

Rhode Island Comprehensive HIV Prevention Plan 2006 Update

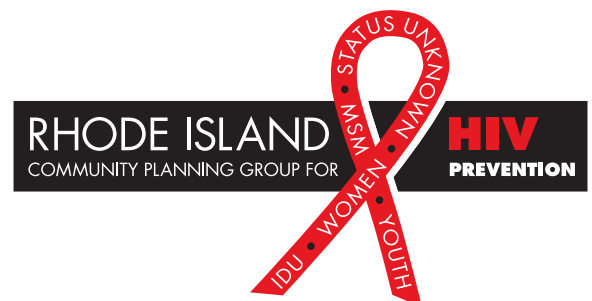
2005 was a year of **GROWTH** and **ACCOMPLISHMENT** for the RICPG, both internally and publicly. The RICPG increased participation levels and improved member orientation, while at the same time raising its public profile and engagement.

Notable Accomplishments in 2005

- >> **Successful recruitment efforts:** The RICPG successfully recruited five new members in 2005 and doubled membership in its Task Forces. The recruitment of youth, identified as a primary goal, was also successful—the Youth Task Force now has nine members, including a youth co-chair.
- >> **Revamped member orientation:** In June, the RICPG's consultant for capacity-building, in coordination with its facilitator, conducted a comprehensive, very well-received orientation for new members. The orientation provided useful and new information even for longtime RICPG members.
- >> **Inaugural RICPG conference:** On February 28, the RICPG mobilized all its resources to host a conference. More than 150 people from across the state attended the full-day event. Among the activities were interactive workshops on the RICPG's priority populations; provocative presentations by speakers, including a keynote address by Larry Kessler of the AIDS Action Committee of Massachusetts; the unveiling of a professionally designed, accessible Executive Summary of the RICPG's five-year comprehensive HIV prevention plan; and a ceremony to honor Unsung Heroes who have made a significant contribution to HIV prevention and treatment in Rhode Island. The workshops allowed the RICPG to hear directly from the community. After the conference, the RICPG mailed conference outcomes to all participants.
- >> **Red Ribbon Rally:** On November 29, nearly 150 community members attended the 2005 Red Ribbon Rally at the Providence Black Repertory Company. Hosted by Hot 106 personalities Baby J and Tessa, the Rally featured performances by Project Ujima—a youth education group that raises awareness on HIV and AIDS—and the Benton Brothers. In attendance were Providence Mayor David Cicilline, who issued a proclamation to the RICPG; Lt. Governor Charles Fogarty; Senator Juan Pichardo; Senator Elizabeth Roberts; and Department of Health Director Dr. David Gifford. In conjunction with the Rally, more than a dozen local businesses were recruited to offer a ten percent discount to individuals wearing red ribbons.

Outlook for 2006

As 2006 begins, the Rhode Island Department of Health, RICPG membership, and RICPG consultants are confident that the RICPG's increasingly efficient and participatory structure and enhanced visibility will allow the group to respond to upcoming challenges, including the critical task of re-evaluating priorities for target populations and interventions.



DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF NEWLY DIAGNOSED HIV CASES IN RHODE ISLAND, 1 JANUARY 2000 TO 31 DECEMBER 2004

DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTIC	NEWLY DIAGNOSED CASES OF HIV					
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	TOTAL
GENDER						
Male	88 (69.8%)	109 (72.1%)	105 (71.4%)	103 (76.9%)	122 (69.0%)	527 (71.7%)
Female	38 (30.1%)	42 (27.8%)	42 (28.5%)	31 (23.1%)	55 (31.0%)	208 (28.3%)
TOTAL	126 (100%)	151 (100%)	147 (100%)	134 (100%)	177 (100%)	735 (100%)
AGE GROUP						
<13	*	*	*	*	*	*
13-19	*	5 (3.3%)	5 (3.4%)	*	*	22 (2.9%)
20-29	27 (21.4%)	32 (21.1%)	35 (23.8%)	28 (20.9%)	36 (20.3%)	158 (21.5%)
30-39	57 (45.2%)	60 (39.7%)	57 (38.7%)	53 (39.5%)	67 (37.8%)	294 (40.0%)
40-49	31 (24.6%)	41 (27.1%)	41 (27.8%)	32 (23.8%)	60 (34.0%)	205 (27.9%)
50+	7 (5.5%)	13 (8.6%)	9 (6.1%)	17 (12.7%)	10 (5.6%)	56 (7.6%)
TOTAL	126 (100%)	151 (100%)	147 (100%)	134 (100%)	177 (100%)	735 (100%)
RACE/ETHNICITY						
White	45 (35.7%)	54 (35.7%)	64 (43.5%)	43 (32.1%)	78 (44.0%)	284 (38.6%)
Black	38 (30.1%)	50 (33.1%)	50 (34.0%)	50 (37.3%)	45 (25.4%)	233 (31.7%)
Hispanic	38 (30.1%)	46 (30.4%)	33 (22.4%)	38 (28.4%)	50 (28.2%)	205 (27.9%)
Asian	5 (3.9%)	*	*	*	*	11 (1.5%)
Native American	*	*	*	*	*	*
TOTAL	126 (100%)	151 (100%)	147 (100%)	134 (100%)	177 (100%)	735 (100%)
RISK FACTOR						
MSM	31 (24.6%)	48 (31.7%)	43 (29.2%)	45 (33.6%)	58 (32.7%)	225 (30.6%)
IDU	27 (21.4%)	25 (16.5%)	25 (17.0%)	14 (9.7%)	23 (13.0%)	114 (15.5%)
MSM/IDU	*	*	*	5 (3.7%)	5 (2.8%)	14 (1.9%)
Heterosexual Contact	26 (20.6%)	33 (21.8%)	22 (14.9%)	26 (19.4%)	36 (20.3%)	143 (19.4%)
Transfusion	*	*	*	*	*	6 (0.8%)
Hemophilia/ Coagulation Disorder	*	*	*	*	*	*
No Risk Specified	40 (31.7%)	43 (28.4%)	55 (37.4%)	42 (32.1%)	51 (29.0%)	231 (31.4%)
TOTAL	126 (100%)	151 (100%)	147 (100%)	134 (100%)	177 (100%)	735 (100%)
COUNTY OF RESIDENCE						
Homeless	*	*	*	*	*	*
Bristol	*	*	*	*	*	11 (1.5%)
Kent	9 (7.1%)	10 (6.6%)	7 (4.7%)	*	15 (8.4%)	45 (6.1%)
Newport	5 (3.9%)	*	6 (4.1%)	*	6 (3.4%)	25 (3.4%)
Providence	107 (84.9%)	129 (85.4%)	126 (85.7%)	122 (91.0%)	146 (82.5%)	630 (85.7%)
Washington	*	6 (3.9%)	*	*	8 (4.5%)	23 (3.1%)
TOTAL	126 (100%)	151 (100%)	147 (100%)	134 (100%)	177 (100%)	735 (100%)

* Fewer than five cases

NOTE: Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

◀ HIV in Rhode Island

Between 1 January 2000 and 31 December 2004, 735 newly diagnosed HIV cases were reported to the Rhode Island Department of Health. This number represents a minimum estimate of HIV infection, as it does not include either HIV-infected individuals who do not get tested or those who get tested anonymously. The table to the left provides a breakdown of the cases by demographic characteristic and year of diagnosis.

AIDS in Rhode Island ▶

As of 31 December 2004, a total of 2,609 cases of AIDS had been diagnosed in Rhode Island residents. Of those cases, the majority were males (76%), between 30 and 39 years of age (45%), and White (56%). Collectively, intravenous drug use (IDU) was the most common mode of exposure.

Since 1993, the incidence—or the number of new cases of AIDS per year—and deaths among AIDS cases have decreased dramatically, coinciding with the widespread use of more effective treatments and early HIV diagnosis. During this time period, AIDS incidence has decreased by 56% (from 317 new cases in 1993 to 139 new cases in 2004). At the same time, the AIDS prevalence—or the total number of AIDS cases among people living in Rhode Island—has increased more than six-fold (from 203 cases in 1993 to 1,250 cases in 2004).

The table to the right provides a detailed demographic profile of all AIDS cases diagnosed from 1982 to 2004 in Rhode Island.

DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF AIDS CASES IN RHODE ISLAND, 1982–2004

DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTIC	AIDS CASES
GENDER	
Male	1,989 (76%)
Female	620 (24%)
TOTAL	2,609 (100%)
AGE GROUP	
<5	21 (1%)
5-12	6 (<1%)
13-19	11 (<1%)
20-29	397 (15%)
30-39	1,172 (45%)
40-49	765 (29%)
50+	237 (9%)
TOTAL	2,609 (100%)
RACE/ETHNICITY	
Hispanic-All Races	468 (18%)
American Indian/Alaska Native	22 (1%)
Asian	*
Legacy Asian/Pacific Islander	13 (1%)
African American	648 (25%)
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	*
White	1,456 (56%)
TOTAL	2,609 (100%)
RISK FACTOR	
MSM	908 (35%)
IDU	923 (36%)
MSM/IDU	133 (5%)
Hemophilia/Coagulation Disorder	38 (1%)
Heterosexual Contact	537 (21%)
Transfusion/Transplant	30 (1%)
**Mother with HIV	26 (1%)
No Risk Specified	14 (<1%)
TOTAL	2,609 (100%)

NOTE: Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

* Fewer than five cases

** Pediatric Transmission Modes



Task Force Accomplishments

Men engaging in unprotected sex with men and/or men engaging in unprotected sex with men and women (MSM)

In 2005, the **MSM Task Force:**

- >> Reviewed last year's plan and used it as a guide for continued work.
- >> Added three new members.
- >> Recommended that a person with a substance abuse background be recruited to the full RICPG due to the recent reports linking crystal meth, HIV, and MSM. As a result, a private consultant who has a long history of working with the R.I. Division of Substance Abuse joined the RICPG in July 2005.
- >> Reported monthly to the RICPG on activities.
- >> Used meeting notes, results of assessments, and "Next Step" suggestions from the February 2005 conference breakout session as the basis for the RICPG Comprehensive Plan update.

Injecting drug users and other substance users and their partners (IDU)

In 2005, the **IDU Task Force:**

- >> Incorporated information gathered during the 2005 conference into the working plan.
- >> Gathered additional information about health insurance reimbursement of opiate addiction.
- >> Attended a meeting of the Rhode Island Communities for Addiction Recovery Efforts (RICAREs) to invite input.
- >> Drafted a version of guiding principles based on the outcomes of the recommendations of Join Together, a national policy panel on "ending discrimination against people with alcohol and drug problems."

Women engaging in unprotected sex with men (WOMEN)

In 2005, the **WOMEN Task Force:**

- >> Developed a participant survey for women accessing HIV services to give providers feedback on how to better service women.
- >> Piloted the survey tool with both constituents and providers and documented feedback.
- >> Planned to share the survey tool and findings with RICPG for input.
- >> Planned a Task Force retreat.
- >> Planned for implementation of the survey tool and data interpretation.
- >> Developed recommendations for presentation to the RICPG.

Youth engaging in unprotected sex and/or alcohol and other drug use (YOUTH)

In 2005, the **YOUTH Task Force:**

- >> Recruited a youth Task Force co-chair and recruited a youth to serve as a member of the full RICPG. The youth co-chair recently received the Youth Community Involvement Award from Destiny House.
- >> Increased membership to nine, developed youth recruitment and orientation/training strategies, and identified a regular meeting space accessible to youth.
- >> Recommended increasing parent and provider training opportunities in the area of youth cultural competence. The Task Force sponsored a youth cultural competency training for providers and plans to offer a follow-up that will reach out to parents as well.

Rhode Island Community Planning Group Members

Stephanie Howie, *Community Co-Chair*
 Paul G. Loberti, Jr., *Department of Health Co-Chair*
 Donna (Dee-Dee) Williams, *Community Co-Chair*

Eleanor Brown-McSwain
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