

HIV Counseling, Testing, and Referral (CTR) Training

Through a contract with the N.C. Communicable Disease Branch, Whetstone Consultations provides training to local health departments and community-based organizations that provide HIV counseling and testing services to their clients. Many organizations in N.C. have utilized the skills-building activities provided through this training to prepare for counseling and testing a wide range of people for HIV infection.

Participants identify CDC and N.C. priorities and policies for providing HIV testing and prevention counseling. They identify their own boundaries to sharing personal information and use small groups to discuss the subjective nature of risk-taking. Students learn components of an HIV prevention counseling model and practice integrating those components into their counseling skills. They are introduced to N.C. laws regarding HIV and to various HIV testing methods. Students learn and incorporate pertinent information about both HIV and Hepatitis B & C into their counseling.

Public health nurses who plan to take the Adult Physical Assessment and Sexually Transmitted Disease Course to become STD Enhanced Role Registered Nurses must participate in this training as a pre-requisite. This training is required of all local and state-funded Disease Intervention Specialists (DIS). To remain in compliance with Agreement Addenda 536/541, local health departments must employ at least two staff members that have attended the training.

This 2-day training is typically offered 10 times a year at various locations across the state. It is provided free of charge for staff of local health departments and designated state of North Carolina employees. Contact hours are available. For information about training objectives, registration, available dates and locations, see www.whetstoneconsultations.com.

Linking HIV Testing (to HIV treatment) to HIV Prevention: The HIV Prevention Trials Network (HPTN) 052 Study

At least as early as the mid-1990s, HIV experts suggested that anti-retroviral treatment of HIV infected persons would result in fewer transmissions of the infection to others. Between April 2005 and May 2010, HPTN 052 led by protocol chair Myron Cohen, M.D., director of the Institute for Global Health and Infectious Diseases at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill demonstrated through a large randomized clinical trial that antiretroviral therapy reduced the sexual transmission of HIV in HIV-serodiscordant couples by more than 96%.

For more information about HPTN 052, see

http://www.hptn.org/web%20documents/PressReleases/HPTN052PressReleaseFINAL5_12_118am.pdf