

Spring 2000 Update
Description of New, Behaviorally-Defined Populations
Prioritized by the Maine HIV Prevention Community Planning Group

Introduction:

This document was prepared by the Maine HIV Prevention Community Planning Group (CPG) to update the Maine Bureau of Health, and thereafter HIV prevention providers, about the recently revised list of CPG Prioritized Populations. ***The Prioritized Populations described here replace those found in the 1999 State of Maine Comprehensive HIV Prevention Plan.*** Please note that the Prioritized Interventions and Population Descriptions found in the 1999 Plan remain current, and should be used in conjunction with the new Prioritized Populations presented here.

Background:

Prioritized Populations are used to describe those individuals most at risk for HIV infection, and therefore most in need of HIV prevention services. The CPG decided to undertake a process to reprioritize populations at risk for several reasons. Most importantly, populations have not been reprioritized since 1996 and CPG members felt that a more up-to-date prioritization would better reflect recent epidemiological data and trends. The CPG also wanted to integrate the recently completed CPG Needs Assessment in order to provide more up-to-date information about populations at risk and available HIV prevention services. In addition, the previous list of prioritized populations contained population configurations that indiscriminately mixed behavioral and demographic elements, sometimes combining seemingly unrelated groups. Finally, the CPG wanted to make recommendations about prioritized populations that could be employed during the Request for Proposal (RFP) process, which will be initiated by the Bureau of Health during Year 2000.

The prioritization process itself took place between November 1999 and March 2000 and was conducted both at monthly CPG meetings and supplementary subcommittee meetings. The group chose a prioritization model it felt would best allow for prioritization based on behaviors, while also integrating appropriate demographic and population-specific information. The selected model was implemented through a series of worksheets that helped CPG members to categorize and prioritize populations. In addition, two primary tools were used to assist the process: epidemiological data provided by the Bureau of Health, and a compendium of CPG Needs Assessment data that included information about populations at risk and current interventions. These tools, along with the expertise of individual CPG members, informed the prioritization process. A synopsis of this process will be included in the next update of the CPG Plan.

The resulting prioritization represents a paradigm shift for describing people at risk for HIV transmission. The previous prioritization used a combination of both risk behaviors and demographic characteristics to define those people most at risk for infection. The new prioritized list is based solely on three at-risk behaviors: **unsafe sexual contact, both partners male; sharing needles**; and **unsafe sexual contact, partners of the opposite sex**. In addition, to better describe each of these prioritized behaviors, associated demographic

characteristics were prioritized by the CPG. Each prioritized behavior is listed below, with associated demographic characteristics and recommendations for targeting specific populations with appropriate HIV prevention interventions.

Some of the recommendations below emphasize the importance of prevention efforts that reach youth, racial and ethnic minorities, and people living with HIV. The CPG hopes that these recommendations are implemented both through the creation of specific programs targeting these groups, and also through integration of culturally competent activities into more mainstream interventions that work with many populations to target HIV risk behavior change.

The three prioritized, behaviorally-defined populations are listed below:

Prioritized Behavior #1: *Unsafe Sexual Contact, Both Partners Male*

- Statewide, approximately one-third of all interventions targeting this population need to be youth-focused.
- HIV prevention efforts focusing on this behavior need to target racial and ethnic minorities, with particular emphasis placed upon African American/Black, Hispanic American Indian and Asian/Pacific Islander populations. Statewide, approximately one-third of all interventions for this behavior need to target people of color.
- It is important to target HIV-positive people with HIV-prevention interventions.
- The CPG examined population characteristics that either help to identify people engaging in this behavior or that increase the risk of HIV transmission for people engaging in this behavior. Population characteristics are listed below in *alphabetical order*.

Deaf people
Gay-identified males
Incarcerated people
Migrant workers
Non-gay identified males
People who are HIV-positive
People who are homeless
People who are mentally ill
People who have a history of STD
People who have been/are being physically, mentally, or emotionally abused
People who use alcohol and/or drugs
People with developmental disabilities
Sex workers

Prioritized Behavior #2: Sharing Needles

- Statewide, approximately one-third of all interventions targeting this population need to be youth-focused.
- Interventions need to target both men and women.
- HIV prevention efforts focusing on this behavior need to target racial and ethnic minorities, with particular emphasis placed upon African American/Black, Hispanic, American Indian and Asian/Pacific Islander populations. Statewide, approximately one-third of all interventions for this behavior need to target people of color.
- It is important to target HIV-positive people with HIV-prevention interventions.
- The CPG examined population characteristics that either help to identify people engaging in this behavior or that increase the risk of HIV transmission for people engaging in this behavior. Population characteristics are listed below in *alphabetical order*.

Deaf people

Gay-identified males

Incarcerated people

Migrant workers

Non-gay identified males

People who are HIV-positive

People who are homeless

People who are mentally ill

People who have a history of STD

People who have been/are being physically, mentally, or emotionally abused

People who use alcohol and/or drugs

People with developmental disabilities

Sex workers

Prioritized Behavior #3: *Unsafe Sexual Contact, Partners of the Opposite Sex*

- Statewide, approximately one-third of all interventions targeting this population need to be youth-focused.
- It is important to consider male partners when designing interventions that target unsafe sexual contact between partners of the opposite sex. However, the CPG believes that particular emphasis should be placed upon females in HIV prevention efforts.
- HIV prevention efforts focusing on this behavior need to target racial and ethnic minorities, with particular emphasis placed upon African American/Black, Hispanic, American Indian and Asian/Pacific Islander populations. Statewide, approximately one-third of all interventions for this behavior need to target people of color.
- It is important to target HIV-positive people with HIV-prevention interventions.
- The CPG examined population characteristics that either help to identify people engaging in this behavior or that increase the risk of HIV transmission for people engaging in this behavior. Population characteristics are listed below in *alphabetical order*.

Deaf people
Gay-identified males
Incarcerated people
Migrant workers
Non-gay identified males
People who are HIV-positive
People who are homeless
People who are mentally ill
People who have a history of STD
People who have been/are being physically, mentally, or emotionally abused
People who use alcohol and/or drugs
People with developmental disabilities
Sex workers

Because of the shift to behaviorally-based prioritization of risk, the populations listed above do not directly coincide with the current Population Descriptions and Prioritized Interventions contained in Section 7 of the 1999 State of Maine Comprehensive HIV Prevention Plan. For this reason, the following new table has been provided. This table lists prioritized behaviors and associated population characteristics, and refers to at least one corresponding subsection in the 1999 Plan. Because of overlap, many of the populations associated with each prioritized risk behavior are found in more than one place in the 1999 Plan; the new table does not contain all possible listings for each given population.

During the coming 12-18 months, the CPG will be reconfiguring its list of population descriptions and interventions to integrate this new, behaviorally-based list of prioritized populations.

Linking the New Prioritized Populations to Descriptions and Interventions in the 1999 CPG Comprehensive HIV Prevention Plan

For information about the following populations engaging in unsafe sexual contact, both partners male see the following subsection(s) from “Population Descriptions, Needs, Interventions and Linkages” starting on page 35 and following in the 1999 <u>State of Maine Comprehensive HIV Prevention Plan</u> .
• Youth	Subsection 7.2.5; Subsection 7.2.1
• Racial and ethnic minorities	Subsection 7.2.4; Subsection 7.2.1
• HIV-positive people	Subsection 7.2.1
• Deaf people	Subsection 7.2.6; Subsection 7.2.1
• Gay-identified males	Subsection 7.2.1
• Non-gay-identified males	Subsection 7.2.1
• Incarcerated people	Subsection 7.2.6; Subsection 7.2.1
• Migrant workers	Subsection 7.2.4; Subsection 7.2.1
• Homeless people	Subsection 7.2.6; Subsection 7.2.1
• People with mental illness	Subsection 7.2.6; Subsection 7.2.1
• People who have a history of STD	Subsection 7.2.1
• People who have been/are being physically, mentally or emotionally abused	Subsection 7.2.1
• People who use alcohol and/or drugs	Subsection 7.2.3; Subsection 7.2.1
• People with developmental disabilities	Subsection 7.2.6; Subsection 7.2.1
• Sex workers	Subsection 7.2.1

For information about the following populations engaging in sharing needles see the following subsection(s) from “Population Descriptions, Needs, Interventions and Linkages” starting on page 35 and following in the 1999 <u>State of Maine Comprehensive HIV Prevention Plan</u> .
• Youth	Subsection 7.2.5; Subsection 7.2.3
• Females	Subsection 7.2.2; Subsection 7.2.3
• Males	Subsection 7.2.1; Subsection 7.2.3
• Racial and ethnic minorities	Subsection 7.2.4; Subsection 7.2.3
• HIV-positive people	Subsection 7.2.3
• Deaf people	Subsection 7.2.6; Subsection 7.2.3
• Gay-identified males	Subsection 7.2.1; Subsection 7.2.3
• Non-gay-identified males	Subsection 7.2.1; Subsection 7.2.3
• Incarcerated people	Subsection 7.2.6; Subsection 7.2.3
• Migrant workers	Subsection 7.2.4; Subsection 7.2.3
• Homeless people	Subsection 7.2.6; Subsection 7.2.3
• People with mental illness	Subsection 7.2.6; Subsection 7.2.3
• People who have a history of STD	Subsection 7.2.3
• People who have been/are being physically, mentally or emotionally abused	Subsection 7.2.3
• People who use alcohol and/or drugs	Subsection 7.2.3
• People with developmental disabilities	Subsection 7.2.6; Subsection 7.2.3
• Sex workers	Subsection 7.2.1

For information about the following populations engaging in unsafe sexual contact, partners of the opposite sex see the following subsection(s) from “Population Descriptions, Needs, Interventions and Linkages” starting on page 35 and following in the 1999 <u>State of Maine Comprehensive HIV Prevention Plan</u> .
• Youth	Subsection 7.2.5; Subsection 7.2.2
• Females	Subsection 7.2.2; Subsection 7.2.2
• Males*	Subsection 7.2.1; Subsection 7.2.3
• Racial and ethnic minorities	Subsection 7.2.4; Subsection 7.2.2
• HIV-positive people	Subsection 7.2.2; Subsection 7.2.1; Subsection 7.2.3
• Deaf people	Subsection 7.2.6; Subsection 7.2.2
• Gay-identified males	Subsection 7.2.1; Subsection 7.2.2
• Non-gay-identified males	Subsection 7.2.1; Subsection 7.2.2
• Incarcerated people	Subsection 7.2.6; Subsection 7.2.2
• Migrant workers	Subsection 7.2.4; Subsection 7.2.2
• Homeless people	Subsection 7.2.6; Subsection 7.2.2
• People with mental illness	Subsection 7.2.6; Subsection 7.2.2
• People who have a history of STD	Subsection 7.2.2
• People who have been/are being physically, mentally or emotionally abused	Subsection 7.2.1; Subsection 7.2.2
• People who use alcohol and/or drugs	Subsection 7.2.2; Subsection 7.2.3
• People with developmental disabilities	Subsection 7.2.6; Subsection 7.2.2
• Sex workers	Subsection 7.2.1; Subsection 7.2.2

*In the past, males who engage in unsafe sexual contact with females were not prioritized by the CPG. As a result, no specific documentation exists in 1999 State of Maine Comprehensive HIV Prevention Plan about this population. Epidemiological data and field experience suggest that most HIV-positive men who have sex with women were infected either through injection drug use or sexual contact with other men. Pertinent information about these behaviors may be found in Subsections 7.2.1 (Males Who Have Sex with Males) and 7.2.3 (Injection Drug Users). Such information may be useful when designing interventions.