U=U moves into SC DHEC – Spring 2022



Thank you, Ali Mansaray,
Donna Gilbert Larsen
and
Stacy Jennings-Senghor
for your championship of
U=U.

U=U September 2022

Ending The HIV Epidemic



The Region 4 HIV Prevention through Active Community Engagement (PACE) program in collaboration with the Southeast AIDS Education and Training Center, presents a regional webinar:

Building Capacity to Expand Viral Suppression Initiatives

Lessons learned from Undetectable = Untransmittable rollouts in Region 4

Efforts to increase awareness of the benefits of viral suppression – such as Undetectable = Untransmittable (U=U) and the “Work of ART” campaign can improve HIV program outcomes. Research shows that U=U awareness can increase HIV testing uptake, reduce stigma, improve adherence and viral suppression. This regional webinar will build the capacity of jurisdictions to leverage U=U and allied campaigns to fight stigma, improve HIV program outcomes, and make progress towards ending the HIV epidemic.

DETAILS

Thursday, September 15, 2022. Time: 12:00p.m. ET – 1:00 p.m. ET
Register online: https://www.seaetc.com/event/PER_ID-3726

OBJECTIVES

- Describe how U=U awareness can improve HIV prevention, treatment, and care outcomes.
- Discuss the importance of viral suppression and how viral suppression initiatives can prevent transmission.
- Review best practices and lessons learned from statewide U=U initiatives in South Carolina and Mississippi.
- Provide technical assistance to jurisdictions to implement effective local U=U and other viral suppression campaigns.

SPEAKERS

Elizabeth McLendon
Community Advocate, Ending the Epidemics, South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control

Melverta Bender
Director, Office of STD/HIV, Mississippi Department of Health & Project Director, MS Ending the HIV Epidemic

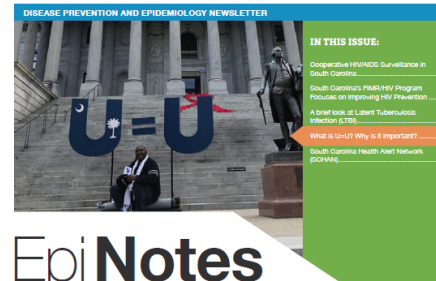
Mariah Wilberg
Senior Director, U.S. Strategy & Ending the HIV Epidemic, US Jones Mississippi Outreach Coordinator Prevention Access Campaign



ReConnect US: A Prison Initiative Presents the Justice Involved HIV Programs Summit 9/21/22



Ending the Epidemics SC, in partnership with the Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services (DAODAS), will hold a one-day summit on Thursday, September 22, 2022, in Columbia, SC.



Epi Notes

Cooperative HIV/AIDS Surveillance in South Carolina

Eric Jalonen, MPH
STD/HIV Disease Surveillance Coordinator
Division of Surveillance, Assessment and Evaluation

HIV and AIDS surveillance starts with you – the provider. Providers, following the South Carolina Mandatory Reportable Conditions, report HIV/AIDS labs to the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC). These labs are then processed and potential new HIV/AIDS cases in South Carolina are initiated out to the Area Surveillance Coordinators (ASCs).

What is an ASC?

ASCs are staff charged with confirming new cases of HIV/AIDS in South Carolina. They do this by conducting chart reviews and discussing potential cases with medical staff and laboratories. There is one ASC for each region in South Carolina.

Who are the ASCs?

- Region 1 (Upstate): Eric Jalonen
- Region 2 (Midlands): Carolyn Gately
- Region 3 (Pee Dee): Ludovica Naja Bryson
- Region 4 (Lowcountry): Antonette Ferguson

How will an ASC get in contact with you?

In most cases an ASC will contact the provider and let them determine the best contact person. This could be a medical staff member to answer questions, a representative from Health Information Services, or an administrative staff member. The ASCs and providers work together to determine the best method for access to information. This can be done via an in-person visit to review charts, remote access to charts, setting up a transfer through an e-delivery system, utilizing a Secure File Transfer Portal or through phone conversations with a designated staff member. You are also able to complete the required documents and send them electronically to DHEC.

Bureau of Communicable Disease Prevention and Control

UNDETECTABLE = UNTRANSMITTABLE
A person living with HIV who is on treatment and has an undetectable viral load cannot sexually transmit HIV.

What is U=U? Why is it important?

If you work in or have recently visited DHEC's Mills Jarratt Building in Columbia, you have seen the prominent U=U display in the vestibule of the main entrance. This display represents what Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases and the Chief Medical Advisor to the President, describes as "the foundation for being able to end the HIV epidemic."

To accomplish this, we are encouraging people to know their HIV status by getting tested and then entering care, if their test is positive.

In short, with all the work being performed by DHEC's Division of STD, HIV and Viral Hepatitis and implemented in the field by equally dedicated workers at every DHEC clinic in South Carolina and partners throughout the community, we are determined to meet our goal of ending the HIV epidemic by 2030.

Through our programs, Data to Care and Ryan White Outreach, we have mobilized both DHEC staff and partner personnel throughout South Carolina to reach people known to be living with HIV, who either never entered care or dropped out of care. Each DHEC Health Region has a dedicated Data to Care staff person performing this much-needed service. There are also two statewide Data to Care DHEC staff, one of whom serves the pediatric population and the other serves the Hispanic community.

Through Data to Care and Ryan White Outreach, we have reduced the number of people not in Care (NIC) from 6,000 to approximately 4,500.

People living with HIV who are in care have the possibility of achieving an undetectable viral load. The result of a person's viral load being undetectable means that people living with HIV cannot pass on the virus to others sexually and they can have a nearly ordinary life with a normal lifespan.

Bureau of Communicable Disease Prevention and Control

DISEASE PREVENTION AND EPIDEMIOLOGY NEWSLETTER

This extraordinary U=U display also represents the partnership between DHEC and the community. It was designed by Medicine's artist Brandon Melver under the direction of DHEC's Community Advocates for Ending the Epidemics SC, and funded by AIDS Healthcare Foundation, a global nonprofit that donated the money to HIV Ministry of the Episcopal Diocese of Upper South Carolina, which in turn paid the designer and a local master's technical director, both of whom built one display each. A second display is in Charleston being used by Sexual Health Awareness, STD Prevention, and Education (SHAPE) of Tri-County.

DHEC's Bureau of Communicable Disease Prevention and Control uses the ReadyOp notification system to distribute health alerts and advisories from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and DHEC. This distribution method is also known as the South Carolina Health Alert Network (SCHAN). The health alerts and advisories notify healthcare providers of guidance, clusters, outbreaks, and other events of public health significance.

The notifications are sent by email to organization-defined points of contact who then forward the message to appropriate recipients within their organization.

If you are a public health professional interested in receiving health alerts from SCHAN via email, you may sign up by completing a South Carolina Health Alert Network Registration Form. Once your registration form is processed, your contact information will be added to the ReadyOp system.

If you previously registered for SCHAN, but are no longer receiving health alerts? Your contact information may not be current, which could delay rapid alerts and notifications. If you would like to update your contact information, you may also complete a South Carolina Health Alert Network Registration Form.

If you missed any of the previously distributed health alerts, you may visit the SCHAN webpage on the DHEC website at www.dhec.sc.gov.

Please contact the DHEC Health Alert Network Coordinator at 803-896-0431 or email SCHealthAlert@dhc.sc.gov with any questions about SCHAN.



UNDETECTABLE = UNTRANSMITTABLE

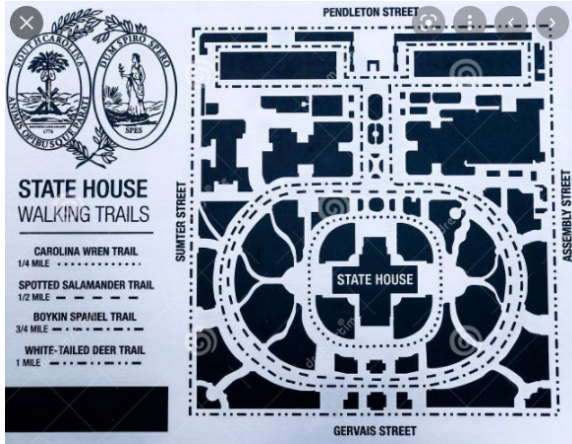
As an HIV activist, Maria Maga has been happily married since June 20, 2017. Maria and Doreen Larson have been happily married since June 20, 2017. Doreen was diagnosed with HIV on November 10, 2005. Her HIV is undetectable. She is HIV negative. They are both proud advocates for HIV testing.

Maria Maga, International HIV Activist, asserts, "U=U sets us free."

Bureau of Communicable Disease Prevention and Control

U=U & EtE SC WAD 2022 – A Blank Slate!

And a growing team of volunteers churning with ideas and energy!



U=U

Undetectable = Untransmittable
and with SC's focus on increasing outreach to
the growing Latinx community:
INDETECTABLE = INTRANSMISIBLE
(I=I)



Stigma is a formidable foe.

Fight it with a stronger idea.

U = U

Ending the Epidemics SC

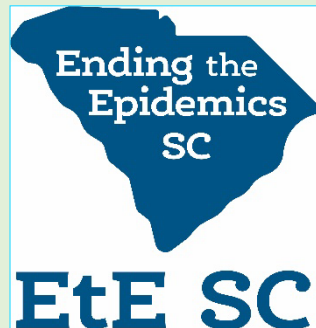
(EtE SC)



Our vision is a South Carolina free of new cases of HIV, STDs, Viral Hepatitis and Substance Use Disorders.



Stay Safe • Get Tested • Treat Early • End Stigma



For more information, contact:

Elizabeth McLendon, MA

Community Advocate, Ending the Epidemics SC

Email: McLendEL@dhec.sc.gov and EtESC2030@gmail.com

Phone: 803-603-1308

<https://scdhec.gov/EtESC>

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram @EndingtheEpidemicsSC