

GETTING TO ZERO

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On March 1, 2016, the County of San Diego's Board of Supervisors adopted the Getting to Zero initiative, which seeks to halt the County's HIV epidemic over the next 10 years. The initiative was based on the final report of the HIV Ad-Hoc Task Force, which was convened based upon the recommendation of Board of Supervisors Chairman Ron Roberts, Supervisor Dave Roberts, and City Councilmember Todd Gloria. Composed of HIV service providers, persons living with HIV, and County staff members, the Task Force made six recommendations that will help guide the County in Getting to Zero:

- Increase public awareness of HIV
- Engage local healthcare systems
- Fully implement PrEP and PEP activities
- Use data to improve outcomes
- Address disproportionalities
- Pursue policy changes that promote Getting to Zero



All of the recommendations made by the Task Force support three key strategies that will help to end the epidemic:

STRATEGY 1: TEST

One of out every 11 County residents living with HIV is unaware of their status. Based upon recommendations by the CDC, the U.S. Preventive Service Task Force and others, the County is seeking to ensure that all adolescents and adults are tested for HIV at least once in their lifetimes and more frequently if they have ongoing risk. HIV testing is free and widely available throughout San Diego County.

STRATEGY 2: TREAT

Over one-third of County residents living with HIV have not been successfully treated for HIV. Individuals who are in treatment for HIV can often expect to live long, healthy lives. Additionally, individuals who are successfully treated are highly unlikely to transmit HIV to anyone else. HIV treatment is available to every resident of the County who is living with HIV.

STRATEGY 3: PREVENT

HIV infection is 100% preventable. Education and behavioral interventions have been shown to be effective in preventing new infections. Additionally, in 2012 the FDA approved Truvada, an HIV medication, for use in HIV-negative individuals to prevent infection (known as pre-exposure prophylaxis or "PrEP"). When taken daily, Truvada can reduce HIV infections by up to 96%. HIV education and prevention activities, including navigation assistance for obtaining PrEP, is available throughout San Diego County.

The Getting to Zero initiative supports *Live Well San Diego*, the County of San Diego's comprehensive, innovative regional vision that combines the efforts of partners inside and outside County government to help all residents be healthy, safe, and thriving.

For more information about the *Getting to Zero* initiative, please contact Patrick.Loose@sdcounty.ca.gov.



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