



CDC ADVANCING HIV PREVENTION INITIATIVE

WHAT IS THE PUBLIC HEALTH ISSUE?

CDC's HIV prevention activities over the past two decades have focused on helping uninfected persons at high-risk for acquiring HIV change and maintain behaviors to keep them uninfected. Despite the success of these efforts in reducing HIV incidence in the late 1980s and early 1990s, the number of new HIV infections is estimated to have remained stable around 40,000 per year since the early 1990s, and the number of persons living with HIV continues to increase. In April 2003, CDC announced a new initiative, "Advancing HIV Prevention (AHP): New Strategies for a Changing Epidemic," aimed at reducing the number of new infections caused by HIV each year in the United States. The new initiative expands on current HIV prevention strategies and models other approaches that have proven effective in preventing infectious diseases. The initiative has four key strategies: making HIV testing a routine part of medical care; implementing new models for diagnosing HIV infections outside medical settings; preventing new infections by working with persons diagnosed with HIV and their partners; and further decreasing perinatal HIV transmission.

Keeping people from becoming infected with HIV, whether through working with HIV-positive or HIV-negative persons, remains CDC's primary HIV prevention mission. To this end, CDC will continue to support activities—primarily health education/risk reduction activities—that focus on high-risk HIV-negative persons, both directly and through indirect funding provided to community-based organizations (CBOs) through state and local health departments.

WHAT HAS CDC ACCOMPLISHED?

CDC has taken steps to implement this new initiative. It has described the new initiative in a series of "Dear Colleague" letters to all of its grantee partners; discussed the new initiative at conferences and other meetings with prevention partners and with stakeholders; issued interim technical guidance on the four strategies; and incorporated the initiative strategies in the new program announcements for state and local health departments and directly funded CBOs.

Example of Program in Action

To support the four AHP strategies, CDC funded seven types of 2-year demonstration projects to show the feasibility of and provide detailed information about the following: routine HIV testing in medical settings with high seroprevalence; rapid HIV testing to improve partner participation in partner counseling and referral services; rapid HIV testing to improve diagnosis of HIV among incarcerated persons in short-stay correctional facilities; social network strategies for reaching persons at high-risk in communities of color; rapid HIV testing in nontraditional medical settings; prevention case management to reduce risk-taking behaviors among people living with HIV who have comorbidities; and HIV prevention in medical settings by integrating prevention messages into medical clinic visit. CDC also is working with health departments and CBOs to ensure they have the skills and resources to incorporate rapid HIV testing. CDC and OraQuick manufacturer, OraSure Technologies, have conducted 20 regional rapid HIV test training sessions for health departments and CBOs that plan to conduct rapid HIV testing. Additional sessions and audio conferences are planned in 2004. In 2003, about 250,000 OraQuick Rapid HIV-1 Antibody test kits were purchased by CDC and distributed to 50 sites around the country.

WHAT ARE THE NEXT STEPS?

In 2004, CDC will continue to support a series of demonstration projects to provide information on the initiative's four strategies. These demonstration projects will study methods to improve the science base in specific areas related to the initiative, such as single encounter prevention messages, behavioral interventions for HIV-positive persons who are racial/ethnic minorities, and increasing the demand for testing in high-risk groups; and develop and disseminate standard procedures for use by all health departments, CBOs, and private-sector providers. CDC will also continue to support many of the surveys and evaluations begun in 2003 to develop baselines and monitor progress in implementing the new initiative.

For additional information on this or other CDC programs, visit www.cdc.gov/program

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