



## PENNSYLVANIA HIV PREVENTION COMMUNITY PLANNING UPDATE

*A quarterly publication of the Pennsylvania Department of Health, Division of HIV/AIDS*

### 2005 HIV Prevention Plan

The Pennsylvania HIV Prevention Community Planning Committee, the Community Planning Group (CPG) for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania not including Philadelphia has been at work since January 2004 developing a Plan Update for 2005. The Epidemiology, Evaluation, Interventions and Needs Assessment Subcommittees along with the Rural Work Group have met on a regular basis to insure that the nine steps of community planning are met to produce the key products of a comprehensive HIV Prevention Plan.

The 2005 HIV Prevention Plan is an update of the Plan submitted to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in October 2003, which addressed HIV prevention for the calendar year 2004. As such this Plan will focus on the CDC key products of a comprehensive HIV Prevention Plan and refer to the 2004 HIV Prevention Plan. The 2004 Plan, excluding the appendices, can be accessed at the <http://www.stophiv.com> web site or by communicating with the Division of HIV/AIDS, Bureau of Communicable Diseases, PA Department of Health (717-787-5302) or the Plan and Appendices at the Pennsylvania Prevention Project, University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health (412-383-3000).

Key products identified in CDC guidance are: an HIV/AIDS Epidemiological profile, prioritization of target populations, community services assessment (consisting of needs assessment, resource inventory & gap analysis), appropriate science-based HIV prevention activities & interventions and evaluation.

In addition, the CDC identifies nine steps to HIV Prevention Community Planning:

1. Develop an Epidemiological Profile
2. Conduct a needs assessment
3. Assemble a resource inventory
4. Conduct a gap analysis
5. Identify potential strategies and interventions
6. Prioritize populations and interventions
7. Develop a Plan
8. Evaluate the planning process
9. Update the Plan

### stophiv.com Internet Project

In the continuing series highlighting poster sessions provided to the CPG at their May meeting we survey the poster of the award winning stophiv.com web site at the Pennsylvania Prevention

Project, Graduate School of Public Health University of Pittsburgh.

In July 1997, the Pennsylvania Prevention Project Internet site became publicly accessible at <http://www.stophiv.com>. Since its launch, the Internet site has undergone numerous changes and advancements.

The objectives of the web site are to:

- a. Reduce the incidence of HIV infection and morbidity and mortality related to it;
- b. Provide clear, accurate information in a unique, non-judgmental, and interactive public forum;
- c. Formulate health attitudes;
- d. Develop appropriate HIV prevention skills;
- e. Link those infected to medical resources;
- f. Furnish information on prophylaxis and
- g. Improve the quality of life of those infected and affected by HIV/AIDS.

In October 1999, an official web access counter was added to the site. This counter tracks the number of "hits" or how many times a page is accessed by an Internet user. In calendar year 2003, the stophiv.com web site had been accessed 1,304,914 times. The top accessed resource pages in the first four months of 2004 have been HIV Facts and Myths (transmission), Pennsylvania Prevention Project, Pennsylvania Resources (Online Directory),

Planning Committee web site and News/Events.

The stophiv.com web site has received recognition from the American Public Health Association web site contest in 1997, the Pennsylvania Site of the Day Destination @ aboutpennsylvania.com in 1999 and again in 2003 and the site received the Editor's Choice Award from HealingWell.com in 1999.

The stophiv.com Internet staff is excited to hear your ideas on how to expand the stophiv.com Internet site. We strive to make stophiv.com a one-stop resource for HIV/AIDS information in Pennsylvania. Your ideas are most welcome, please contact us at [webmaster@stophiv.pitt.edu](mailto:webmaster@stophiv.pitt.edu)

### Rural Work Group

The Pennsylvania CPG has established a rural work group, consisting of volunteer committee members, who are applying their efforts outside of regular committee meeting time to address the unique and often not understood concerns of rural areas within our state.

The express purpose of the rural work group is to address the special geographic and social conditions that impact the HIV prevention needs of non-metropolitan populations so that these needs can be included in the prevention plan. As information related to rural needs and interventions of proven effectiveness are located and

researched they will be included in the plan as a means of assisting non-metropolitan prevention groups to adapt recommended procedures within each of their unique rural areas.

Designations established by the Center for Rural Pennsylvania based on the 2000 Census data:

Rural County	Percent Rural	Total Population
Adams	83.8	91,292
Armstrong	85.2	72,392
Bedford	93.5	49,984
Blair	35.0	129,144
Bradford	79.5	62,146
Butler	67.4	174,083
Cambria	48.4	152,598
Cameron	57.7	5,974
Carbon	47.6	58,759
Center	42.7	135,758
Clarion	84.5	41,765
Clearfield	77.2	83,382
Clinton	75.2	36,774
Colombia	62.9	63,674
Crawford	75.9	90,366
Cumberland	36.3	213,674
Elk	60.9	35,112
Fayette	70.8	148,644
<b>Forest</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>4,946</b>
Franklin	71.1	129,313
Fulton	100	14,261
Greene	89.2	40,672
Huntingdon	78.0	45,586
Indiana	79.1	89,605
Jefferson	70.1	45,932
<b>Juniata</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>22,821</b>
Lackawanna	16.8	213,295
Lancaster	42.4	470,658
Lawrence	54.1	94,643
Lebanon	57.7	120,327
Luzerne	27.1	319,250
Lycoming	45.7	116,709
McKean	69.8	45,936
Mercer	49.0	120,293
Mifflin	79.8	46,486
Monroe	80.3	128,541
Montour	55.1	17,571
Northumberland	51.1	93,163
Perry	94.1	43,692

Potter	82.9	17,115
Schuylkill	58.3	150,336
Snyder	85.3	37,546
Somerset	80.5	80,023
<b>Sullivan</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>6,038</b>
<b>Susquehanna</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>42,238</b>
<b>Tioga</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>42,190</b>
Union	74.4	40,546
Venango	60.3	57,565
Warren	75.2	43,863
Wayne	87.6	46,080
<b>Wyoming</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>29,298</b>
York	46.0	381,751
<b>Pike</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>41,357</b>

In addition, the Rural Center for AIDS/STD Prevention is a good resource of information [www.Indiana.edu/~aids/](http://www.Indiana.edu/~aids/)

### Pittsburgh AIDS Task Force Positive Prevention Initiative

The Pittsburgh AIDS Task Force along with support from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Program Announcement 04064, HIV Prevention Projects for Community-Based Organizations, is planning a multi-level initiative to reduce HIV infection rates in the greater Pittsburgh area. This initiative brings together proven methods of HIV prevention, the latest advances in rapid HIV testing and established relationships with AIDS and behavioral health providers into an integrated service delivery system. The Positive Prevention Initiative (PPI) will serve people who are living with HIV/AIDS as well as individuals who are at high or very high risk of HIV infection.

Men who have sex with men (MSM) will be reached through a Popular Opinion Leader (POL)

project that recruits and trains natural leaders from the LGBT community to disseminate safer sex messages among their peers. POL can also reach African-American women living in public housing communities. Under the umbrella of the tenant council, natural leaders are recruited and trained to disseminate safer sex messages among their fellow residents.

For the past four years PATF has been conducting Women Empowered (WE) risk reduction groups. WE is based on the SISTA Project, a health education and risk reduction curriculum created by and for African-American women that has been demonstrated to be effective.

All individuals reached through these various programs will be referred to PATF's Counseling and Testing and Referral (CTR) program. In the past year the CTR has extended its reach to establish neighborhood based testing sites in the Hill, Homewood, East Liberty and Uptown areas as well as the Gay and Lesbian Community Center and two gay bars. While this effort has resulted in more people at high risk being tested, the rate of return for results has been low. The CDC grant will enable PATF to offer Rapid HIV Testing (using OraQuick) to provide results within the hour.

These are the basic elements of PPI—proven prevention methodologies, state-of-the-art HIV testing services and an agency with a 19-year track record of providing a broad range of effective and well-managed HIV/AIDS services.

### **Capacity Building Technical Assistance**

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Once the CPG has developed an HIV Prevention Plan the Department of Health implements the Plan. In addition to the six regional Health District Offices the Department contracts with eight local county and municipal health departments, seven Ryan White HIV/AIDS Regional Planning Coalitions, Council of Spanish Speaking Organizations of the Lehigh Valley, CHOICE the AIDS hotline, Pennsylvania Prevention Project and others to insure that HIV education and prevention is available at the local level.

In August the HIV/AIDS Division conducted its biannual gathering of programs with a focus on local capacity building for HIV prevention. Representatives were invited from Ryan White HIV/AIDS Planning Coalitions, local county and municipal health departments and other subcontractors to meet and discuss possibilities with potential technical assistance providers. At their previous meeting programs developed a list of technical assistance needs.

The Pennsylvania Prevention Project (PPP) at the Graduate School of Public Health University of Pittsburgh provided an array of possible topics as well as had Dr. Gary Gates of the Urban Institute in Washington DC present US Census data mapping to target populations and communities. In addition, PPP staff member Deb Dennison has been certified to provide the CDC's Diffusion of

Effective Behavioral Interventions (DEBI).

Dr. Steve Godin, HIV Prevention Committee member from East Stroudsburg University talked of evaluation strategies and resources.

The Division itself addressed training concerns relative to HIV antibody testing and counseling. In addition the Division addressed the expressed need for more organizational and program development training for local AIDS service organizations. Intercultural Family Services can provide much of the needed assistance in this area.

A request form for technical assistance has been developed and all requests should be sent to the Division. The Division would then work with technical assistance providers and programs to arrange training. Coalitions and programs should work cooperatively with each other to provide programs to many sites in one location to be more cost effective.

### **VOICES/VOCES and SISTA Training Conducted**

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The PA State Department of Health, Division of HIV/AIDS, in coordination with the Center for Disease Control and Prevention and the Academy for Educational Development, recently achieved one of its capacity building goals with the offering of training on two interventions within the Diffusion of Effective Behavioral Intervention Project. DEBI is a national-level strategy that identifies HIV prevention interventions that demonstrate

effectiveness in reducing HIV risk behaviors or in encouraging safer behaviors. Identified interventions are made available to state and community HIV/STD program staff nationwide to promote the process of turning research into practice.

SISTA, Sisters Informing Sisters About Topics on AIDS, was the first training to be offered. This intervention, is a group-level, gender and culturally relevant, five session intervention. It is designed to increase condom use with African American women. Intervention components focus on ethnic and gender pride, HIV knowledge, and skills training around sexual risk reduction behaviors and decision making. SISTA is based on Social Learning theory and theory of Gender and Power. This three day facilitator training, was hosted by the PA Prevention Project, Graduate School of Public Health University of Pittsburgh, and held at the Oakland Holiday Inn, August 25<sup>th</sup> through the 27<sup>th</sup>.

VOICES/VOCES, Video Opportunities For Innovative Condom Education and Safer Sex, a group-level, single-session video-based intervention was held on September 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>. The goal of VOICES/VOCES is to encourage condom use and improve condom negotiation skills among sexually active African American and Latino heterosexual adults in a clinic setting. Key components of this intervention are the grouping of participants by gender and ethnicity, viewing of a culturally relevant video on HIV risk behaviors and condom use and a facilitated discussion.

VOICES/VOCES is based on the theory of Reasoned Action. This two-day training was hosted by AIDSNET and held at the Bethlehem Red Cross facility.

Other interventions identified within the DEBI Project focus on target populations such as MSM, IDUs, HIV positive youth and adults, and runaway and homeless youth. For additional information on the DEBI Project go to [www.effectiveinterventions.org](http://www.effectiveinterventions.org)

### 2005 Meeting Dates

The CPG will continue to meet at the Best Western Inn and Suites of Harrisburg/Middletown 819 Eisenhower Boulevard, Harrisburg, PA 17109 (717-939-1600).

Meeting dates for 2005:

#### **New Member Orientation**

Wednesday

19 January

Meetings

Thursday

20 January

Wednesday/Thursday

16-17 March

18-19 May

20-21 July

17-18 August

Wednesday

21 September

16 November

The Health Department along with an ad hoc nominations work group of the CPG is developing the application and announcements for new members that will be distributed by mid October to get

new members committed to the January orientation.

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This Newsletter Is Now Available Online At <http://www.stophiv.com>

[This newsletter is produced at the Graduate School of Public Health, University of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania Prevention Project for the Pennsylvania Department of Health's Division of HIV/AIDS Pennsylvania HIV Prevention Community Planning Committee. In addition, this quarterly newsletter is intended to keep the traditionally non HIV Prevention community posted of the activities of the Pennsylvania HIV Prevention Community Planning Committee and is distributed by the Division of HIV/AIDS]