



SEP 7 2006

The Honorable Henry A. Waxman
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Waxman:

I appreciate your letter sharing concerns about the document, *Compendium of HIV Prevention Interventions with Evidence of Effectiveness*. I agree that it is important to bring additional evidence-based HIV prevention interventions into the field. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) continues to identify, package, and disseminate evidence-based HIV prevention interventions; this remains one of our highest priority HIV prevention activities. At this time, CDC does not plan to update the *Compendium*, however, CDC is providing information by other mechanisms about effective interventions

CDC has used a variety of mechanisms to introduce new prevention interventions to our scientific and prevention colleagues. To identify effective interventions, CDC conducts an ongoing, systematic literary review of HIV prevention interventions that have been formally evaluated and shown to reduce the risk of HIV transmission. Interventions must meet stringent criteria for efficacy and scientific rigor, including reported outcome data on sex- or drug-related behaviors, HIV testing behaviors, or biologic measures. CDC has identified more than 50 interventions for populations at high risk for HIV infection.

As part of our comprehensive effort to prevent HIV, CDC disseminates user-friendly instructional materials and provides training so that local HIV prevention programs can implement these evidence-based interventions. Priority for dissemination is placed on those interventions that address key challenges of the HIV prevention environment. Recent challenges include "treatment optimism" related to the availability of increasingly effective antiretroviral therapies, the need to effectively implement new testing technologies, the increasing numbers of persons living with HIV, and HIV prevention fatigue. Interventions must also address deep-rooted social problems and inequities and increases in HIV among racial and ethnic minorities.

Through the Replicating Effective Interventions Project, CDC translates interventions into everyday language and user-friendly materials that have been designed, developed, and field tested by researchers collaborating with community-based partners. Distribution continues through the Dissemination of Effective Behavioral Interventions (DEBI) Project, which provides training and technical assistance on selected evidence-based interventions. During the past three years, CDC has provided more than 274 DEBI trainings to more than 5,300 participants from community-based organizations and state and local health departments.

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The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) has also provided supplemental funding for this effort directly through the Minority AIDS Initiative. In 2006, DHHS is supporting a translation/adaptation of science-based interventions for communities of color, women, substance abusers, injection drug users, and other high-risk groups, and evaluating innovative HIV prevention interventions for injection drug users and minority high-risk populations.

As a science-based agency, we expect our work to be held to the highest scientific standards and have submitted the most recent review of effective interventions for publication in a peer-reviewed journal. CDC has also presented information from this review at meetings attended by researchers and HIV prevention providers, and published it in other scientific articles. We believe that the information presented at meetings and in peer-reviewed publications are effective and expeditious methods to provide the latest available information to our colleagues and prevention partners. I have enclosed titles of significant presentations and publications.

In addition to contributions to scientific literature, CDC supports the Academy for Educational Development by making information on effective interventions available (www.effectiveinterventions.org). CDC is also developing other avenues to disseminate information about these interventions to its prevention partners.

Thank you again for your letter. We appreciate your continued support of CDC HIV prevention activities. Should you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me again.

Sincerely,


Julie Louise Gerberding, M.D., M.P.H.
Director

Enclosure

Selected Scientific Articles from CDC's Literature Review of Effective HIV Interventions

- Lyles C. et al. Best-evidence Interventions: Findings from a Systematic Review of HIV Behavioral Interventions for U.S. Populations at High Risk, 2000-2004. This article is in press at the *American Journal of Public Health*, with expected publication in late 2006. This paper presents a systematic review of recent U.S. based HIV behavioral intervention research and identifies 18 interventions that meet the criteria for best evidence.
- CDC. Evolution of HIV/AIDS Prevention Programs --- United States, 1981 – 2006 *MMWR* 2006; 55:597-603. This paper reviews the evolution of HIV prevention programs, highlighting CDC's current three pronged prevention approach: 1) prevention activities directed at persons at high risk for contracting HIV; 2) HIV counseling, testing and referral services; and 3) prevention activities directed at improving the health of persons living with HIV and preventing further transmission.
- Crepaz N. et al. Do Prevention Interventions Reduce HIV Risk Behaviors Among People Living With HIV? A Meta-analytic Review of Controlled Trials. *AIDS* 2006;20:143-57
- Herbst J. et al. A Meta-analytic review of HIV Behavioral Interventions for Reducing Sexual Risk Behavior of Men Who Have Sex with Men. *AIDS* 2005;39:228-241.

Selected Presentations at Major Conferences from CDC's Literature Review on Effective HIV Interventions:

- Lyles C. et al. Criteria for Evidence-based Interventions Presented at the HIV Prevention Leadership Conference, 2006.
- Kay L. et al. Evidence-based Interventions: Results from a Systematic Review of HIV Prevention Interventions for High Risk Populations Presented at the National HIV Prevention Conference, 2005.
- Herbst et al. Evidence-based HIV Behavioral Intervention in the United States Identified Through Systematic Review, 2000 to 2004 Presented at the National HIV Prevention Leadership Conference, 2005.
- Kay et al. Update of the Compendium of HIV Prevention Interventions with Evidence of Effectiveness. Presented at the National HIV Prevention Conference, 2003.