

Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE)
Position Statement 03-ID-09
Response from National Center for HIV, STD, and TB Prevention,
Division of HIV/AIDS Prevention

Title: The impact of new technologies and therapies on HIV/AIDS surveillance: surveillance of antiretroviral resistance

CDC concurs with and fully supports the position statement that states consider incorporating drug resistance surveillance into HIV incidence surveillance, and suggests that in revising HIV surveillance reporting requirements, states consider language for the reporting of test results (such as, antiretroviral drug resistance results) which are important for HIV management.

The following is the CDC response to CSTE's recommendation that to support HIV drug resistance surveillance CDC provide technical assistance, funding, assistance with drug resistance testing, guidance on electronic reporting procedures, and support for enhanced state capacity to manage electronic laboratory data.

Support of HIV drug resistance surveillance in persons newly diagnosed and recently infected

Three states and one county began collaborating with CDC in Fiscal Year (FY 2002) to pilot surveillance of HIV drug resistance and recent HIV infection in persons newly diagnosed with HIV, using HIV diagnostic sera. After the methodology was successfully piloted, supplemental funding was awarded to 14 additional state and city health departments in August 2003 to explore models for incorporation of and expansion of HIV drug resistance surveillance into HIV incidence surveillance.

Provision of technical assistance

CDC provides epidemiological, laboratory, and training guidance to states involved in or planning HIV resistance surveillance through the work of an HIV resistance surveillance team in the HIV Incidence and Case Surveillance Branch, Division of HIV/AIDS Prevention-Surveillance and Epidemiology, National Center for HIV, STD, and TB Prevention.

CDC provides guidance documents for processing, storing, handling, and shipping HIV diagnostic serum specimens for HIV resistance testing have been developed and distributed to health departments participating in HIV resistance surveillance. Additional guidance documents are planned.

In March 2003, CDC sponsored a 2-day HIV Viral Resistance Workshop for health departments participating in or eligible for HIV incidence surveillance and health departments participating in CDC HIV resistance surveillance projects. CDC and external expert speakers provided guidance and information on HIV drug resistance surveillance. A compact disc including the workshop presentations was sent to participants and is available to interested staff in any state. Additional technical assistance workshops are anticipated.

Assistance with HIV resistance testing

For the majority of health departments participating in CDC HIV drug resistance surveillance projects, HIV drug resistance testing is provided by CDC through a contract with the Stanford University Laboratory. One state laboratory is also receiving cooperative agreement funding through the pilot surveillance project to provide testing for resistance surveillance for the state. Two additional states plan to use their CDC supplemental funding to support testing for resistance surveillance in their state health department laboratories.

Support for electronic reporting procedures

CDC is working with health departments in the resistance surveillance pilot program to develop database management procedures for electronic capture of HIV resistance data in a usable format for local analyses. The ultimate goal would be to extend these database capabilities to all health departments. CDC will continue to work with State and local surveillance officials to identify the most useful methods for incorporating results from antiretroviral drug resistance testing into new data management systems for HIV/AIDS surveillance.