



UCSF AIDS Health Project

Training Program http://ucsf-ahp.org/HTML2/services_providers_training.html

Online Resources for the Basic I

HIV Reporting Laws: Points for Clients and Counselors to Remember

Points For Clients To Know:

HIV names reporting applies to confidential testing. The name of a confirmed HIV-positive client is not reported beyond the state Department of Health Services, Office of AIDS (CDPH/OA); CDPH/OA report to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) only that a new case of HIV has been diagnosed.

HIV is currently reportable by name in at least 43 states. California decided to transition to names reporting because the coded reporting system proved burdensome and inaccurate, and because federal funding relies on surveillance of HIV by name.

Submission of full social security number is by consent of the client. Full SSNs are being collected so that cases can be distinguished one from the other and not be reported more than once. Clients may presently continue to test confidentially even without giving their social security numbers.

Information obtained is kept confidential and secure as it has always been. Compiled data is kept in a secure, locked location, and the HIV/AIDS Case Registry System is on an electronic server that is never connected to the Internet and is accessible only to authorized personnel. According to the Office of AIDS, the case registry has never had a breach of confidentiality.

Anonymous HIV testing is available to clients who have concerns about HIV reporting by name.

Having better information on HIV trends, risk factors and demographics will allow us to better target and evaluate education and prevention efforts. It will also help us to more accurately understand the scope of the epidemic and will impact future funding for those in California who are living with HIV.

Points For Counselors To Remember:

HIV reporting by name applies to confidential testing.

This is a dual reporting system. Both the laboratory AND the HIV Confidential Test site report the same case to the Local Health Department (LHD) surveillance.

The provider (a designated staff member at the HIV test site) will complete an HIV Case Report Form (which includes the lab slip, the CIF and HIV reporting information such as a full name and social security number).

The CTS consent-to-test form includes a space for clients to write in their social security numbers and contact information. Allow clients to complete the consent form, then assess client concerns about disclosure if SSN or contact information is not provided.

If the client doesn't wish to disclose a name, that client can't test in a confidential test site and must be referred to an anonymous site.

Remain client-centered and neutral about HIV reporting processes when counseling clients in CTS facilities. Offer options, not opinions.

Refer clients to anonymous testing services if this method is more comfortable than confidential HIV testing.

Alternative Test Site clinics and other anonymous testing sites are exempt from reporting by name. It is important to note that when a client with HIV does seek medical treatment (for example, viral load or CD4 cell count testing), that client's name will be forwarded to the CDPH/OA at that time.

Local surveillance staff will be responsible to provide test sites with specific guidance in local procedure and programmatic changes.

Additional information about HIV reporting guidelines in California are available on the CDPH/OA website:

<http://www.dhs.ca.gov/PS/ooa/HIVReporting/Default.htm>