

WISCONSIN AIDS/HIV PROGRAM NOTES

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Statewide Action Planning Group Releases Wisconsin HIV Comprehensive Plan

In March, the Statewide Action Planning Group (SAPG) released Wisconsin's first consolidated HIV Comprehensive Plan. The SAPG is a critical component of the Wisconsin HIV Community Planning Network which assumed community planning activities formerly conducted by the Wisconsin Ryan White Consortium and the Wisconsin HIV Prevention Community Planning Council. Members of the SAPG are representative of diverse populations most at risk for, infected with, and affected by HIV as well as individuals with a wide variety of HIV-related experience and expertise across Wisconsin. The Community Planning Network assists the community and the Wisconsin Division of Public Health (DPH) in the development, implementation and prioritization of HIV prevention and care services in Wisconsin.

The Wisconsin HIV Comprehensive Plan addresses services and activities overseen by the Wisconsin AIDS/HIV Program and is a condition of funding with two federal agencies, the Health Resources and Services Administration (for Part B of the Ryan White CARE Grant) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (under Funding Opportunity Announcement 04012, HIV Prevention Projects). The Plan was developed through collaborative efforts among SAPG members, consumers, broader networks of AIDS/HIV service providers, and other individuals committed to HIV prevention and care services.

The Plan is organized based on a conceptual framework encompassing the four key and interrelated concepts of *Prevent-Test-Link-Treat*, concepts representing critical activities, functional areas, and the integrated nature of HIV-related public health services in Wisconsin. The Plan identifies priority needs for HIV-related prevention and care services statewide and, based on these needs, identifies priority services and interventions that guide the allocation of resources coordinated by the Wisconsin AIDS/HIV Program and that ultimately expand the capacity of Wisconsin's HIV care and prevention services.

The following table identifies the core focus areas and related HIV prevention and care services that comprise Wisconsin's *Prevent-Test-Link-Treat* framework.

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**Wisconsin's Prevent-Test-Link-Treat Framework for
HIV Community Planning & Service Delivery**

PREVENT								
Individual Level Interventions	Group Level Interventions	Community Level Interventions	Structural Level Interventions					
TEST								
Routine Testing	Targeted Testing			Partner Services				
LINK								
Outreach	Partner Services	Psychosocial Case Management	Other Support Services	Testing				
TREAT								
Primary Medical Care	Medical Case Management	Early Intervention Services	Medical Nutrition	Meds	Oral Health	Mental Health	Substance Abuse	Health Insurance Premium & Cost Sharing Assistance

Wisconsin HIV Service Directions

The central part of the Comprehensive Plan is the identification of Wisconsin HIV Service directions and overarching goals which guide the course of HIV-related services coordinated by the Wisconsin AIDS/HIV Program in the immediate future. The Plan's overarching goals, which are focused at individuals and communities at highest risk and those disproportionately affected by HIV infection, include the following:

- Promoting and expanding the capacity of Wisconsin's HIV care and prevention service systems to implement effective, scientifically sound, and culturally competent services.
- Promoting and expanding the capacity of Wisconsin's system of HIV care by increasing and ensuring equal access to quality services that focus on early detection, medical intervention, and support services; and ongoing adherence to or re-entry into care.

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- Promoting and expanding the integration of prevention and care services across service providers and programs at state and local levels, including programs associated with hepatitis, tuberculosis (TB), sexually transmitted disease (STD), and alcohol and other drug abuse (AODA) services.

The following content from the Comprehensive Plan identifies the priority strategies and focus areas that guide efforts in addressing the overarching goals and implementation of the *Prevent-Test-Link-Treat* framework for service delivery.

A. PREVENT

Focus: Expanding service delivery/capacity

- Developing and implementing a health Internet portal targeting Wisconsin men who have sex with men (MSM), consistent with recommendations from the SAPG.
- Promoting and expanding implementation of needle exchange programs supported with state funds to include outreach, harm reduction education, referral for HIV testing, and safe needle disposal.
- Expanding implementation of Comprehensive Referral and Counseling Services to include intensified individualized risk reduction counseling and skills building with persons at increased risk for HIV infection.
- Expanding implementation of community-level HIV prevention interventions for out-of-treatment active injection and non-injection drug users.
- Expanding development and implementation of statewide information and referral services through the Wisconsin HIV/STD/Hepatitis C Information and Referral Center.
- Collaborating with care providers to develop improved partnerships with prevention services.

Focus: Assessment, planning & evaluation

- Reviewing current MSM outreach efforts with the goal of developing and implementing behaviorally-evaluated community-level HIV prevention interventions targeting MSM.
- Identifying special populations which are disproportionately infected with HIV in Wisconsin.

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Focus: Increasing cultural competence

- Supporting providers in developing and implementing Effective Behavioral Interventions (EBIs) that are culturally appropriate for at-risk members of targeted populations, including adapting CDC EBIs for Latino MSM, HIV positive persons, MSM youth, and other women and men at higher risk.

B. TEST

Focus: Expanding service delivery/capacity

- Piloting a multi-strategy testing approach in the highest HIV prevalence neighborhoods in Milwaukee through geo-mapping, public awareness campaigns, social networks testing, and promotion of annual testing for MSM.
- Expanding social networks-based testing, particularly with very high-risk populations that have been traditionally difficult to reach such as MSM in communities of color.
- Promoting annual HIV testing among MSM statewide through health education/public information and targeted outreach to MSM community members and select service providers.
- Implementing PCR DNA testing to identify acute HIV infection in persons with recent high risk exposure to someone known to have HIV disease.
- Increasing the number and diversity of sites that can provide rapid HIV testing to targeted populations, by increasing the availability of consultation, training, and technical assistance.
- Collaborating with professional organizations and other groups (e.g. MATEC) regarding capacity building efforts for routine HIV testing.
- Promoting routine testing in AODA programs and other venues serving persons with substance abuse issues through collaborative efforts with state level substance abuse services staff and consultation and training of local AODA treatment service providers.
- Promoting routine HIV screening by providers serving high prevalence populations.

Focus: Assessment, planning & evaluation

- Identifying cost-effective options for acquiring rapid test kits and evaluating the optimal use of new rapid test technologies based on CTR site type and testing

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setting.

- Assessing the implementation of routine HIV screening in perinatal settings through quality assurance and monitoring of HIV screening as documented by maternal and child health medical providers in the *PeriData.Net* system.
- Exploring the expanded use of fee-for-service HIV testing, and fee-exempt HIV test kits and lab services.
- Reviewing and analyzing Wisconsin HIV statutes to identify potential barriers to implementing opt-out screening in routine health care and to draft proposed statutory and administrative code changes which support routine testing.
- Researching additional ways to implement routine screening, such as pooled RNA HIV testing to identify acute HIV infection in clinical HIV testing sites.

C. Link

Focus: Expanding service delivery/capacity

- Expanding the multi-jurisdictional Partner Services delivery model which allows for larger, more experienced health departments to take a leadership role in providing quality services for clients living in low HIV prevalence areas.
- Improving access to care through the development and implementation of an intensive medical case management and referral follow-up model.

Focus: Ensuring quality services

- Updating and revising state Partner Services policies and procedures to ensure consistency with the revised Partner Services guidelines by the CDC.
- Developing and implementing guidelines for effective utilization of Internet technologies to ensure the timely notification of partners with limited contact information (e.g. email address).
- Providing a forum for persons living with HIV to link with care and support services at regional conferences for persons living with HIV.
- Improving the ability of psychosocial case managers to effectively link clients to needed medical and support services through the development and implementation of a case management certification program and an enhanced training system.

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Focus: Enhancing access to services

- Funding linkage to care coordinators to contact individuals who know their status but who are lost to care and to re-engage them in care and support services.
- Funding local public health departments in high incidence areas to locate HIV infected persons who know their status but are not in care and refer them to core medical and support services.
- Developing targeted outreach strategies to identify people living with HIV who are not in care and to refer them to core medical and support services.

Focus: Assessment, planning & evaluation

- Assessing the training and capacity building needs of Partner Services (PS) providers to improve client linkage, referral and follow-up.
- Exploring the feasibility of implementing a PS electronic record system.

D. TREAT

Focus: Expanding service delivery/capacity

- Funding a Minority Community Based Outreach Specialist position to build the capacity of community based minority organizations to address health disparities in underserved populations.
- Developing strategies to reduce health disparities by improving access to care for underserved populations.
- Expanding treatment adherence resources for clients by funding community based organizations to provide adherence counseling.
- Developing and implementing a Laboratory Reimbursement Program to assist with the cost of the routine laboratory testing necessary for effective HIV care.
- Encouraging improved substance abuse screening and treatment through monitoring of current screening rates as reported with the new Client Level Data requirements, developing case management training, and encouraging agency subcontracts with external AODA treatment centers.
- Ensuring the viability of the ADAP program and client access to antiretrovirals through a budget request for additional state revenue.

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Focus: Assessment, planning & evaluation

- Identifying barriers to existing services through state sponsored needs assessment surveys.
- Ongoing development of the HIV Community Planning Network, Wisconsin's first joint prevention and care planning body.
- Ongoing development of Wisconsin's first joint prevention and care comprehensive plan.
- Improving data that directs planning and evaluation through improved agency reporting of quarterly utilization data and performance data (e.g. developing electronic reporting systems).

Focus: Increasing cultural competence

- Developing and implementing agency cultural competence indicators and performance measures to ensure and improve provider cultural competence.
- Collaborating with providers, educational institutions, MATEC, and other key stakeholders in improving the diversity of the health and social service workforce.

Focus: Enhancing access to services

- Continuing funding of activities that engage minority individuals in care, such as Minority AIDS Initiative Funding.
- Utilizing Emerging Communities and Minority AIDS Initiative funding to increase access to care for minority populations in the Milwaukee Eligible Metropolitan Area.
- Assisting uninsured individuals with access to comprehensive health services through the HIRSP Pilot Program.
- Improving dental access by working with agencies to develop external dental partnerships and developing an improved reimbursement strategy.

Focus: Ensuring quality services

- Developing uniform performance measures for core medical services to ensure access to quality Ryan White services.
- Collaborating with the Wisconsin HIV Community Planning Network and providers to ensure that people living with HIV are aware of available services and know how to access those services (e.g. regional conferences for persons living with HIV and AIDS).

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- Using data (quarterly utilization, performance measures and client level data) to assist agencies in improving the quality of services.
- Ensuring high quality psychosocial case management services through enhanced coordination with the University of Wisconsin HIV/AIDS Training System and the development of a case management certification program.
- Funding clinical treatment adherence programs to improve the health outcomes of persons living with HIV.

Accessing the Wisconsin HIV Comprehensive Plan

The Wisconsin HIV Comprehensive Plan is a living document which will evolve based on the ever-changing nature of the HIV epidemic and the HIV-related prevention and care needs of Wisconsin residents. Because it is a living document, it has been created as an electronic publication embedded with hyperlinks to related information resources accessed through the Internet. Individuals can view and download the Comprehensive Plan in the web-based library of the Wisconsin HIV/AIDS Community Planning Network website at:

<http://www.wihiv.wisc.edu/communityplanning/libraryDownload.asp?docid=490>.

For further information regarding the Wisconsin HIV Comprehensive Plan and the Wisconsin HIV/AIDS Community Planning Network or the Statewide Action Planning Group, contact Lynn Tarnoff, Wisconsin HIV Community Planning Network Coordinator, at 608-890-1424 or tarnoff@wisc.edu.