HRSA/CDC COMBINED GLOSSARY OF TERMS / ACRONYMS

A

Administrative or Fiscal Agent
Entity that functions to assist the grantee, consortium, or other planning body in carrying out administrative activities (e.g., disbursing program funds, developing reimbursement and accounting systems, developing Requests for Proposals [RFPs], monitoring contracts).

AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP)
Administered by States and authorized under Part B of the Ryan White Treatment Modernization Act. Provides FDA-approved medications to low-income individuals with HIV disease who have limited or no coverage from private insurance or Medicaid. ADAP funds may also be used to purchase insurance for uninsured Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program clients as long as the insurance costs do not exceed the cost of drugs through ADAP and the drugs available through the insurance program at least match those offered through ADAP.

AIDS (Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome)
A disease caused by the human immunodeficiency virus.

AIDS Education and Training Center (AETC)
Regional centers providing education and training for primary care professionals and other AIDS-related personnel. Part F (AETC)s are authorized under Part F of the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program and administered by the HRSA HIV/AIDS Bureau's Division of Training and Technical Assistance (DTT).

AIDS Service Organization (ASO)
An organization that provides primary medical care and/or support services to populations infected with and affected by HIV disease.

Antiretroviral
A substance that fights against a retrovirus, such as HIV. (See Retrovirus)

Application
A health department’s formal request to CDC for HIV prevention funding.

B

Behavioral data
Information collected from studies that examine human behavior relevant to disease risk. For instance, relevant behavioral data for HIV risk may include sexual activity, substance use, condom use, etc.

C

Capacity
Core competencies that substantially contribute to an organization's ability to deliver effective HIV/AIDS primary medical care and health-related support services. Capacity development activities should increase access to the HIV/AIDS service system and reduce disparities in care among underserved PLWH in the EMA.

Capacity building
Process to increase the skills, infrastructure, and resources of individuals, organizations, and communities. Capacity building is a key strategy for the promotion, delivery, and sustainability of HIV prevention programs. As a result of capacity building on HIV prevention programs, the programs will (1) operate optimally and (2) increase their capacity to effectively deliver evidence-based interventions and core public health strategies for HIV prevention.

Capacity Building Assistance or CBA
Provision is made available through a variety of methods including training, technical assistance (TA), and technology transfer to individuals, organizations, and communities. CBA is provided directly to communities, prevention planning groups, community–based organizations, and health departments.

CARE Act (Ryan White Comprehensive AIDS Resources Emergency Act)
Federal legislation created to address the unmet health care and service needs of people living with HIV Disease (PLWH) disease and their families. It was enacted in 1990 and reauthorized in 1996 and 2000. Reauthorized in 2006 as the Ryan White Treatment Modernization Act. Reauthorized in 2009 as the Ryan White Treatment Extension Act. (See Ryan White HIV/AIDS Act of 2009)

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
The lead federal agency for protecting the health and safety of people, for providing credible information to enhance health decisions, and for promoting health through strong partnerships. Based in Atlanta, Georgia, this agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services serves as the national focus for developing and applying disease prevention and control, environmental health, and health promotion and education activities designed to improve the health of the people of the United States.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
Federal agency within HHS that administers disease prevention programs including HIV/AIDS prevention.

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)
Federal agency within HHS that administers the Medicaid, Medicare, and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP).

Chief Elected Official (CEO)
The official recipient of Part A or Part B Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program funds. For Part A, this is usually a city mayor, county executive, or chair of the county board of supervisors. For Part B, this is usually the governor. The CEO is ultimately responsible for administering all aspects of their title's CARE Act funds and ensuring that all legal requirements are met.

Collaboration
Working with another person, organization, or group for mutual benefit by exchanging information, sharing resources, or enhancing the other's capacity—often to achieve a common goal or purpose.

Community-based Organization (CBO)
An organization that provides services to locally defined populations, which may or may not include populations infected with or affected by HIV disease.

Co-morbidity
A disease or condition, such as mental illness or substance abuse, co-existing with HIV disease.

Community Based Dental Partnership Program (CBDPP)
The program within the HRSA HIV/AIDS Bureau's Division of Community Based Programs that delivers HIV/AIDS dental care while simultaneously training dental professionals in these areas in order to expand community capacity to deliver HIV oral health care.

Community Forum or Public Meeting
A small-group method of collecting information from community members in which a community meeting is used to provide a directed but highly interactive discussion. Similar to but less formal than a focus group, it usually includes a larger group; participants are often self-selected (i.e., not randomly selected to attend).

Community members
1) consumers/ members of the priority population that are receiving services, or 2) people who are not affiliated with organizations but are infected or affected by HIV and have a passion to address HIV.

Comprehensive Planning
The process of determining the organization and delivery of HIV services. This strategy is used by planning bodies to

improve decision-making about services and maintain a continuum of care for PLWH.

Comprehensive program, monitoring and evaluation (M&E), and quality assurance (QA) plan, referred to as the Comprehensive Program Plan

A document that details goals and SMART objectives for the proposed HIV program components and activities, the strategies to monitor and evaluate implementation and outcomes, and the set of activities carried out to define, design, assess, monitor, and improve the quality of HIV prevention services and activities.

Concurrence

Refers to the HPG's agreement that the HPG has reviewed the Jurisdictional HIV Prevention Plan that is to be submitted to CDC by the health department and concurs that the Jurisdictional HIV Prevention Plan includes existing prevention programmatic resources to be allocated locally to the areas with the greatest HIV disease burden.

Conflict of Interest

Conflict between the private interests and public obligations of a person in an official position.

Conflict of Interest

A conflict of interest is defined as an actual or perceived interest by a Planning Council member in an action of the Planning Council, which results or has the appearance of resulting in personal, organizational, or professional gain to the member, his/her spouse, partner, or immediate family.

Consortium/HIV Care Consortium

A regional or statewide planning entity established by many State grantees under Part B of the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program to plan and sometimes administer Part B services. An association of health care and support service agencies serving PLWHA under Part B.

Consumers

Individuals "receiving HIV-related services" from Ryan White Part A providers and include PLWHA receiving services themselves and the parents and caregivers of minor children who are receiving such services.

Continuous Quality Improvement

An ongoing process that involves organization members in monitoring and evaluating programs to continuously improve service delivery. CQI seeks to prevent problems and to maximize the quality of care by identifying opportunities for improvement.

Continuum of Care

An approach that helps communities plan for and provide a full range of emergency and long-term service resources to address the various needs of PLWHA.

Cooperative Agreement

A financial assistance mechanism that may be used instead of a grant when the awarding office anticipates substantial federal programmatic involvement with the recipient.

Coordination

Aligning processes, services, or systems to achieve increased efficiencies, benefits, or improved outcomes. Examples of coordination may include sharing information—such as progress reports—with state and local health departments, or structuring prevention delivery systems to reduce duplication of effort.

Core Services

Grantee expenditures are limited to core medical services, support services, and administrative expenses. See Core Services and Support Services, which are also listed in the Ryan White legislation as follows: Part A (2604(c), Part B (2612(b), and Part C (2651(c).

Cost-Effectiveness

The relative costs and effectiveness of proposed strategies and interventions, either demonstrated or probable.

Culturally Appropriate

Conforming to a culture's acceptable expressions and standards of behavior and thoughts. Interventions and educational materials are more likely to be culturally appropriate when representatives of the intended target audience are involved in planning, developing, and pilot testing them.

Cultural Competence
The knowledge, understanding, and skills to work effectively with individuals from differing cultural backgrounds.

D

Diversity
Individual differences along the dimensions of race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, age, physical abilities, religious beliefs, political beliefs, health or disease status, or other ideologies. The concept of diversity encompasses acceptance, respect, and understanding that each individual is unique.

Division of Community Based Programs (DCBP)
The division within HRSA's HIV/AIDS Bureau that is responsible for administering Part C, Part D, and the HIV/AIDS Dental Programs (the Dental Reimbursement Program (DRP) and the Community-Based Dental Partnership Program (CBDPP).

Division of Science and Policy (DSP)
The office within HRSA's HIV/AIDS Bureau that administers the Part F (SPNS) Program, HIV/AIDS evaluation studies, policy, and data reporting.

Division of Service Systems (DSS)
The division within HRSA's HIV/AIDS Bureau that administers Part A and Part B of the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program.

Division of Training and Technical Assistance (DTTA)
The division within HRSA's HIV/AIDS Bureau that administers the AIDS Education and Training Centers (Part F) and technical assistance and training activities of the HIV/AIDS Bureau.

E

Early Intervention Services (EIS)
Activities designed to identify individuals who are HIV-positive and get them into care as quickly as possible. As funded through Parts A and B of the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program, includes outreach, counseling and testing, information and referral services. Under Part C Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program, also includes comprehensive primary medical care for individuals living with HIV/AIDS.

Eligible Metropolitan Area (EMA)
Geographic areas highly-impacted by HIV/AIDS that are eligible to receive Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program Part A funds To be an eligible EMA, an area must have reported more than 2,000 AIDS cases in the most recent 5 years and have a population of at least 50,000. (See also Transitional Grant Area, TGA.)

Engagement Process
A process used to identify strategies for increasing coordination between HIV programs of the state, jurisdiction, and tribal communities for the purpose of applying a collective vision for the benefit of the overall jurisdiction. Steps for engagement should include determining the activities of the Jurisdictional HIV Prevention Plan and whom to engage, developing engagement and retention strategies for previous partners, developing engagement strategies for new partnering agencies, prioritizing engagement activities, creating an implementation plan, monitoring progress, and maintaining the partner relationships.

Enzyme-Linked Immunosorbent Assay (EIA)

The most common test used to detect the presence of HIV antibodies in the blood, which indicate ongoing HIV infection. A positive ELISA test much be confirmed by another test called a Western Blot.

Epidemic
The rapid spread, growth, or occurrence of cases of an illness, health-related behavior, or other health-related events in a community or region in excess of normal expectation.

Epidemic
A disease that occurs clearly in excess of normal expectation and spreads rapidly through a demographic segment of the human population. Epidemic diseases can be spread from person to person or from a contaminated source such as food or water.

Epidemiological Profile
A document that describes the HIV/AIDS epidemic within various populations and identifies characteristics of both HIV-infected and HIV-negative persons in defined geographic areas. It is composed of information gathered to describe the effect of HIV/AIDS on an area in terms of socio-demographic, geographic, behavioral, and clinical characteristics. The epidemiological profile serves as the scientific basis of the identification and prioritization of HIV prevention and care needs in any given jurisdiction.

Epidemiologic Profile
A description of the current status, distribution, and impact of an infectious disease or other health-related condition in a specified geographic area.

Epidemiology
The study of the causes, spread, control, and prevention of disease in human beings.
Funding opportunity announcement (FOA): A CDC announcement in the Federal Register describing the amount of funding available for a particular public health goal and soliciting applications for funding. The funding opportunity announcement describes required activities and asks the applicants to describe how they will carry out the required activities.

Epidemiology
The branch of medical science that studies the incidence, distribution, and control of disease in a population.

Exposure Category
In describing HIV/AIDS cases, same as transmission categories; how an individual may have been exposed to HIV, such as injecting drug use, male-to-male sexual contact, and heterosexual contact.

F

Family Centered Care
A model in which systems of care under Ryan White Part D are designed to address the needs of PLWHA and affected family members as a unit, providing or arranging for a full range of services. Family structures may range from the traditional, biological family unit to non-traditional family units with partners, significant others, and unrelated caregivers.

Food and Drug Administration (FDA)
Federal agency within HHS responsible for ensuring the safety and effectiveness of drugs, biologics, vaccines, and medical devices used (among others) in the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of HIV infection, AIDS, and AIDS-related opportunistic infections. The FDA also works with the blood banking industry to safeguard the nation's blood supply.

G

Grantee
The recipient of Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program funds responsible for administering the award.
Health Care for the Homeless Health Center
A grantee funded under section 330(h) of the Public Health Service Act to provide primary health and related services to homeless individuals.

H

Health Centers
Community-based and patient-directed organizations that serve populations with limited access to health care. These include low income populations, the uninsured, those with limited English proficiency, migrant and seasonal farmworkers, individuals and families experiencing homelessness, and those living in public housing.

Health Equity (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services [DHHS] definition)
The attainment of the highest level of health for all people. Achieving health equity requires valuing everyone equally with focused and ongoing societal efforts to address avoidable inequalities, historical and contemporary injustices, and the elimination of health and health care disparities.

Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)
The agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services that administers various primary care programs for the medically underserved, including the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program.

High-Impact Prevention
By using combinations of scientifically proven, cost-effective, and scalable interventions targeted to populations in geographic areas most affected by the epidemic, this approach promises to increase the impact of HIV prevention efforts—an essential step in achieving the goals of the National HIV/AIDS Strategy (NHAS). This approach is designed to maximize the impact of prevention efforts for the country and specific jurisdictions by decreasing incidence and increasing health equity.

High-Risk Insurance Pool
A State health insurance program that provides coverage for individuals who are denied coverage due to a pre-existing condition or who have health conditions that would normally prevent them from purchasing coverage in the private market.

Highly Active Antiretroviral Therapy (HAART)
HIV treatment using multiple antiretroviral drugs to reduce viral load to undetectable levels and maintain/increase CD4 levels.

HIV/AIDS Bureau (HAB)
The bureau within the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) that is responsible for administering the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program.

HIV/AIDS Dental Reimbursement Program
The program within the HRSA HIV/AIDS Bureau's Division of Community Based Programs that assists with uncompensated costs incurred in providing oral health treatment to PLWHA.

HIV Disease
Any signs, symptoms, or other adverse health effects due to the human immunodeficiency virus.

HIV Planning Group (HPG)
The official HIV planning body that follows the HIV Planning Guidance to inform the development or update of the health department's jurisdictional HIV Prevention Plan that will contribute to the reduction of HIV infection in the jurisdiction.

Home and Community Based Care
A category of eligible services that States may fund under Part B of the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program.

Housing Opportunities for People With AIDS (HOPWA)
A program administered by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) that provides funding to support housing for PLWHA and their families.

HUD (U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development)
The Federal agency responsible for administering community development, affordable housing, and other programs including Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS (HOPWA).

I

Incidence
The number of new cases in a defined population within a certain time period, often a year, which can be used to measure disease frequency. It is important to understand the difference between HIV incidence, which refers to new cases, and new HIV diagnosis, which does not reflect when a person was infected.

Incidence
The number of new cases of a disease that occur during a specified time period.

Incidence Rate
The incidence rate provides a measure of the effects of illness relative to the size of the population. The incidence rate is calculated by dividing incidence into the specified period by the population in which cases occurred. A multiplier is used to convert the resulting fraction to a number over a common denominator, often 100,000.

Incidence Rate
The number of new cases of a disease or condition that occur in a defined population during a specified time period, often expressed per 100,000 persons. AIDS incidence rates are often expressed this way.

Inclusion
Meaningful involvement of members in the process with an active role in making decisions. An inclusive process assures that the views, perspectives, and needs of affected communities, care providers, and key partners are actively included.

Injection Drug User (IDU)
Someone who uses a needle to inject drugs into his or her body.

Injection Drug User (IDU)

Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA)
A written agreement between a governmental agency and an outside agency that provides HIV services.

Intervention
A specific activity, or set of related activities, intended to change the knowledge, attitudes, beliefs, behaviors, or practices of individuals and populations to reduce their health risks. An intervention has distinct process and outcome objectives and a protocol outlining the steps for implementation.

J

Jurisdiction
An area or region that is the responsibility of a particular governmental agency. This term usually refers to an area where a state or local health department monitors HIV prevention activities (e.g., Jonestown is within the jurisdiction of the Jones County Health Department).

Jurisdictional HIV Prevention Plan
The health department, in collaboration with the HPG, will develop a Jurisdictional HIV Prevention Plan to include the collaboration and coordination of HIV prevention, care, and treatment. The plan should include: a description of existing resources, HIV prevention services and care and treatment; needs (e.g. resources, infrastructure, and service delivery); gaps to be addressed and rationale for selection; prevention activities or strategies being implemented within the jurisdiction; scalability of activities; responsible agency or group to carry out the activity (e.g., Prevention Unit, Ryan White-funded agencies and HOPWA); and relevant timelines.

M

Medicaid Spend-down
A process whereby an individual who meets the Medicaid medical eligibility criteria, but has income that exceeds the financial eligibility ceiling, may "spend down" to eligibility level. The individual accomplishes spend-down by deducting accrued medically related expenses from countable income. Most State Medicaid programs offer an optional category of eligibility, the "medically needy" eligibility category, for these individuals.

Minority AIDS Initiative (MAI)
A national HHS initiative that provides special resources to reduce the spread of HIV/AIDS and improve health outcomes for people living with HIV/AIDS within communities of color. Enacted to address the disproportionate impact of the disease in such communities. Formerly referred to as the Congressional Black Caucus Initiative because of that body's leadership in its development.

Multiply Diagnosed
A person having multiple morbidities (e.g., substance abuse and HIV infection) (see co-morbidity).

N

Needs Assessment
A process of collecting information about the needs of PLWHA (both those receiving care and those not in care), identifying current resources (Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program and other) available to meet those needs, and determining what gaps in care exist.

NNRTI (Non-Nucleoside Reverse Transcriptase Inhibitor, called “non-nuke”)
A class of antiretroviral agents (e.g., delavirdine, nevirapine, efavirenz) that stops HIV production by binding directly onto an enzyme (reverse transcriptase) in a CD4+ cell and preventing the converseion of HIV’s RNA to DNA.

Non-Concurrence
The HPG disagrees that the Jurisdictional HIV Prevention Plan includes existing prevention programmatic resources to be allocated locally to the areas with the greatest HIV disease burden.

Nucleoside Analog (Nucleoside Analog Reverse Transcriptase Inhibitor, NRTI, called “nuke”)
The first effective class of antiviral drugs (e.g., AZT or ZDV, ddl, ddC, d4T, ABC). NRTI’s act by incorporating themselves into the HIV DNA, thereby stopping the building process. The resulting HIV DNA is incomplete and unable to create new virus.

O

Office of Management and Budget (OMB)
The office within the executive branch of the Federal government that prepares the President's annual budget, develops the Federal government's fiscal program, oversees administration of the budget, and reviews government regulations.

Opportunistic Infection (OI) or Opportunistic Condition
An infection or cancer that occurs in persons with weak immune systems due to HIV, cancer, or immunosuppressive drugs such as corticosteroids or chemotherapy. Examples include Kaposi's Sarcoma (KS); Pneumocystis jiroveci pneumonia (PCP); cryptosporidiosis; histoplasmosis; toxoplasmosis; other parasitic, viral, and fungal infections; and some types of cancers.

Outcome Evaluation
Evaluation employing rigorous methods to determine whether the prevention program has an effect on the predetermined set of goals. These measurements assess the effects of interventions on client outcomes such as knowledge, attitudes, beliefs, and behavior.

Outcome Monitoring
Efforts to track the progress of clients or a program based upon outcome measures set forth in program goals. These measurements assess the effects of interventions on client outcomes such as knowledge, attitudes, beliefs, and behavior. Monitoring allows the identification of changes that occurred, but the intervention may not have been responsible for the change. This would take a more rigorous approach (see Outcome evaluation).

P

Parity
The ability of HIV planning group members to equally participate and carry out planning tasks or duties in the planning process. To achieve parity, representatives should be provided with opportunities for orientation and skills-building to participate in the planning process and have an equal voice in voting and other decision-making activities.

Part A
The part of the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program (formerly, Title I) that provides emergency assistance to localities (EMAs) disproportionately affected by the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

Part B
The part of the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program (formerly, Title II) that provides funds to States and territories for primary health care (including HIV treatments through the AIDS Drug Assistance Program, ADAP) and support services that enhance access to care to PLWHA and their families.

Part C
The part of the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program (formerly, Title III) that supports outpatient primary medical care and early intervention services to PLWHA through grants to public and private non-profit organizations. Part C also funds capacity development and planning grants to prepare programs to provide EIS services.

Part D
The part of the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program (formerly, Title IV) that supports coordinated services and access to research for children, youth, and women with HIV disease and their families.

Part F (AETC) (AIDS Education and Training Center)
Regional centers providing education and training for primary care professionals and other AIDS-related personnel. Part F (AETC)s are authorized under Part F of the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program and administered by the HRSA HIV/AIDS Bureau's Division of Training and Technical Assistance (DTTA).

Part F (Community Based Dental Partnership Program)
The program within the HRSA HIV/AIDS Bureau's Division of Community Based Programs that delivers HIV/AIDS dental care while simultaneously training dental professionals in these areas in order to expand community capacity to deliver HIV oral health care.

Part F (HIV/AIDS Dental Reimbursement Program)
The program within the HRSA HIV/AIDS Bureau's Division of Community Based Programs that assists with uncompensated costs incurred in providing oral health treatment to PLWHA.

Part F (SPNS) (Special Projects of National Significance)
A health services demonstration, research, and evaluation program funded under Part F of the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program to identify innovative models of HIV care. Part F (SPNS) projects are awarded competitively.

PLWHA
A person or persons living with HIV or AIDS.

People Living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA)

Phenotypic Assay

A procedure whereby sample DNA of a patient's HIV is tested against various antiretroviral drugs to see if the virus is susceptible or resistant to these drugs(s).

PHS (Public Health Service)
An administrative entity of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Planning Council
A planning body appointed or established by the Chief Elected Official of an EMA whose basic function is to assess needs, establish a plan for the delivery of HIV care in the EMA, and establish priorities for the use of Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program Part A funds.

Planning Process
Steps taken and methods used to collect information, analyze and interpret it, set priorities, and prepare a plan for rational decision making.

Prevalence
The total number of cases of a disease in a given population at a particular point in time. For HIV/AIDS surveillance, prevalence refers to living persons with HIV disease, regardless of time of infection or diagnosis date. Prevalence does not give an indication of how long a person has had a disease and cannot be used to calculate rates of disease. It can provide an estimate of risk that an individual will have a disease at a point in time.

Prevalence
The total number of persons in a defined population living with a specific disease or condition at a given time (compared to incidence, which is the number of new cases).

Prevalence Rate
The number of people living with a disease or condition in a defined population on a specified date, divided by that population. It is often expressed per 100,000 persons.

Prevalence Rate
The proportion of a population living at a given time with a condition or disease (compared to the incidence rate, which refers to new cases).

Prevention Activity
Activity that focuses on behavioral interventions, structural interventions, capacity building, or information gathering.

Prevention Program
An organized effort to design and implement one or more interventions to achieve a set of predetermined goals; for example, to increase condom use with non-steady partners.

Prevention Services
Interventions, strategies, programs, and structures designed to change behavior that may lead to HIV infection or other diseases. Examples of HIV prevention services include street outreach, educational sessions, condom distribution, and mentoring and counseling programs.

Priority Setting
The process used to establish priorities among service categories, to ensure consistency with locally identified needs, and to address how best to meet each priority.

Prophylaxis
Treatment to prevent the onset of a particular disease (primary prophylaxis) or recurrence of symptoms in an existing infection that has previously been brought under control (secondary prophylaxis).

Protease

An enzyme that triggers the breakdown of proteins. HIV's protease enzyme breaks apart long stands of viral protein into separate proteins constituting the viral core and the enzymes it contains. HIV protease acts as new virus particles are budding off a cell membrane.

Protease Inhibitor

A drug that binds to and blocks HIV protease from working, thus preventing the production of new functional viral particles.

PSRA Process

The Priority Setting and Resource Allocation process is the process the St. Louis TGA uses to establishe its prioritization of services and allocation of funds during the grant year.

Q

Qualitative Data

Non-numeric data, including information from sources such as narrative behavior studies, focus group interviews, open-ended interviews, direct observations, ethnographic studies, and documents. Findings from these sources are usually described in terms of underlying meanings, common themes, and patterns of relationships. Qualitative data often complement and help explain quantitative data.

Quality

The degree to which a health or social service meets or exceeds established professional standards and user expectations.

Quality Assurance (QA)

The process of identifying problems in service delivery, designing activities to overcome these problems, and following up to ensure that no new problems have developed and that corrective actions have been effective. The emphasis is on meeting minimum standards of care.

Quality Improvement (QI)

Also called Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI). An ongoing process of monitoring and evaluating activities and outcomes in order to continuously improve service delivery. CQI seeks to prevent problems and to maximize the quality of care.

Quantitative Data

Numeric information—such as such as numbers, rates, and percentages—representing counts or measurements suitable for statistical analysis.

R

Reflectiveness

The extent to which the demographics of the planning body's membership look like the demographics of the epidemic in the service area.

Reliability

The consistency of a measure or question in obtaining very similar or identical results when used repeatedly; for example, if you repeated a blood test three times on the same blood sample, it would be reliable if it generated the same results each time.

Representation

The act of serving as an official member reflecting the perspective of a specific community. A representative should reflect that community's values, norms, and behaviors and should have expertise in understanding and addressing the specific HIV prevention needs of the population. Representatives also must be able to participate in the group and objectively weigh the overall priority prevention needs of the jurisdiction.

Representative

A sample having the same distribution of characteristics as the population from which it is drawn. Therefore, the sample can be used to draw conclusions about the population.

Representative
Term used to indicate that a sample is similar to the population from which it was drawn, and therefore can be used to make inferences about that population.

Request for Proposals (RFP)
An open and competitive process for selecting providers of services (sometimes called RFA or Request for Application).

Resource Allocation
The Part A planning council responsibility to assign Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program amounts or percentages to established priorities across specific service categories, geographic areas, populations, or subpopulations.

Results-Oriented
Developing strategies/activities that will move the group towards accomplishing the objectives set forth in guidance or FOA. A feedback loop or a review process of the strategies/activities should be completed to ensure the desired results were accomplished.

Retrovirus
A type of virus that, when not infecting a cell, stores its genetic information on a single-stranded RNA molecule instead of the more usual double-stranded DNA. HIV is an example of a retrovirus. After a retrovirus penetrates a cell, it constructs a DNA version of its genes using a special enzyme, reverse transcriptase. This DNA then becomes part of the cell's genetic material.

Reverse Transcriptase
A uniquely viral enzyme that constructs DNA from an RNA template, which is an essential step in the life cycle of a retrovirus such as HIV. The RNA-based genes of HIV and other retroviruses must be converted to DNA if they are to integrate into the cellular genome. (See Retrovirus.)

Risk Factor or Risk Behavior
Behavior or other factor that places a person at risk for disease. For example, drug use is a factor that increases risk of acquiring HIV infection, and factors such as sharing injection drug use equipment, unprotected anal or vaginal sexual contact, and commercial unprotected sex increase the risk of acquiring and transmitting HIV.

Risk Factor or Risk Behavior
Behavior or other factor that places a person at risk for disease; for HIV/AIDS, this includes such factors as male-to-male sexual contact, injection drug use, and commercial sex work.

Reverse Transcriptase Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT-PCR)
A laboratory technique that can detect and quantify the amount of HIV (viral load) in a person's blood or lymph nodes.

Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program Services Report (RSR)
Data collection and reporting system for reporting information on programs and clients served (Client Level Data).

Ryan White Treatment Modernization Act
The name given to the Ryan White Comprehensive AIDS Resources Emergency (CARE) Act when it was reauthorized in 2006. This is the primary federal legislation that addresses the needs of persons in the United States living with HIV/AIDS and the needs of their families. The original CARE Act was enacted in 1990.

Ryan White HIV/AIDS Act of 2009 (Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program)
Enacted in 2009, this legislation reauthorized the Ryan White Program, formerly called the Ryan White CARE Act and the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Treatment Modernization Act of 2006.

Ryan White Program Data Report (RDR)
Formerly known as the CARE Act Data Report (CADR), a provider-based report generating aggregate client, provider, and service data for all Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program components. Reports information on all clients who receive at least one service during the reporting period.

S

Salvage Therapy
A treatment effort for people who are not responding to, or cannot tolerate the preferred, recommended treatments for a particular condition. In the context of HIV infection, drug treatments that are used or studied in individuals who have failed one or more HIV drug regimens. In this case, failed refers to the inability to achieve or sustain low viral load levels.

Scalable
Interventions or combinations of interventions that can reach a significant portion of those in need, in a cost-efficient manner, and demonstrate population-level impact.

Statewide Coordinated Statement of Need (SCSN)
A written statement of need for the entire State developed through a process designed to collaboratively identify significant HIV issues and maximize Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program coordination. The SCSN process is convened by the Part B grantee, with equal responsibility and input by all programs.

Section 340B Drug Discount Program
A program administered by the HRSA's Bureau of Primary Care, Office of Pharmacy Affairs established by Section 340B of the Veteran's Health Care Act of 1992, which limits the cost of drugs to Federal purchasers and to certain grantees of Federal agencies.

Seroconversion
The development of detectable antibodies to HIV in the blood as a result of infection. It normally takes several weeks to several months for antibodies to the virus to develop after HIV transmission. When antibodies to HIV appear in the blood, a person will test positive in the standard ELISA test for HIV.

Seroprevalence
The number of people in a population who test HIV-positive based on serology (blood serum) specimen. Seroprevalence is often presented as a percentage of the total number of specimens
tested or as a rate per 1,000 persons tested.

Seroprevalence
The number of persons in a defined population who test HIV-positive based on HIV testing of blood specimens. (Seroprevalence is often presented either as a percent of the total specimens tested or as a rate per 100,000 persons tested.)

Service Gaps
All the service needs of all PLWH except for the need for primary health care for individuals who know their status but are not in care. Service gaps include additional need for primary health care for those already receiving primary medical care ("in care").

Sexually Transmitted Disease (STD)

Socioeconomic status (SES)
A description of a person’s societal status using factors or measurements such as income levels, relationship to the national poverty line, educational achievement, neighborhood of residence, or home ownership.

Stakeholder
A person or representative who has personal or professional experience, skills, resources, or expertise in HIV.

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)
Federal agency within HHS that administers programs in substance abuse and mental health.

Support Services
Grantee expenditures are limited to core medical services, support services, and administrative expenses. See Core Services and Support Services, which are also listed in the Ryan White legislation as follows: Part A (2604(c), Part B (2612(b), and

Part C (2651(c).cases).

Surveillance
The ongoing and systematic collection, analysis, and interpretation of data about occurrences of a disease or health condition.

Surveillance
An ongoing, systematic process of collecting, analyzing and using data on specific health conditions and diseases (e.g., Centers for Disease Control and Prevention surveillance system for AIDS cases).

Surveillance Report
A report providing information on the number of reported cases of a disease such as AIDS, nationally and for specific sub-populations.

Syndemics
Two or more afflictions, interacting synergistically, contributing to excess burden of disease in a population (e.g. STD, viral hepatitis, and substance use). Related concepts include linked epidemics, interacting epidemics, connected epidemics, co-occurring epidemics, co-morbidities, and clusters of health-related crises.

T

Target Populations
Populations that are the focus of HIV prevention efforts because they have high rates of HIV infection and high levels of risky behavior. Groups are often identified by using a combination of behavioral risk factors and demographic characteristics

Target Population
A population to be reached through some action or intervention; may refer to groups with specific demographic or geographic characteristics.

Technical assistance (TA)
The delivery of expert programmatic, scientific, and technical support to organizations and communities in the design, implementation, and evaluation of HIV prevention interventions and programs. CDC funds a National Technical Assistance Providers' Network to assist HIV prevention planning groups in all phases of the planning process.

Technical Assistance (TA)
The delivery of practical program and technical support to the CARE Act community. TA is to assist grantees, planning bodies, and affected communities in designing, implementing, and evaluating CARE Act-supported planning and primary care service delivery systems.

Transitional Grant Area (TGA)
Geographic areas highly-impacted by HIV/AIDS that are eligible to receive Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program Part A funds To be an eligible TGA, an area must have reported at least 1,000 but fewer than 2,000 new AIDS cases in the most recent 5 years. (See also Eligible Metropolitan Area, EMA.)

Transmission Category
A grouping of disease exposure and infection routes; in relation to HIV disease, exposure groupings include, for example, men who have sex with men, injection drug use, heterosexual contact, and perinatal transmission.

U

Met/Unmet Need
A met need is a need within a specific target population for HIV prevention services that is currently being addressed through existing HIV prevention resources. These resources are available to, appropriate for, and accessible to that population. For example, a project area with an organization for African American gay, bisexual, lesbian, and transgender individuals may meet the HIV/AIDS education needs of African American men who have sex with men through its outreach, public information, and group counseling efforts. An unmet need is a requirement for HIV prevention services

within a specific target population that is not being addressed through existing HIV prevention services and activities—either because no services are available or because available services are either inappropriate for, or inaccessible to, the target population. For example, a project area lacking Spanish-language HIV counseling and testing services will not meet the needs of Latinos with limited English proficiency.

Unmet Need
The unmet need for primary health services among individuals who know their HIV status but are not receiving primary health care.

Unaligned Consumer
Consumers who do not have a conflict of interested, because they have no financial or governing interest in Ryan White Part A-funded agencies- they do not serve as staff, consultants, or board members of such agencies.

V

Viral Load
In relation to HIV, the quantity of HIV RNA in the blood. Viral load is used as a predictor of disease progression. Viral load test results are expressed as the number of copies per milliliter of blood plasma.

Viral Load Suppression
Percentage of patients, regardless of age, with a diagnosis of HIV with a HIV viral load less than 200 copies/mL at last HIV viral load test during the measurement year.

Viremia
The presence of virus in blood or blood plasma. Plasma viremia is a quantitative measurement of HIV levels similar to viral load but is accomplished by seeing how much of a patient's plasma is required to spark an HIV infection in a laboratory cell culture.

W

Western Blot
A test for detecting the specific antibodies to HIV in a person's blood. It is commonly used to verify positive EIA tests.

Wild Type Virus
HIV that has not been exposed to antiviral drugs and therefore has not accumulated mutations conferring drug resistance.