

Interventions to Reduce Sexual Risk Behaviors or Increase Protective Behaviors to Prevent Acquisition of HIV in Men Who Have Sex with Men: Individual-, Group-, and Community-Level Behavioral Interventions

Task Force Finding

Intervention Definition

Behavioral interventions to prevent acquisition of HIV in men who have sex with men (MSM) fall into three categories:

- Individual-level HIV behavioral interventions that provide relevant information, training, or support through a personal interaction between a deliverer and MSM
- Group-level HIV behavioral interventions that promote individual behavior change in situations where information and activities delivered by a trained counselor, educator, or other facilitator can be reinforced by peer pressure and support from other group members
- Community-level HIV behavioral interventions that are designed to influence individual risk behavior by changing knowledge, attitudes, and beliefs in a defined community

Task Force Finding (June 2005)*

The accompanying systematic review found strong evidence, according to Community Guide rules, that individual-level and group-level risk reduction interventions are effective in changing sexual behaviors, such as unprotected anal intercourse, associated with HIV and STD transmission. The review also found sufficient evidence that community-level risk reduction interventions are effective in changing sexual behaviors associated with HIV and STD transmission. Based on this evidence, the Community Preventive Services Task Force recommends the use of these person-to-person interventions at the individual, group, and community levels.

*From the following publication:

Task Force on Community Preventive Services. Recommendations for use of behavioral interventions to reduce the risk of sexual transmission of HIV among men who have sex with men. *Am J Prev Med* 2007;32 (4S):S36-7.

Publications

Herbst JH, Beeker C, Mathew A, et al. The effectiveness of individual-, group-, and community-level HIV behavioral risk reduction interventions for adult men who have sex with men: a systematic review. *Am J Prev Med* 2007;32(4S):S38-67.

Task Force on Community Preventive Services. Recommendations for use of behavioral interventions to reduce the risk of sexual transmission of HIV among men who have sex with men. *Am J Prev Med* 2007;32(4S):S36-7.

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