

**Minority AIDS Initiative
Health Education
Standards of Care**

I. DEFINITION

Health education/risk reduction is the provision of services that educate clients about HIV transmission and how to reduce the risk of HIV transmissions. It also includes the provision of information dissemination about medical and psychosocial support services and counseling to help clients with HIV improve their health status. Health education/risk reduction services are only provided to high risk Persons Living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA).

II. PURPOSE

The purpose of Health education/risk reduction Services is to educate communities of color/minority populations about HIV disease, the importance of HIV treatment, and increase awareness of care and treatment services.

III. ELIGIBILITY

Service providers must have written policies and procedures regarding eligibility.

IV. SERVICE COMPONENTS

Services may include:

1. Implementation of consistent community outreach to educate the community about HIV and the availability of services with the intent of ensuring client access to care and treatment services. HIV positive individuals are educated about antiretroviral medication, the AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) and other drug assistance programs.
2. Referral of consenting PLWHA to care and treatment services identified as being lost to care or newly diagnosed with HIV/AIDS.

V. DOCUMENTATION

Service providers will collect data to document the following:

1. The number of referral activities conducted to educate PLWHA about HIV treatment and the availability of HIV/AIDS-related services and care.

2. The number of consenting PLWHA identified as being lost to care or newly diagnosed and referred to Primary Medical Care/Centers of Excellence and Medical Care Management services.

VI. STAFF QUALIFICATIONS

Service providers will employ staff that are knowledgeable and experienced regarding HIV/AIDS education, community outreach, and HIV/AIDS care and services resources. In addition, service providers shall ensure that staff are knowledgeable about:

1. Cultural competence with respect to diverse populations (including people of color; gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and questioning (GLBTQ) persons, adolescents, women of childbearing age, injection drug users and their partners, commercial sex workers, and other groups that are at high risk for HIV infection).

2. Accessing venues of at-risk populations (family-planning clinics, substance abuse treatment programs, penal and drug treatment transition houses, shelters, soup kitchens, bars, social clubs, etc.).

VII. ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

Service providers shall provide programmatic supervision.

VIII. UNITS OF SERVICE FOR REPORTING

1. Community Referrals:

i. Community venues – units of service will be reported in:

1. Encounters for educational activities in venues for high risk populations of PLWHA (presentations, health fairs, etc.)

2. Actual number of educational material distributed (brochures, distribution materials, etc.).

ii. Referral for PLWHAS – units of service will be reported in encounters for referrals of consenting clients to Primary Medical Care/Centers of Excellence and Medical Care Management services.