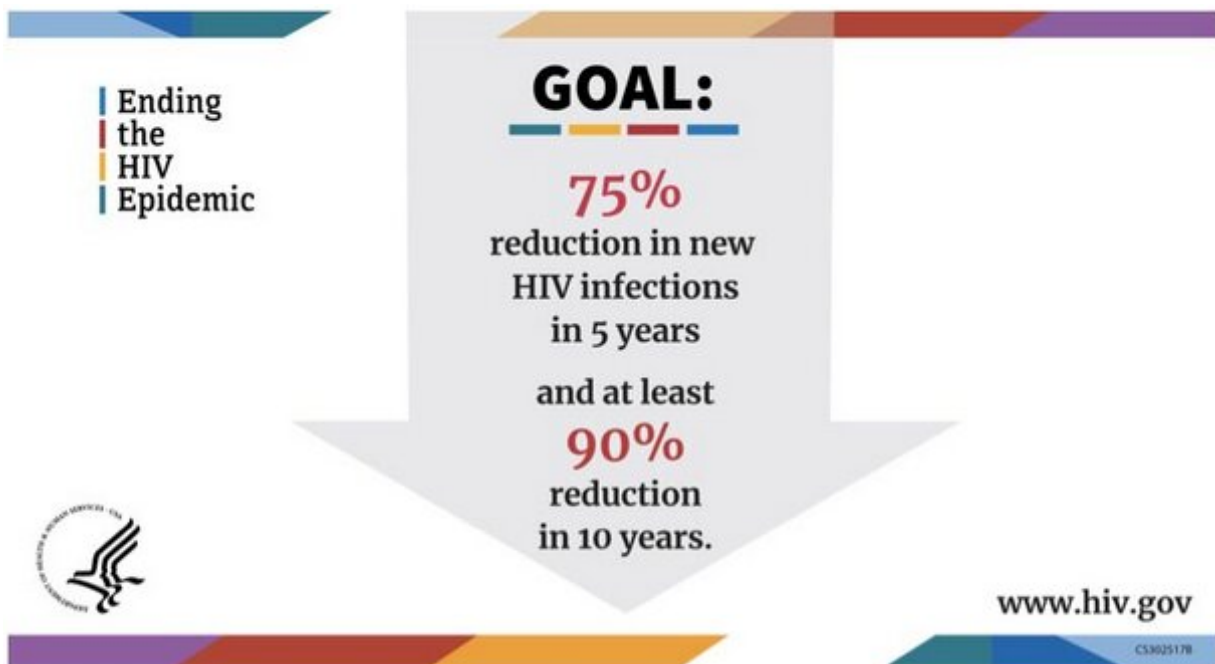


# New metrics needed to evaluate and combat HIV epidemics in the US

December 17 2019




The infographic features a large grey downward-pointing arrow. To the left of the arrow is the text 'Ending the HIV Epidemic' with vertical bars in blue, red, yellow, and purple. Inside the arrow, the word 'GOAL:' is at the top, followed by '75% reduction in new HIV infections in 5 years and at least 90% reduction in 10 years.' The bottom left of the infographic has a circular logo with a stylized bird. The bottom right has the website 'www.hiv.gov' and a small ID number 'CS3025178'.

Ending  
the  
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Epidemic

**GOAL:**

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[www.hiv.gov](http://www.hiv.gov)

CS3025178

Credit: CUNY Graduate School of Public Health and Health Policy

A new peer-reviewed commentary published in the January issue of the *American Journal of Public Health* argues for new metrics to evaluate the public health response to HIV in the United States. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) [has announced plans](#) to reduce the number of new HIV infections by 75 percent in the next five years and 90 percent in the next 10 years. "Ending the HIV Epidemic" (EtHE)

efforts will focus initially on 48 high burden counties; Washington, DC; San Juan, Puerto Rico; and seven states with substantial rural HIV burdens, before moving on to all U.S. counties.

Dr. Denis Nash, Distinguished Professor of Epidemiology at the CUNY Graduate School of Public Health and Executive Director of the CUNY Institute for Implementation Science in Population Health, notes that because ending the public health threat of HIV requires intensification and more focused targeting of implementation, there is a need for new metrics to inform and evaluate EtHE initiatives. Nash argues that newer metrics should complement the current metrics that focus on new HIV infections, individuals successfully being treated for HIV, and coverage of pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP), a drug which can prevent HIV infection.

The HHS plan should develop metrics that track the deployment and uptake of specific intervention delivery strategies, which would provide data regarding plan goals. Nash contends that HIV-related health disparities in both implementation outcomes and health outcomes require special attention.

"Given the major disparities in HIV incidence and the potential for these disparities to be further exacerbated through differential access to HIV testing, PrEP, HIV treatment, and treatment adherence support, special attention must be paid to the use of metrics and targets capable of informing action and course corrections aimed at mitigating disparities," Nash says.

Finally, Nash underscores the need for HHS to develop a public facing web-based dashboard system that more rapidly disseminates actionable information based on the new metrics needed to inform the implementation of the HHS plan.

"We have made substantial strides in getting useful data into the hands of those that are in a position to act in support of New York's Ending the Epidemic initiative," he said, referring to New York's Ending the Epidemic Dashboard system. "The national EtHE Plan needs a timely dissemination system like the one we have here in New York in order to accelerate impact and share lessons learned within and across those jurisdictions aiming to end HIV as a local public [health](#) threat."

**More information:** Denis Nash. Designing and Disseminating Metrics to Support Jurisdictional Efforts to End the Public Health Threat Posed by HIV Epidemics, *American Journal of Public Health* (2019). [DOI: 10.2105/AJPH.2019.305398](#)

Provided by CUNY Graduate School of Public Health and Health Policy

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