

4.2.1.4 Blood Collection Centers, HIV Prevalence in Blood Donors. All blood donated for transfusion is screened for HIV.

Stated Objectives and Overview: Data from blood banks are widely available regarding the level of HIV infection among blood donors. In addition, CDC collaborates with the American National Red Cross and major blood collection centers to evaluate donation incentives and risk patterns of HIV-infected donors through detailed interviews and follow-up. These data from individual areas can be compared with patterns observed nationally.

Target Population: Approximately 8 million people donate about 13 million units of blood annually in the United States, making blood donors the largest group in the United States that tested is for HIV.

Strengths: Given the size of the blood donor population and the fact that persons in the traditional risk behavior groups are deferred from donating blood, new or emerging patterns of HIV transmission (e.g., heterosexual transmission), may be reflected by a change in HIV-risk profile and seroprevalence rates among blood donors. The blood donor study conducted in selected areas provides a means to evaluate donor deferral strategies and to learn more of the determinants of donation behavior among seropositive donors.

Limitations: This serosurveillance system targets a population with HIV prevalence rates that are lower than those of the general population because of donor deferral policies.

4.2.1.5 HIV Screening of Job Corps Entrants. The Job Corps screens applicants for HIV infection. Data from this program can be used to assess the extent of HIV infection among disadvantaged youth. Aggregate data (without names) are available from the Job Corps for applicants from local areas.

Stated Objectives and Overview: The Job Corps is a residential occupational training program for urban and rural disadvantaged youth ages 16 to 21 years. Since 1987, approximately 60,000 Job Corps entrants have been screened each year for HIV. This training program is administered by the U.S. Department of Labor at 106 sites throughout the country. The Job Corps program has no exclusions based on sexual orientation, hemophilia, or past use of drugs; however, current drug addiction is an excludable condition. Job Corps serologic data are used to assess the seroprevalence and trends of HIV infection among economically and educationally disadvantaged adolescents and young adults in the United States.

Target Population: Economically and educationally disadvantaged adolescents and young adults ages 16 to 21.

Strengths: This is the only national HIV screening program for adolescents and young adults who are not excluded based on sexual orientation or history of drug use. With specific limitations, inferences from Job Corps screening data to the population of economically and educationally disadvantaged youth can be made (e.g., estimating the number of HIV-infected disadvantaged and out-of-school youth). Job Corps screening data also provide information on the relationship between low socioeconomic status and HIV infection.

Limitations: Adolescents and young adults who continue to use injecting drugs, who are incarcerated, or who are involved in prostitution or other illegal activities are excluded from the Job Corps. As a result of this exclusion, Job Corps screening seroprevalence are most likely underestimates of the prevalence of HIV infection among youth at highest risk. Job Corps screening data do not include student risk factor information, limiting the ability to detect changes in enrollment patterns and analyze trends in seroprevalence.

4.2.1.6 HIV Screening of Civilian Applicants for Military Service. All applicants for military service are screened for HIV infection. Aggregate data (without names) are available from CDC for each state.

Stated Objectives and Overview: Since October of 1985, all persons applying for active duty or reserve military service, the service academies, and the Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) have been screened for HIV infection as part of their entrance medical evaluation. Military applicants have been interviewed by recruiting officials about drug use and homosexual activity--both of which have been grounds for exclusion from military service--before referral for medical evaluation. CDC receives statistical data on a quarterly basis from the Department of Defense in order to describe trends in seroprevalence among adolescents and adults who apply for military service.

Target Population: Civilian applicants for military service--primarily between the ages of 17 and 29.