

Approach for Advancing Sexual Health in the USA" Subsequent steps have included expanding engagement of stakeholders from a broad range of perspectives; steps to evaluate a sexual health communication framework; an expanded CDC sexual health website; efforts to incorporate sexual health into key U.S. policy documents (eg, National HIV AIDS Strategy, Healthy People 2020 key indicators; National Prevention Strategy); planning a national coalition to address sexual health in the general population, adolescents/young adults, and among MSM; and development of a conceptual framework, logic model, and CDC definition of sexual health to inform a final white paper on sexual health.

Conclusions Developing and implementing a sexual health framework in a society with diverse values is challenging, but core public health prevention efforts must be enhanced by a renewed effort to address issues of sexual health and responsible sexual behaviour as an intrinsic part of human health. The use of a sexual health framework has great potential for improving public health outcomes by providing messages that are more effective at reaching the public and providers, enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of services, and facilitating societal dialogue around sexuality and sexual behaviour.

S10.3 SEXUAL HEALTH IN MSM—COORDINATION AND AGENDA SETTING IN EUROPE

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The European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) has a strong mandate with respect to surveillance of communicable disease in the European Union but a less strong mandate regarding prevention and control as this remains the responsibility of individual Member States. However, ECDC has produced several guidance documents and user-friendly toolkits to support public health decision makers and experts in the Member States to strengthen available prevention and control activities.

In the light of (1) increasing trends of STI and the continuous rise in the number of newly diagnosed HIV infections among MSM and (2) the evidence for increased high-risk sexual behaviour and the widespread sexual mixing among MSM in Western Europe, ECDC has assessed effectiveness of behavioural and psychosocial HIV/STI prevention interventions for MSM in Europe and concluded that there is an overall deficit in outcome evaluations of interventions aimed at reducing HIV/STI risk behaviour among MSM in Europe.

Following this background, ECDC has launched an additional project to include a review and assessment of the following: interventions aiming at knowledge, attitudes and beliefs and influencing psychological and social risk correlates (eg, media campaigns, interpersonal education programmes, sexual health education, safer sex promotion, detached education, outreach work, prevention counselling, peer education, community level interventions). Interventions aiming at lowering the risk of behaviour (eg, condom distribution, provision of paraphernalia for safer sex) The final report contains a compilation and summary of publications regarding outbreaks and increasing trends of HIV and STI, an update of different prevention interventions targeted at MSM as well of interventions planned and carried out within the framework of programmatic responses to the HIV epidemic as well as interventions following outbreaks or other events, a review of evaluation of different interventions and synthesis the evidence base for preventive interventions, and a synopsis of identified knowledge gaps.

Based on the review and the assessment, a platform for multi-disciplinary expert consultation will be organised in August 2011 (including epidemiologists, prevention experts, social behaviour

scientists, representatives of civil society, Member States, NGOs, and other key stakeholders) to discuss the needs and challenges for coordination at EU level.

S10.4 SEXUAL HEALTH AND PUBLIC POLICY IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN (LAC)

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Background Sexual health and its determinants are central to overall well-being and development. Thus, sexual health should be considered by public health as a critical element not only of the population's health, but also as an essential component of the health generated by the population. Regrettably, strict social norms and traditions in LAC have maintained the public discussions about sexuality in secretive and private domains. Moreover, rigid and stereotyped gender roles and social mores and values regarding sexuality have limited the incorporation of this area in the public health agendas, with the only exception of issues related to reproduction.

Methods With the purpose to initiate a process aimed at incorporated the notion of sexual health into the public agenda, in May 2000, the Pan American Health Organization, in association with the World Association for Sexology/WAS (which has since changed its name to World Association for Sexual Health), held a consultation in Guatemala in which a definition of sexual health was coined: a state of physical, psychological, and socio-cultural well-being related to sexuality. The sexual health and the quality of sexual life of individuals, families and communities and the various factors that can affect them were also discussed and avenues for action were proposed.

Since then PAHO has also been engaged in several processes to further advance the sexual health agenda in the Americas, among which the collaboration with WAS in their initiative "Sexual Health for the Millennium", the explicit incorporation of indicators on sexual health in PAHO's Strategic Plan for the Region, active support to the Mexico City Declaration, and several others intended to improve the health of members of sexual minorities and to rekindling of STI programs in LAC.

Results Preliminary empirical evidence seems to indicate that the use of a public health rationale contributes to create convergence in an open debate that would be impossible to hold if other approaches were to be used (eg, based on moral, tradition or assumptions and beliefs). The discussion should lead to the realisation of sexual health, which means adoption of healthy lifestyles and the creation of supportive environments conducive to well-being for all. It would also contribute to the reorientation of the health services to better respond to the sexual needs of individuals through the life cycle, families, and communities.

Symposium 11: Controversies in serologic testing for syphilis (sponsored by the CDC)

S11.1 PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED WITH REVERSE SEQUENCE SYPHILIS SCREENING

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CDC has long recommended screening for syphilis with a non-treponemal test such as the RPR test and, if reactive, confirming with a treponemal test. Non-treponemal antibody levels rise during