



Fact Sheet

June 2008

HIV PREVENTION RESEARCH AND EVALUATION SECTION

What we do:

The HIV Prevention Research and Evaluation (PRE) Section within the HIV/AIDS Epidemiology Branch provides research and evaluation support for programs and services of the HIV Education and Prevention Services Branch. This work ensures the Office of AIDS (OA) program goals are met and prevention activities are as effective as possible.

What we have done:

PRE has developed and implemented a Web-based information system that integrates previous information systems and establishes a standardized set of variables across various HIV prevention activities. This new information system, called Local Evaluation Online (LEO), will provide increased opportunity to evaluate intervention implementation, processes and procedures, and client outcomes. These activities include HIV counseling and testing (C&T), outreach, individual interventions, group interventions, HIV prevention case management, prevention education campaigns, and services for testing partners of HIV-positive persons.

PRE has developed a new series of data collection forms for the various HIV prevention activities. The revised series of forms includes a client self-administered form for determining the appropriate HIV C&T intervention for a client, a new partner form for clients accessing partner services, and a singular form that combines the separate forms previously used for outreach, individual level, and prevention case management activities.

PRE completed an evaluation of the restructured HIV C&T program when it was piloted in 2007. The restructured program allows high-risk clients to receive intensive pre-test counseling and low-risk clients to receive general prevention information. The pilot included an evaluation of clinic procedures, data validity, client satisfaction, and frontline staff satisfaction. PRE is currently completing a pilot and evaluation for offering repeat-testers the option to opt-out of pre-test counseling in HIV C&T venues, and use of computers to collect paperless client data.

PRE, in conjunction with the California HIV/AIDS Research Program (CHRP), conducted outcome evaluation and research translation activities to ensure service providers have access to evidence-based prevention interventions and agencies have needed support to conduct evidence-based interventions. PRE also collaborated with



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CHRP to develop the ChoiceHIV Web site which provides easily accessible information to assist prevention providers in selecting and implementing science-based education and prevention activities. ChoiceHIV offers an exclusive, comprehensive catalogue of HIV/AIDS prevention interventions. Prevention providers can search for appropriate interventions by choosing criteria that define target populations, such as by race or risk group. The ChoiceHIV Web site can be accessed at www.choicehiv.org.

PRE also conducts research and interprets research findings to provide evidence-based recommendations for prevention policies, and provides technical assistance to agencies in developing or adapting evidence-based interventions via collaboration with the Center for AIDS Prevention Studies/California Technical Assistance Project.

Other PRE research support activities include:

- Assessment of the Partner Counseling and Referral Services (PCRS) Program;
- Evaluation of prevention activities for injection drug users, including the Satellite Syringe Exchange Program (SEP);
- Evaluation of HIV screening through a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention-funded pilot program in three San Francisco Bay area emergency departments; and
- Operations research to develop effective protocols for implementing rapid HIV testing.

Reports and publications:

- 2003 California HIV Counseling and Testing Annual Report (December 2006).
- 2002 California HIV Counseling and Testing Annual Report (June 2005).
- 2001 California HIV Counseling and Testing Annual Report (February 2004).
- 2000 California HIV Counseling and Testing Annual Report (July 2002).
- HIV Counseling and Testing Focus Summaries.

To access and download these and other reports, see:

www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/aids/Pages/OAReportsandPublications.aspx.

Helpful resources:

- For information on local HIV/AIDS services, see the *California Clearinghouse Resource Directory* at: www.hivinfo.org.
- For information about HIV/AIDS, call the:
 - *California HIV/AIDS/STD Hotline* at (800) 367-AIDS (English/Spanish) or (888) 225-AIDS (TDD).
 - *National AIDS Hotline* at (800) CDC-INFO (232-4636) (English/(Spanish) or (888) 232-6248 (TDD).
- For information on OA's mission, programs, and HIV/AIDS resources, see: www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/AIDS.