

Glossary

Language Disclaimer: Some of the terms and definitions in this glossary, as well as some of the information and documents referenced on the website, are historical in nature and may be outdated. Readers are encouraged to review only the most recent document for the most current information related to the Ending the HIV Epidemic Plan.

Agency is an entity under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, tribal organization, state level and/or city/county level administration that serves as a public health function in order to protect and promote the health, well-being and safety of the community.

- Key agencies include: the National Institutes of Health (NIH); the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA); Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC); the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA); the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ); and, their predecessors.

Antiretroviral therapy (ART) is highly active in suppressing viral replication, reducing the amount of the virus in the blood to undetectable levels and slowing the progress of HIV.

Client centered care is an approach in which clients are viewed as whole persons, allowing them to have autonomy while directing their care and services.

Community engagement is the strategic process of working collaboratively with and through groups of people affiliated by geographic proximity, special interest or similar situations to address issues impacting the well-being of those people.

Consumers are people who use health related services, as well as their family members and caretakers. Consumers include people who have used health services in the past, who are currently using health services, or who could potentially use health services in the future.

Counseling is an interpersonal, dynamic communication process between a client and a trained counselor (who is bound by a code of ethics and practice) that tries to resolve personal, social or psychological problems and difficulties. In the context of an HIV diagnosis, counseling aims to encourage the client to explore important personal issues, identify ways of coping with anxiety and stress, and plan for the future (such as keeping healthy, adhering to treatment and preventing transmission). When counseling is in the context of a negative HIV test result, the focus is exploring the client's motivation, options and skills to stay HIV-negative.

Epidemic refers to a disease condition affecting (or tending to affect) a disproportionately large number of individuals within a population, community or region at the same time.

Equity is the absence of avoidable or remediable differences among groups of people, whether those groups are defined socially, economically, demographically or geographically.

Gay can refer to same-sex sexual attraction, sexual behavior and cultural identity. Unless individuals or groups self-identify as gay men, the expression men who have sex with men should be used.

Gay men and other men who have sex with men encompass both men who self-identify as gay, as well as men who do not yet who have sex with other men.

Gender identity refers to a person's deeply felt internal and individual experience of gender which may or may not correspond with the sex assigned at birth. It includes both the personal sense of the body -- which may involve, if freely chosen, modification of bodily appearance or function by medical, surgical or other means, as well as other expressions of gender, including dress, speech and mannerisms.

Gender non-conforming describes a gender expression that differs from given societal norms for males and females.

Gender-specific is an adjective that refers to any program or tailored approach that is designed or delivered for either women or men.

Health care includes preventive, curative and palliative services and programming that are delivered to individuals or populations.

Health education is the provision of accurate and appropriately contextualized information on health that is aimed at assisting individuals to make informed choices to improve their health.

Health literacy is the degree to which individuals have the capacity to obtain, process and understand basic health information needed to make appropriate health decisions.

Heterosexual is used to refer to people who have sex with and/or are attracted to people of a different sex.

HIV-negative, also known as seronegative, shows no evidence of HIV in a blood test. The test result of a person who has acquired HIV, but is in the window period between HIV exposure and detection of antibodies, also will be negative.

HIV-positive, also known as seropositive, has had antibodies against HIV detected in a blood test or saliva test.

Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) is a virus that weakens the immune system, ultimately leading to AIDS.

Men who have sex with men (MSM) describes males who have sex with males, regardless of whether or not they also have sex with women or have personal or social gay or bisexual identity. This concept is useful because it also includes men who self-identify as heterosexual, but who have sex with other men.

Medical and support services are any services related to the client's HIV care.

Needle and syringe programs (NSPs) are a type of harm reduction initiative that provides clean needles and syringes to people who inject drugs (PWID) to reduce the transmission of HIV and other blood borne viruses.

Non-binary describes a person who does not identify exclusively as a man or woman. Non-binary people may identify as being both a man and a woman, somewhere in between, or as falling completely outside these categories.

People living with HIV (PLWH) is a descriptive term for persons living with HIV.

Pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) refers to antiretroviral medicines prescribed before exposure or possible exposure to HIV. Several studies have demonstrated that a daily oral dose of appropriate antiretroviral medicines is effective for reducing the risk of acquiring HIV infection through sexual or injection transmission.

Professional is an individual employed by an agency or organization that provides essential services that improve the quality of life for community members.

- Examples of a professional can include community health workers, health educators, case management workers, epidemiologists, social workers, researchers

Provider is the agency, medical organization or healthcare professional that provides direct services to clients. A provider may be involved in primary care, drug therapy and specialty care.

- Examples of a provider can include medical doctors, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, nurses, pharmacists, dentists, etc. Some organizations such as Equitas Health, Columbus Public Health, Ohio Department of Health, Nationwide Children's Hospital, AIDS Health Foundation, Peace of Mind, and The Ohio State Medical Centers can serve as a provider for community members.

Risk is defined as the risk of exposure to HIV or the likelihood that a person may acquire HIV. Behaviors, not membership in a certain group, place individuals in situations in which they may be exposed to HIV, and certain behaviors create, increase or perpetuate risk.

Same-gender loving is a term some prefer to use instead of lesbian, gay or bisexual to express attraction to and love of people of the same gender.

Screening is population-based programming offered to an identified key population that attempts to detect medical conditions in individuals and groups that are not experiencing signs and symptoms of illness and understand their social context to address barriers and improve health. Verbal assessments and surveys allow professionals to identify social needs and any barriers that impede an individual's efforts to improve their overall health.

Service gaps are HIV prevention and care services for persons at risk for HIV or PLWH that do not exist in the jurisdiction.

Sex refers to biologically determined differences that are used to label individuals as males or females. The bases for this classification are reproductive organs and functions.

Sex work includes consenting adults who regularly or occasionally receive money, shelter or goods in exchange for sexual services. As sex work is defined as the consensual sale of sexual services between adults, people under the age of 18 cannot be involved in sex work. Individuals under 18 years involved in sex work are considered to be victims of sexual exploitation.

Sexual orientation refers to each person's capacity for profound emotional, affectional and sexual attraction to individuals of any sex.

Social determinants of health are defined by the World Health Organization (WHO) as the conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work and age. These are mostly responsible for health inequities, the unfair and avoidable differences in health status that are seen within and between countries.

Stigma can be described as a dynamic process of devaluation that significantly discredits an individual in the eyes of others. This devaluation is based on a trait or condition; whether acute or chronic, observable or concealed. When stigma is acted upon, the result is discrimination.

Target population is a population to be reached through some action or programming and may refer to groups with specific demographic or geographic characteristics.

Transgender is an umbrella term to describe people whose gender identity and expression does not conform to the norms and expectations traditionally associated with their sex at birth.

Queer is an umbrella term for sexual and gender minorities who are not heterosexual, heteronormative or cisgender.

The full Strategic Plan and data appendix are available online at www.columbus.gov/KnowHIV.

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