

California HIV Partner Services Program

What is HIV Partner Services?

The HIV Partner Services Program, also known as Partner Counseling and Referral Services, is a program offered through local health departments (LHDs) that support people living with HIV and/or sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) in notifying sexual and/or needle-sharing partners of possible exposure.

HIV Partner Services are always voluntary, client-centered, and confidential for both the person living with HIV and their partner(s). The HIV Partner Services Program provides three options for letting partners know they may have been exposed to HIV and/or STDs and provide linkages to testing and medical care.

- **Anonymous Third Party:** Specially trained LHD staff notifies partners without disclosing any information about the original client.
- **Dual Disclosure:** The original client wants to disclose to partners his or herself, with the support of trained HIV Partner Services staff. Trained staff can provide immediate linkage to services once the original client has told the partner of their exposure.
- **Self Disclosure:** The original client notifies his or her partner(s), after working with trained HIV Partner Services staff to develop a disclosure plan.

How are HIV Partner Services Implemented in California?

At the local level, HIV Partner Services are available in STD clinics, HIV counseling and testing, education and prevention, and care sites where people living with HIV receive services. While the majority of program services are offered by LHD staff, many community-based organizations (CBOs), private medical doctors, community clinics, correctional facilities, and health maintenance organizations (HMOs) are now partnering with LHDs to provide HIV Partner Services for their clients.

HIV Partner Services activities have been recognized at the state and national levels as an effective intervention benefiting people living with HIV and/or other STDs, their partners, and the larger community. The California Department of Public Health, Center for Infectious Diseases, Office of AIDS and Division of Communicable Disease Control, STD Control Branch prioritize HIV Partner Services activities and collaborate in the oversight, funding, and support for implementation of HIV Partner Services in California.



How Do I Access HIV Partner Services?

If you are a person living with HIV and would like assistance in notifying your sex and/or needle-sharing partners of a potential exposure, please go to www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/AIDS/Documents/PCRSCoordinatorList.pdf for the contact person in your LHD; or call the California HIV/AIDS/STD Hotline at (800) 367-AIDS (2437) [English/Spanish] or (888) 225-AIDS (TDD) or visit www.AIDSHotline.org.

If you are a provider or clinic that would like to provide HIV Partner Services for your clients or establish a referral system to the local HIV Partner Services staff, call the California HIV Partner Services Unit at (510) 620-3182 or go to www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/AIDS/Documents/PCRSCoordinatorList.pdf to find the local HIV Partner Services coordinator and be linked to a specially trained staff person in your area.

If you are a CBO or HMO that would like technical assistance in establishing a HIV Partner Services Program within your organization, contact the California HIV Partner Services program for technical assistance at (510) 620-3182.

How Do I Receive Training for HIV Partner Services?

Training for HIV and STD Partner Services is provided by the California STD/HIV Prevention Training Center (PTC) and the California HIV Partner Services Unit. Please call the California HIV Partner Services Unit at (510) 620-3182.

Helpful Resources:

For access to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's HIV Partner Services Guidelines go to: www.cdc.gov/nchstp/partners/Partner-Services.html.

PTC Web site – www.stdhivtraining.org.