

## 2017 Prioritized Risk Group Definitions and Points of Consideration

Approved at the May 20, 2016 ILHPG Meeting

### 1. HIV positive and HIV negative Men Who Have Sex with Men (MSM):

A high-risk MSM is defined as:

- Any male (including a transgender male) aged 12 years or older who has ever had anal sex with a male (including a transgender male).

The following risk subgroup is also prioritized but solely for Health Education/Risk Reduction services:

- A same sex attracted adolescent male (SSAAM) is a potentially high-risk MSM adolescent defined as any male (including any transgender male), age 13-19 years, who reports ever having had oral sex with a male (including a transgender male) or who states he is sexually attracted to males (including transgender males).

### 2. HIV positive and HIV negative High Risk Heterosexuals (HRH):

A HRH is defined as:

A male (including a transgender male) not meeting MSM definitions or a female (including transgender female)

(1) who does not meet PWID definition, and

(2) who has ever had vaginal or anal sex with someone of the other gender, and

(3) who also discloses meeting one of the criteria below:

- Male or Female living with HIV Disease
- Male or Female who has ever had vaginal or anal sex with an HIV positive partner of the other sex
- Female (including a transgender female) who ever had anal sex with a male

### 3. HIV positive and HIV negative People who Inject Drugs (PWID):

A high-risk PWID is defined as a person of any gender who:

- does not meet the MSM definition, and
- discloses ever injecting non-prescribed drugs

### 4. HIV positive and HIV negative MSM/WID:

A high risk HIV positive and HIV negative MSM/WID is defined as any male or transgender male who meets the definitions of both MSM and PWID who discloses:

- ever having anal sex with a male or transgender male, and
- ever injecting non-prescribed drugs

**5. HIV positive persons with “Other Risk”** are prioritized for biomedical interventions intended to link or reengage them into HIV medical treatment and to strengthen their treatment adherence:

Population Definition: HIV positive person with Other Risk is defined as a person of any gender who:

- is not known to meet the MSM, PWID, HRH, or MSM/WID definitions,
  - Never had anal sex with a male in their lifetime
  - Never had vaginal sex with a female in their lifetime
  - Never injected non-prescribed drugs in their lifetime

HIV positive persons disclosing no sexual or injection risk are not prioritized for Behavioral Interventions to reduce sexual or injection risk until such a relevant risk disclosure is made. They are prioritized for biomedical interventions until that time.

**HIV positive persons with MSM, HRH, PWID, MSM/WID or Other Risk** are prioritized for **Surveillance-Based Services** if the person:

- has been reported to IDPH HIV Surveillance as confirmed HIV+ and
- meets one of the following criteria:
  - i. HIV-diagnosed within the past 12 months OR
  - ii. No CD4 or VL reported within the past 12 months OR
  - iii. An STI Co-infection reported within the past 12 months

**Other important points of consideration:**

- **HIV positive individuals** falling within any of the risks identified above should be a top priority within each risk category.
- **Transgender individuals** may be included within any priority population based on *personal risk history* and *current gender identification*. Transgender identity does not mean an individual engages in risk behaviors. Gender reassignment surgery should not be assumed, and unless a transgender client *opts* to disclose an operative status, risk assessment should assess sexual risks inclusive of the possibilities for male and female anatomy. Transgender females are a high priority for HIV prevention services. The positivity rate among transgender women tested by all IDPH and DASA funded project throughout Illinois between 2008 and 2013 was 1.9%, falling between the HIV seropositivity rates for African American MSM (2.8%) and Latino MSM (1.8%).
- **Persons made vulnerable** by circumstances such as incarceration or domestic violence may be prioritized in any risk group when their individual risk and biomedical histories include prioritized risks defined above.
- **Young adults** with any of the risks identified above should be prioritized within each subpopulation category.