

2013 Risk Group Definitions and Points of Consideration

1. **HIV positive and HIV negative Men Who Have Sex with Men (MSM):** A high-risk MSM is defined as a) any male or transgender individual who has had condomless anal sex with a male or transgender individual in the past 12 months, or b) any male or transgender individual who has had condomless anal sex with a male since his last HIV test. A high-risk MSM youth is defined as any male or transgender individual, age 13-19 years, who reports ever having had anal or oral sex with a male or transgender individual, or who states he is sexually attracted to males or transgender individuals (for Health Education/Risk Reduction services only).
2. **HIV positive and HIV negative High Risk Heterosexuals (HRH):** Females and males (including transgender individuals not included as MSM) engaging in condomless vaginal and/or anal sex with partners of the opposite sex, defined as any of the following:
 - HIV positive individuals
 - Persons with HIV positive partner(s) of the opposite sex
 - Persons with IDU partner(s) of the opposite sex
 - Female partners of MSM
 - Heterosexual males and females with two or more STDs in 12 months
 - Persons who have had sex with 6 or more partners in the past month
 - Females who have had unprotected sex with a male(s) released within the past year from an incarceration of one year or longer in any county, state or federal correctional facility

Points of Consideration for HRH individuals only:

The positivity rate of HRH increases as age increases. Blacks and Hispanics are more likely to test positive than whites. Women are less likely to test HIV positive if they report using condoms, but males who reported condom use were not less likely to test positive. Oral sex with someone of the opposite gender was not found to be a predictor of new positive tests. Females who reported having sex with known HIV positive individuals, MSM or IDU are more likely to test positive than the heterosexual population tested.

3. **HIV positive and HIV negative Injection Drug User (IDU):** A high-risk IDU is defined as a person who:
 - a. Discloses sharing injection equipment or supplies in the last 12 months or since his or her last HIV test; or
 - b. Does not disclose injection risk, but displays visible signs of recent non-prescribed drug injection (specifically, fresh injection sites, injection abscesses, nodding off, etc.).
4. **HIV positive and HIV negative MSM/IDU:** An MSM/IDU is defined as any male who meets the combined definitions of MSM and IDU (#1 and 3 above).

Other Important points of consideration:

Prevention with HIV positive individuals falling within any of the risks identified above should be a top priority within each subpopulation category and specific strategies to engage this population should be developed, including linkage to care and treatment. Prevention with positives should include reproductive health education for females and their partners, including linkage to perinatal care.

Transgender individuals are considered priority within each of the priority populations due to the alarming national HIV prevalence rates in this population and the severe social determinants impacting this population. Transgender identity does not mean an individual engages in risk behaviors and transgender individuals should be prioritized within each of the risk groups.