

GLOSSARY

ABC

Prevention strategies: **A**bstain from penetrative sexual intercourse (also used to indicate delay of sexual debut); **B**e faithful (reduce the number of partners or have sexual relations with only one partner); **C**ondomize (use condoms consistently and correctly).

AIDS or HIV-RELATED ILLNESSES

AIDS is what people die of; HIV is what they are infected with. The expression AIDS-related illness can be used if the person has an AIDS diagnosis.

AIDS RESPONSE

The terms AIDS response, HIV response, response to AIDS and response to HIV are often used interchangeably to mean the response to the epidemic.

BEHAVIOUR CHANGE

There are a number of theories and models of human behaviour that guide health promotion and education efforts to encourage behaviour change, i.e. the adoption and maintenance of healthy behaviours.

CLIENT-INITIATED TESTING

Alternative term for voluntary counselling and testing (VCT). All HIV testing must be carried out under conditions of the three Cs: counselling, confidentiality and informed consent.

COMMERCIAL SEX WORK

Preferred terms are 'commercial sex' and 'the sale of sexual services'.

CONTAMINATED and NON-STERILE

Drug injecting equipment was 'contaminated' if it caused infection, that is, the equipment contained virus; 'unclean', 'dirty' or non-sterile if it carried the risk of HIV exposure: that is, it may or may not have carried the virus.

CULTURAL DOMINANCE

Familiar terms used in some cultures not be appropriate in other cultural contexts e.g. seasons of the year, avoid 'fall' or 'autumn' prefer instead last quarter of the year or instead of summer prefer mid-year. Similarly remember that different cultures celebrate the New Year at different times. Avoid terms which evoke ethnocentricity such as "AIDS has killed more people than the two world wars" (the two most extensive wars in the twentieth century didn't actually involve the whole world).

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DESCRIBING AIDS

AIDS is often referred to as a 'deadly, incurable disease', but this creates a lot of fear and only serves to increase stigma and discrimination. It has also been referred to as a 'manageable, chronic illness, much like hypertension or diabetes', but this may lead people to believe that it is not as serious as they thought. It is preferable to use the following description: AIDS, the acquired immunodeficiency syndrome, is a fatal disease caused by HIV, the human immunodeficiency virus. HIV destroys the body's ability to fight off infection and disease, which can ultimately lead to death. Currently, antiretroviral drugs slow down replication of the virus and can greatly enhance quality of life, but they do not eliminate HIV infection.

EPIDEMIC

In epidemiology, an epidemic is a disease that appears as new cases in a given human population (e.g. everyone in a given geographic area; a university, or similar population unit; or everyone of a certain age or sex, such as the children or women of a region) during a given period, at a rate that greatly exceeds what is 'expected' based on recent experience. Defining an epidemic is subjective, depending in part on what is 'expected'. An epidemic may be restricted to one locale (an outbreak), more general (an epidemic) or global (a pandemic). Common diseases that occur at a constant but relatively high rate in the population are said to be 'endemic'. Widely-known examples of epidemics include the plague of mediaeval Europe known as the Black Death, the Influenza Pandemic of 1918/1919, and the current HIV epidemic which is increasingly described as pandemic.

EPIDEMIOLOGY

The branch of medical science that deals with the study of incidence, distribution, determinants of patterns of a disease and its prevention in a population.

FAITH-BASED ORGANIZATIONS

Faith-based organization is the term preferred instead of e.g. Church, Religious Organization, as it is inclusive (non-judgmental about the validity of any expression of faith) and moves away from historical (and typically European) patterns of thought.

FEMINIZATION

Referring to the pandemic, feminization is now often used by UNAIDS and others to indicate the increasing impact that the HIV epidemic has on women. It is often linked to the idea that the number of women infected has equalled, or surpassed, the figure for men. To avoid confusion, do not use 'feminization' in its primary sense in English, 'becoming more feminine'.

FIGHT

Fight and other combatant language, e.g. struggle, battle, campaign, war—avoid using such words, unless in a direct quotation or the context of the text (possibly a poster or very short publication designed to have high impact) makes it appropriate. Alternatives include: response, measures against, initiative, action, efforts, and programme.

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GAY MEN

Write 'men who have sex with men' *unless* individuals or groups specifically self-identify as gay. The broader community of men and women and transsexuals should be described as lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered—the abbreviation LGBT is often used of groups, but UNAIDS' general preference is to spell out all terms in full.

GENDER and SEX

The term 'sex' refers to biologically determined differences, whereas the term *'gender'* refers to differences in social roles and relations between men and women. Gender roles are learned through socialization and vary widely within and between cultures. Gender roles are also affected by age, class, race, ethnicity and religion, as well as by geographical, economic and political environments. Since many languages do not have the word gender, translators may have to consider other alternatives to distinguish between these concepts.

GLOBAL FUND TO FIGHT AIDS, TUBERCULOSIS AND MALARIA

The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, established in 2001, is an independent public-private partnership. It is the largest global fund in the health domain, to date (August 2005) it has committed over US\$ 3 billion in 128 countries. The purpose of the Global Fund is to attract, manage and disburse additional resources to make a sustainable and significant contribution to mitigate the impact caused by HIV, tuberculosis and malaria in countries in need, while contributing to poverty reduction as part of the Millennium Development Goals (see below). When citing in text spell out title in full at first usage and thereafter refer to the Global Fund in preference to using the abbreviation GFATM. www.globalfundatm.org

GIPA

Acronym for 'the greater involvement of people living with or affected by HIV/AIDS'. In 1994, 42 countries prevailed upon the Paris AIDS Summit to include the Greater Involvement of People Living with HIV/AIDS Principle (GIPA) in its final declaration.

<http://www.unaids.org/publications/documents/persons/index.html>

HIGH-RISK GROUPS/POPULATIONS WITH HIGHER-RISK OF EXPOSURE TO HIV

These terms should be used with caution as they can increase stigma and discrimination. They may also lull people who don't identify with such groups into a false sense of security. 'High-risk group' also implies that the risk is contained within the group whereas, in fact, all social groups are interrelated. It is often more accurate to refer directly to 'higher risk of HIV exposure', 'sex without a condom', 'unprotected sex', or 'using non-sterile injection equipment' rather than to generalize by saying 'high-risk group'. Membership of groups does not place individuals at risk, behaviours may. In the case of married and cohabiting people, particularly women, it may be the risk behaviour of the sexual partner that places them in a 'situation of risk'. There is a strong link between various kinds of mobility and heightened risk of HIV exposure, depending on the reason for mobility and the extent to which people are removed from their social context and norms.

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HIGHLY ACTIVE ANTIRETROVIRAL THERAPY (HAART)

The name given to treatment regimens recommended by leading HIV experts to aggressively suppress viral replication and slow the progress of HIV disease. The usual HAART regimen combines three or more different drugs such as two nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors and a protease inhibitor, two NRTIs and a non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitor or other combinations. More recently, a new drug has been developed to prevent the virus from entering the cell. These treatment regimens have been shown to reduce the amount of virus so that it becomes undetectable in a patient's blood. (See <http://www.aidsinfo.nih.gov/>, a service of the US Department of Health and Human Services). The term ART (antiretroviral treatment or therapy) can be used if it clearly refers to a triple antiretroviral drug combination.

HIV-RELATED DISEASE

Symptoms of HIV-infection may occur both at the beginning of HIV infection and after immune compromise sets in, leading to AIDS. During the initial infection with HIV, when the virus comes into contact with the mucosal surface, it finds susceptible target cells and moves to lymphoid tissue where massive production of the virus ensues. This leads to a burst of high-level viraemia (virus in the bloodstream) with wide dissemination of the virus. Some people may have flu-like symptoms at this stage but these are generally referred to as symptoms of primary infection rather than HIV-related disease. The resulting immune response to suppress the virus is only partially successful and some virus escapes and may remain undetectable for months to years. Eventually high viral turnover leads to destruction of the immune system, sometimes referred to as advanced HIV infection. HIV disease is, therefore, characterized by a gradual deterioration of immune function. During the course of infection, crucial immune cells, called CD4+ T cells, are disabled and killed, and their numbers progressively decline.

HIV-INFECTED

As distinct from HIV-positive (which can sometimes be a false positive test result, especially in infants of up to 18 months of age), the term HIV-infected is usually used to indicate that evidence of HIV has been found via a blood or tissue test.

HIV-NEGATIVE

Showing no evidence of infection with HIV (e.g. absence of antibodies against HIV) in a blood or tissue test. Synonymous with seronegative. An HIV-negative person can be infected if he or she is in the window period between HIV exposure and detection of antibodies.

HIV-POSITIVE

Showing indications of infection with HIV (e.g. presence of antibodies against HIV) on a test of blood or tissue. Synonymous with seropositive. Test may occasionally show false positive results.

HUMAN IMMUNODEFICIENCY VIRUS (HIV)

The virus that weakens the immune system, ultimately leading to AIDS. Since HIV means 'human immunodeficiency virus', it is redundant to refer to the *HIV virus*.

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HUMAN IMMUNODEFICIENCY VIRUS TYPE 1 (HIV-1)

The retrovirus isolated and recognized as the etiologic (i.e., causing or contributing to the cause of a disease) agent of AIDS. HIV-1 is classified as a lentivirus in a subgroup of retroviruses. Most viruses and all bacteria, plants, and animals have genetic codes made up of DNA, which uses RNA to build specific proteins. The genetic material of a retrovirus such as HIV is the RNA itself. HIV inserts its own RNA into the host cell's DNA, preventing the host cell from carrying out its natural functions and turning it into an HIV factory.

HUMAN IMMUNODEFICIENCY VIRUS TYPE 2 (HIV-2)

A virus closely related to HIV-1 that has also been found to cause AIDS. It was first isolated in West Africa. Although HIV-1 and HIV-2 are similar in their viral structure, modes of transmission, and resulting opportunistic infections, they have differed in their geographical patterns of infection and in their propensity to progress to illness and death. Compared to HIV-1, HIV-2 is found primarily in West Africa and has a slower, less severe clinical course.

INCIDENCE

HIV incidence (sometimes referred to as cumulative incidence) is the proportion of people who have become infected with HIV during a specified period of time. UNAIDS normally refers to the number of people (of all ages) or children (0–14) who have become infected during the past year. In contrast HIV prevalence refers to the number of infections at a particular point in time (like a camera snapshot). In specific observational studies and prevention trials, the term incidence rate is used to describe incidence per hundred person years.

INJECTING DRUG USERS (IDUs)

This term is preferable to *drug addicts* or *drug abusers*, which are seen as derogatory and which often result in alienation rather than creating the trust and respect required when dealing with those who inject drugs. UNAIDS does not use the term 'intravenous drug users' because subcutaneous and intramuscular routes may be involved. It is preferable to spell out in full and not use the abbreviation.

INTERVENTION

This term conveys "doing something to someone or something" and as such undermines the concept of participatory responses. Preferred terms include programming, programme, activities, initiatives, etc.

MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS (MDGs)

Eight goals developed at the Millennium Summit in September 2000. Goal six refers specifically to AIDS but attainment of several goals is being hampered by the HIV epidemic.
<http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/>

MSM

Abbreviation for 'men who have sex with men' or 'males who have sex with males'. This term is useful as it includes not only men who self identify as 'gay' or homosexual and have sex only with other men but also bisexual men, and heterosexual men who may, nonetheless at times have sex with other men.

<http://www.unaids.org/publications/documents/specific/men/mentue2000.pdf>

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MTCT

Abbreviation for 'mother-to-child transmission' (pMTCT is the abbreviation for 'prevention of mother-to-child transmission'). Some countries prefer the term 'parent-to-child transmission' to avoid stigmatising pregnant women and to encourage male involvement in HIV prevention. Prevention of parent-to-child transmission then becomes pPTCT. <http://www.unaids.org/publications/documents/mtct/index.html>

NSP

National Strategic Plan. Other terms are national AIDS action frameworks and annual AIDS action plans. Recommend avoiding the abbreviation.

OPPORTUNISTIC INFECTIONS

Illnesses caused by various organisms, some of which usually do not cause disease in persons with healthy immune systems. Persons living with advanced HIV infection may suffer opportunistic infections of the lungs, brain, eyes and other organs. Opportunistic illnesses common in persons diagnosed with AIDS include *Pneumocystis carinii* pneumonia, cryptosporidiosis, histoplasmosis, other parasitic, viral and fungal infections; and some types of cancers.

ORPHANS

In the context of AIDS, it is preferable to say 'children orphaned by AIDS' or 'orphans and other children made vulnerable by AIDS'. Referring to these children as 'AIDS orphans' not only stigmatizes them, but also labels them as HIV-positive, which they may not necessarily be. Identifying a human being by his/her medical condition alone also shows a lack of respect for the individual. Contrary to traditional usage UNAIDS uses 'orphan' to describe a child that has lost either one or both parents.

PANDEMIC

A disease prevalent throughout an entire country, continent, or the whole world. Preferred usage is to write 'pandemic' when referring to global disease and to use 'epidemic' when referring to country or regional level. For simplicity, UNAIDS often uses 'epidemic', see EPIDEMIC.

PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV

Avoid the expression 'people living with HIV and AIDS' and the abbreviation PLWHA. With reference to those living with HIV, it is preferable to avoid certain terms: *AIDS patient* should only be used in a medical context (most of the time, a person with AIDS is not in the role of patient); the term *AIDS victim* or *AIDS sufferer* implies that the individual in question is powerless, with no control over his or her life. It is preferable to use 'people living with HIV' (PLHIV), since this reflects the fact that an infected person may continue to live well and productively for many years. Referring to people living with HIV as *innocent victims* (which is often used to describe HIV-positive children or people who have acquired HIV medically) wrongly implies that people infected in other ways are somehow deserving of punishment. It is preferable to use 'people living with HIV', or 'children with HIV'.

<http://www.unaids.org/publications/documents/persons/index.html>

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POVERTY REDUCTION STRATEGY PAPERS (PRSPs):

Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers are prepared by the member countries through a participatory process involving domestic stakeholders as well as external development partners, including the World Bank and International Monetary Fund". <http://www.imf.org/external/np/prsp/prsp.asp>

PREVALENCE:

Usually given as a percentage, HIV prevalence quantifies the proportion of individuals in a population who have HIV at a specific point in time.

UNAIDS normally reports HIV prevalence among adults, aged 15–49 years. We do not say prevalence rates because a time period of observation is not involved. 'Prevalence' is sufficient, e.g. 'the Caribbean region, with estimated adult HIV prevalence of 2.3% in 2003, is an area to focus on in the future'.

PROSTITUTION:

Use this term in respect to juvenile prostitution. Otherwise for older agegroups, use 'commercial sex' or 'the sale of sexual services'.

PROVIDER-INITIATED TESTING

Under certain circumstances, when an individual is seeking medical care, HIV testing may be offered. It may be diagnostic—patient presents with symptoms that may be attributable to HIV or has an illness associated with HIV such as tuberculosis—or it may be a routine offer to an asymptomatic person.

For example, HIV testing may be offered as part of the clinical evaluation of patients with sexually transmitted infections and pregnant women. HIV testing may be offered to all patients where HIV is prevalent. Regardless of the type of testing and the location of the offer, all HIV testing should always be carried out under conditions respecting the three Cs—confidentiality, informed consent and counselling.

Testing without counselling has little impact on behaviour and is a significant lost opportunity for assisting people to avoid acquiring or transmitting infection. <http://www.unaids.org/en/Policies/Testing/>

PTCT

Parent-to-child transmission. A term preferred in some countries (see MTCT).

RISK

Avoid using the expressions 'groups at risk' or 'risk groups'. People with behaviours which may place them at higher risk of exposure to HIV do not necessarily identify themselves with any particular group.

Risk refers to risk of exposure to HIV which may be high as a result of specific behaviours or situations. Examples of the latter include risk in discordant couples unaware of their serostatus and recipients of unscreened blood or blood products. Behaviours, not memberships, place individuals in situations in which they may be exposed to HIV. Some populations may be at increased risk of exposure to HIV.

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SAFE SEX

Use by preference the term *safer sex* because *safe sex* may imply complete safety.

Sex is 100% safe from HIV transmission when both partners know their HIV-negative serostatus and neither partner is in the window period between HIV exposure and appearance of HIV antibodies detectable by the HIV test.

In other circumstances, reduction in the numbers of sexual partners and correct and consistent use of male or female condoms can reduce the risk of HIV transmission. The term *safer sex* more accurately reflects the idea that choices can be made and behaviours adopted to reduce or minimise risk.

SECOND GENERATION SURVEILLANCE

Built upon a country's existing data collection system, second generation HIV surveillance systems are designed to be adapted and modified to meet the specific needs of differing epidemics.

For example, HIV surveillance in a country with a predominantly heterosexual epidemic will differ radically from surveillance in a country where HIV infection is mostly found among men who have sex with men (MSM) or injecting drug users (IDUs).

This form of surveillance aims to improve the quality and diversity of information sources by developing and implementing standard and rigorous study protocols, using appropriate methods and tools.

SEROPREVALENCE

As related to HIV infection, the proportion of persons who have serologic evidence of HIV infection, i.e. antibodies to HIV at any given time.

SEROSTATUS

A generic term that refers to the presence/absence of antibodies in the blood. Often, the term refers to HIV antibody status.

SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTION (STI)

Also called venereal disease (VD) (an older public health term) or sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) a term that does not convey the concept of asymptomatic sexually transmitted infections.

Sexually transmitted infections are spread by the transfer of organisms from person to person during sexual contact. In addition to the 'traditional' STIs (syphilis and gonorrhoea), the spectrum of STIs now includes HIV, which causes AIDS; *Chlamydia trachomatis*; human papilloma virus (HPV) which can cause cervical or anal cancer; genital herpes; chancroid; genital mycoplasmas; hepatitis B; trichomoniasis; enteric infections; and ectoparasitic diseases (i.e., diseases caused by organisms that live on the outside of the host's body).

The complexity and scope of sexually transmitted infections have increased dramatically since the 1980s; more than 20 organisms and syndromes are now recognized as belonging in this category.

¹ Compiled from UNAIDS Editors Notes, May 2006 and Kaiser Media Manual on HIV/AIDS, 2005

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SEX WORKER

This term has been widely used in preference to 'prostitute'¹. The term 'sex worker' is intended to be non-judgmental, focusing on the conditions under which sexual services are sold. Alternate formulations are: 'women/men/people who sell sex'. Clients of sex workers may then also be called 'men/women/people who buy sex'.

The term 'commercial sex worker' is no longer used, primarily because it is considered to be saying something twice over in different words (i.e. a tautology).

SHARING

When referring to injecting equipment we **do not** use the word 'sharing' in UNAIDS publications. Instead, write 'use of contaminated injecting equipment' if you are considering HIV transmission and 'use of non-sterile injecting equipment' if you are considering risk of HIV exposure. This is because injecting drug users uncommonly 'share' their needles in the usually understood sense of the word—with the exception of sexual partners who inject together.

In the absence of needle exchanges, people may use discarded needles (which are anonymous) or bargain away drugs for a needle or are injected by professional injectors. They do not regard this as sharing. Neither does 'sharing' distinguish between needle borrowing and needle lending; this is important because (usually) different dynamics are at work. A person aware of his or her HIV-positive status may try to avoid lending, but may continue to borrow or vice versa.

Also 'sharing' has positive connotations, e.g. sharing a meal in injecting drug use communities (and wider communities also) which are not appropriate in writing about HIV risk.

STIGMA and DISCRIMINATION

As the traditional meaning of stigma is a mark or sign of disgrace or discredit, the correct term would be stigmatization and discrimination; however, 'stigma and discrimination' has been accepted in everyday speech and writing, and may be treated as plural.

SURVEILLANCE

The ongoing and systematic collection, analysis, and interpretation of data about a disease or health condition. Collecting blood samples for the purpose of surveillance is called serosurveillance.

TARGET

This term is acceptable as a noun referring to an objective or goal. Avoid using as a verb for example "targeting men who have sex with men..." as this conveys non-participatory, top-down approaches. Preferred alternative terms include: "programmes for and by men who have sex with men"; "engaging men who have sex with men in programming"; and "programmes involving men who have sex with men in the response to the epidemic", etc.

¹ Note: if the terms 'prostitute' or 'prostitution' are found in the official name of an organization or the title of a publication, they should not be changed.

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TESTING

HIV testing is pivotal to both prevention and treatment interventions. The 3Cs' continue to be underpinning principles for the conduct of all HIV testing of individuals; testing must be: *confidential*; accompanied by *counselling*; only be conducted with informed *consent*, meaning that it is both informed and voluntary. A full policy statement is available.

<http://www.unaids.org/en/Policies/Testing/default.asp>

TRIPS AGREEMENT

Trade-Related Intellectual Property Rights Agreement, supervised by the World Trade Organization, provides certain flexibilities to low and middle income countries with respect to pharmaceutical patent protection. http://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/trips_e/t_agm0_e.htm

UNAIDS CO SPONSORS

The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) has the following ten Cosponsors, listed in the following order (according to UN rules):

the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) <http://www.unhcr.ch>

the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) (<http://www.unicef.org>)

the World Food Programme (WFP) <http://www.wfp.org>

the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) (<http://www.undp.org/>)

the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) (<http://www.unfpa.org/>)

the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)
(<http://www.unodc.org/odccp/index.html>)

the International Labour Organization (ILO) (<http://www.ilo.org/>)

the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
(<http://www.unesco.org/>)

the World Health Organization (WHO) (<http://www.who.int/en/>)

the World Bank (<http://www.worldbank.org/>)

UN Reference Group on HIV Prevention and Care among IDU in Developing and Transitional Countries:

www.idurefgroup.org

UNAIDS Reference Group on HIV and Human Rights:

www.unaids.org/en/in+focus/hiv_aids_human_rights/reference+group.asp

UNAIDS Reference Group on Estimates, Modelling and Projections:

www.epidem.org

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UNAIDS Reference Group on Prevention:

www.unaids.org

UNIVERSAL PRECAUTIONS

Standard infection control practices to be used universally in healthcare settings to minimize the risk of exposure to pathogens, e.g. the use of gloves, barrier clothing, masks and goggles (when anticipating splatter) to prevent exposure to tissue, blood and body fluids.

VCT

Abbreviation for 'voluntary counselling and testing'. All testing should be conducted in an institutional environment which has adopted the 'Three Cs': confidentiality, informed consent, and counselling.

<http://www.unaids.org/publications/documents/health/counselling/index.html>

VERTICAL TRANSMISSION

Sometimes used to indicate transmission of a pathogen such as HIV from mother to foetus or baby during pregnancy or birth but may be used to refer to the genetic transmission of traits.