Recommendations and findings regarding three interventions to increase HIV testing and identify previously undiagnosed HIV-positive individuals through partner counseling and referral services are provided in this fact sheet. They come from the *Guide to Community Preventive Services (Community Guide)* developed by the Task Force on Community Preventive Services (Task Force). With oversight from the Task Force, a team of experts led or supported by *Community Guide* scientists conducted a systematic review to evaluate scientific evidence and provide recommendations to policy makers on these interventions.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**
- 2003 data show HIV prevalence was roughly 1 million (estimated range between 1,039,000–1,185,000).¹
- Of those living with HIV, an estimated 47% were black, 34% were white, and 17% were Hispanic.²
- Approximately one-fourth (24% –27%) of HIV-infected persons are believed to be unaware of their infection, underscoring the need to expand opportunities for HIV testing.³
- Increasing HIV testing helps reduce the spread of HIV, and links HIV-positive people with medical care and other services.
- Voluntary partner counseling and referral services are available, while partner notification interventions serve to notify partners of their exposure to HIV.
- Partner counseling and referral services (PCRS) are performed by health departments.

**SUMMARY OF TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATIONS AND FINDINGS**

*Recommended Interventions Based on Sufficient Evidence* *

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Intervention</th>
<th>Number of Studies that Qualified for Review</th>
<th>Selected Results</th>
<th>Community Guide Resources</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Partner notification by provider referral</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Partners located and notified: 67% (8 studies) Notified partners (with unknown HIV status) who were tested: 63% (6 studies) Tested partners who were HIV-positive: 20% (7 studies)</td>
<td><a href="http://www.thecommunityguide.org/hiv/partnercounseling.html">http://www.thecommunityguide.org/hiv/partnercounseling.html</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
*The categories of “strong” and “sufficient” evidence reflect the Task Force’s degree of confidence that an intervention has beneficial effects. They do not directly relate to the expected magnitude of benefits. The categorization is based on several factors, such as: study design, number of studies, and consistency of the effect across studies.

**Interventions with Insufficient Evidence to Determine Effectiveness**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Intervention</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Partner notification by contract referral</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Too few studies qualified for review</td>
<td><a href="http://www.thecommunityguide.org/hiv/partnercounseling.html">www.thecommunityguide.org/hiv/partnercounseling.html</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Partner notification by patient referral</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Too few studies qualified for review</td>
<td><a href="http://www.thecommunityguide.org/hiv/partnercounseling.html">www.thecommunityguide.org/hiv/partnercounseling.html</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**This finding does not mean that the intervention does not work. It means that when the review was conducted, there was not enough research available to determine whether or not the intervention works.**

**Online Resources**

- The Guide to Community Preventive Services: www.thecommunityguide.org
- CDC, Division of HIV/AIDS: www.cdc.gov/hiv
- National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases: www3.niaid.nih.gov

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1 Data from Center for Disease Control and Prevention: HIV and AIDS in the United States: A Picture of Today's Epidemic: http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/topics/surveillance/united_states.htm#1

2 CDC: HIV and AIDS Website: http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/topics/surveillance/united_states.htm#1

3 CDC: HIV and AIDS Website: http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/topics/surveillance/united_states.htm#1