

# What is 90-90-90-50?

Four years ago, The United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS, UNAIDS, established an “ambitious treatment target to help end the AIDS epidemic” called 90-90-90. The numbers represent a cascading plan of testing, linkage to care and antiviral suppression of the virus — 90 percent of persons living with HIV know their status, 90 percent of them are in treatment and 90 percent have suppressed viral loads. Zero Pinellas uses the basis of this framework and places a measurable goal to reduce new HIV infections in Pinellas County at least by 50 percent, thus creating the “90-90-90-50” target. It is a replication of the **District of Columbia’s 90/90/90/50 Plan**, which rolled out World AIDS Day 2016 to end the District’s HIV epidemic by 2020.

The targets of Zero Pinellas are:

- 90% of Persons Living with HIV know their status
- 90% of persons diagnosed with HIV are linked to care and retained in antiretroviral therapy
- 90% of persons retained in treatment have a HIV suppressed viral load
- At least 50% reduction in new HIV infections in three years

It’s a clinical model of care that has gained interest and implementation from AIDS Services Organizations (ASOs) all over the world, as public and private sectors are collaborating and making alliances with the goal to reduce the incidence and prevalence of HIV. The 90-90-90 represents the shift in how finding a way to end HIV/AIDS has evolved and refocused. Today, it is about understanding and targeting viral suppression as a treatment as prevention (TasP) strategy: a person who is HIV-positive, consistently and correctly takes their medications and whose HIV virus is suppressed can greatly lower the risk of transmitting the virus to others.

According to a 2017 UNAIDS report, using the 90-90-90 targets has been transformative:

*More than two thirds of all people living with HIV globally — an estimated 70% [51-84%] — knew their HIV status in 2016. Among those who knew their HIV status, 77% [57– >89%] were accessing antiretroviral therapy, and 82% [60– >89%] of people on treatment had suppressed viral loads. Amid this progress, a major milestone was reached in 2016: for the first time, more than half of all people living with HIV (53% [39–65%]) were accessing antiretroviral therapy. (Source: Ending AIDS: Progress towards the 90-90-90 targets, 2017)*

Whether operating under different monikers, such as “Ending the Epidemic” or “Getting to Zero,” many countries and U.S. states and cities have made noticeable progress. UNAIDS notes fully achieving the 90-90-90 targets translates into 73 percent of all people living with HIV being virally suppressed.

*Across the globe, seven countries had already achieved or exceeded this level of viral suppression by 2016: Botswana, Cambodia, Denmark, Iceland, Singapore, Sweden and the*

*United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. An additional 11 countries were near this threshold: Australia, Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Kuwait, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Spain, Swaziland and Switzerland. Several cities engaged in the Fast-Track Cities Initiative have also reached, or are close to reaching, the 90-90-90 targets, including Amsterdam, Melbourne, New York City and Paris. (Source: Ending AIDS: Progress Towards the 90-90-90 Targets, 2017)*

### **What Other States and Cities are Doing**

San Francisco and New York were some of the pioneers who adopted the global 90-90-90 goal early. Started in 2014 as a multi-sector coalition, **Getting to Zero San Francisco** has one of the most aggressive plans for HIV targets: reduce new HIV infections and HIV deaths by 90 percent by 2020, and to have zero new HIV infections and zero HIV deaths by 2030.

Also, in 2014, New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo pledged \$200 million toward an “**Ending the Epidemic**” initiative, where he said the AIDS epidemic in the state will only happen when “the total number of new HIV infections has fallen below the number of HIV-related deaths.” The first jurisdictional effort of its kind in the country, it transformed from a plan to a “blueprint” in 2015 with the goals to reduce new HIV infections to 750 and reduce the rate at which persons diagnosed with HIV progress to AIDS by 50 percent. Both targets have a 2020 deadline.

**Getting to Zero MA** was created by a multi-sector coalition in Massachusetts. It launched on World AIDS Day 2015 with the goal of zero HIV stigma/discrimination, zero new HIV infections, and zero AIDS-related deaths. **End AIDS Washington** is also a “collaboration of community-based organization, government agencies and educational and research institutions working together to reduce new infections by 50 percent by 2020,” with a focus on access to insurance, testing, PreP (an HIV-infection prevention pill) and treatment.

In 2016, **Arizona** released its “audacious” five-year plan, Victory Over HIV: By 2021, everyone will have access to PreP, everyone diagnosed with HIV will be treated within 30 days, everyone living with HIV will receive lifesaving medications and the virus will be undetectable in all people living with HIV. Last year, **Chicago** joined the Getting to Zero movement with a collective effort among the Chicago and Illinois health departments and 10 community organizations to eliminate new HIV infections by 2027. Their plan is broken down into two parts: increase PreP uptake from 20 to 40 percent and increase viral suppression from 50 to 70 percent.