



HIV PREVENTION COUNSELING: THE FACTS

Partner Services (Offered by all Health Departments)

What are Partner Services (PS)?

- Services that should be offered to persons infected with **HIV or other sexually transmitted infections (STIs)** and their sex or needle-sharing partners
- **Services include:**
 - Testing
 - Linkage to care & Treatment
 - Counseling and Education
 - Resources and Referrals
- **Priority Cases:**
 - HIV
 - Syphilis
 - Gonorrhea in pregnancy



Benefits of Partner Services

- Persons infected with HIV and/or STIs
 - Assistance with confidentially notifying exposed partners
- Exposed partners
 - Getting informed of exposure to HIV/STD, along with referrals to testing, treatment and counseling
- Community
 - Earlier identification and treatment to undiagnosed cases of HIV/STDs
 - Decreased transmission



Background

- 1940s - Contact Tracing
- 1986- HIV testing and partner notification services are offered in all STI clinics statewide
- 2006- Some community-based organizations that conduct HIV testing begin eliciting partner information from patients with HIV



Principles of Partner Services

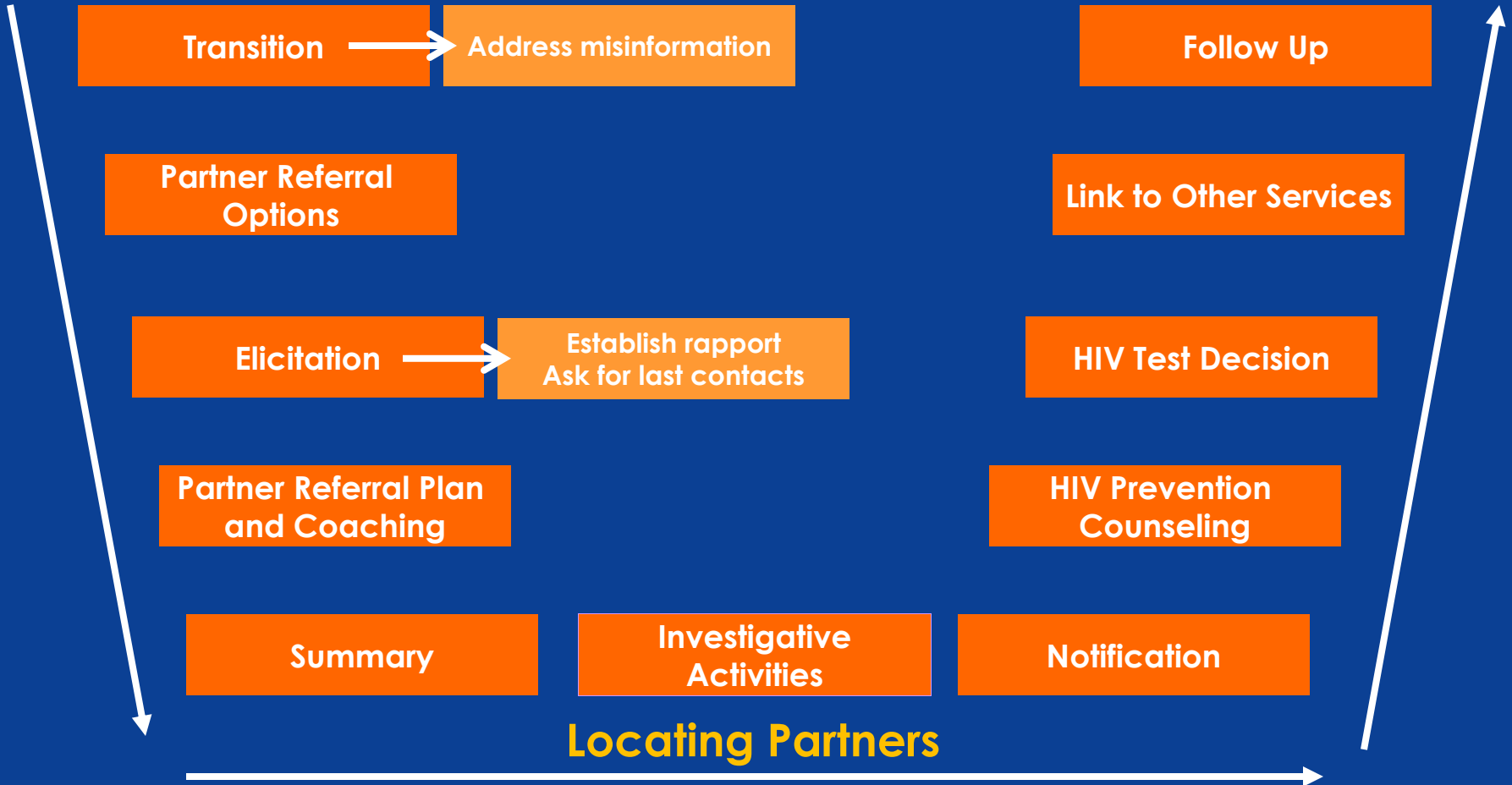
- **Client-centered**
 - Tailored services
- **Confidential**
 - The identity of the patient is never revealed to potentially exposed partners, and no information from the exposed partners is brought back to the original patient.
- **Voluntary and non-coercive**
 - For both the patient and potentially infected partners
- **Comprehensive and integrative**
 - Part of an array of services
- **Free, accessible and available to all**
 - Regardless of where people are tested or receive a diagnosis, and whether they were tested confidentially or anonymously



Steps in Partner Services

Working with HIV+ Client

Notifying & Working with Partners



Who Notifies Partners?

Community Health Specialist

Disease Intervention Specialist (DIS)

HIV/STD Health Counselor

Epi Rep

These health department employees do the door-to-door activities.



Who are Disease Intervention Specialists?

Aka the people that show up at your house to find out who you had sex with!

DIS follow up with all cases of **HIV, syphilis, and gonorrhea in pregnancy.**

DIS provide:

- Education
- Treatment
- Risk reduction
- Linkage to care
- Resources and referrals



DIS and Medical Providers

- DIS will contact the provider's office where patient was originally tested to obtain background information
 - Contact info (address, phone number, e-mail, emergency contact)
 - Symptoms
 - Treatment provided
 - Testing history
 - Risk info (partners, drug use)



DIS and Patients

- DIS interview is **voluntary**, and most patients agree to it
- DIS will contact patient by whatever means available (phone calls, texts, e-mail, home visits, work visits) and try to set up a time to meet in person
- DIS offer flexibility when meeting (health department, home, doctor's office, Starbucks, etc.)

*Ideally, DIS meets with a patient within a few days of his/her diagnosis: **TIMELINESS is a factor in reducing disease transmission.***



Effectiveness of Partner Services

- Voluntary testing – **1% positivity**
- Elicited partners – **12-20% positivity**

Partner Services Works!

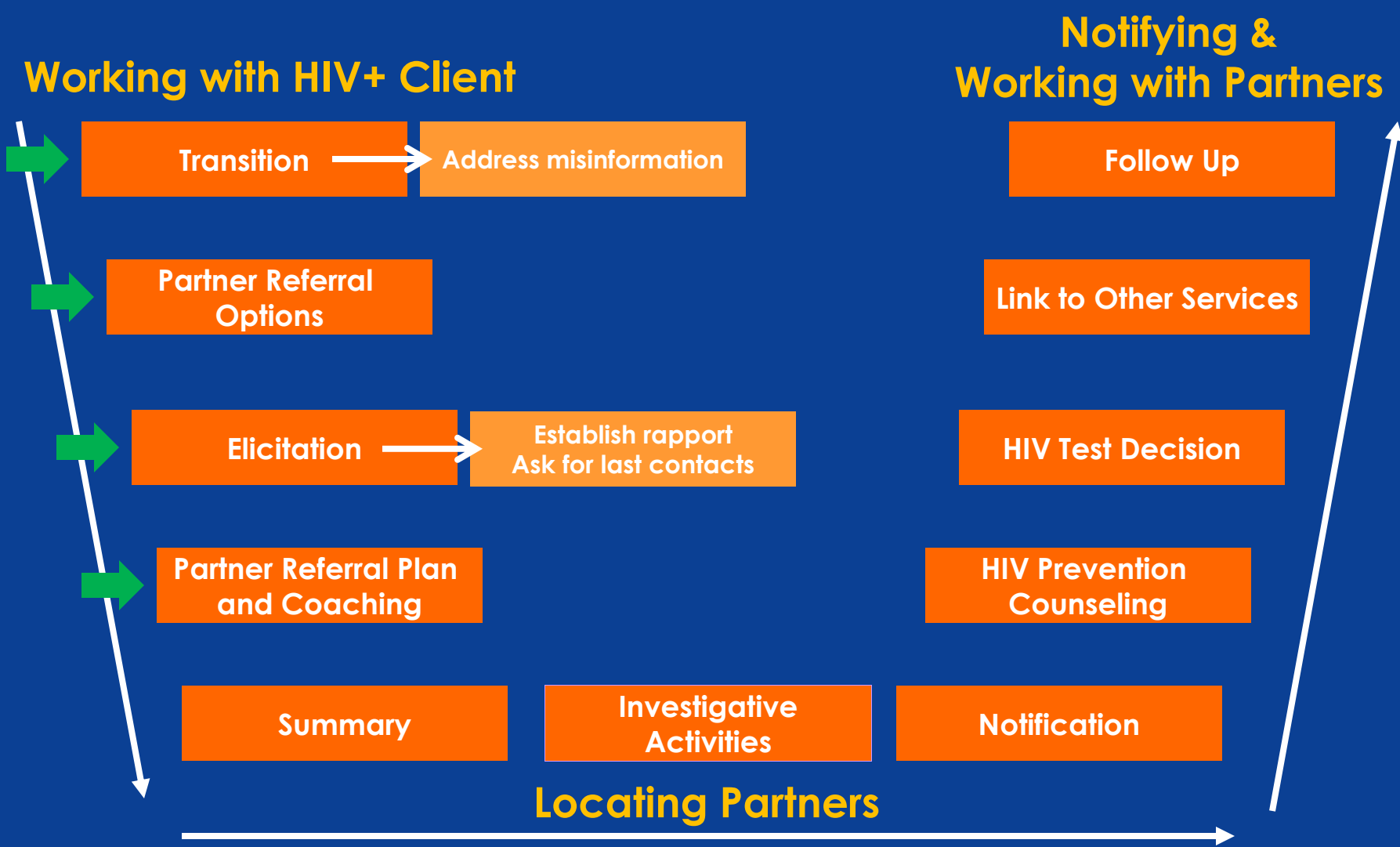


What about everyone else?

- Testers
- Clinicians
- Case managers
- Mental health providers
- Substance use providers
- Outreach workers



Steps in Partner Services



TYPES OF DISCLOSURE ASSISTANCE

- **Anonymous Third Party Notification** – a professional notifies your partners. You provide identifying and locating information only. Your name and identity are never shared with your partners. **Most people choose this method as it is the only method that provides anonymity.**
- **Dual Disclosure** – you notify your partner in the presence of and with the assistance of a counselor. The counselor supports you during the process and can answer questions from your partner.
- **Self Disclosure** – you notify your partners and bring them in or encourage them to come in for testing and treatment. A counselor will help you plan and practice what you are going to say. If your partners don't come in for services, however, you will then be asked to identify them so the health department can contact them. Some people prefer self disclosure **but it does not protect your identity** and you have to deal with the possible negative reactions from your partners.



Potential Obstacles

- Invasion of privacy
- Concerns about confidentiality
- Concerns about impact on relationships
- Partner violence concerns
- Distrust of public health system
- Requires a skilled counselor
- Patients have anonymous partners
- Patients forget!



In-Spot Partner Notification System

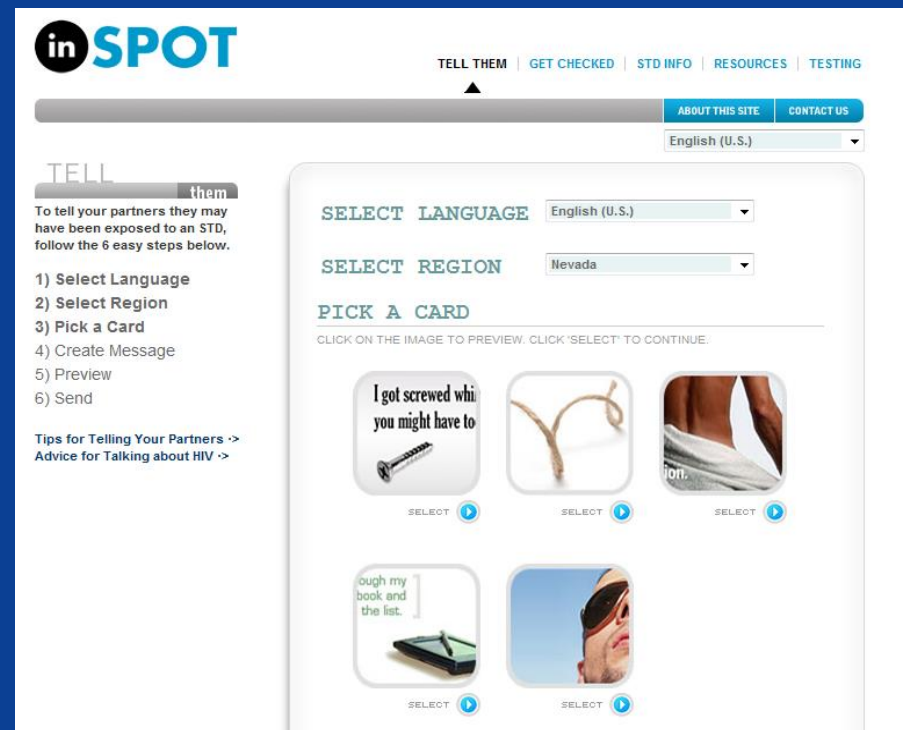
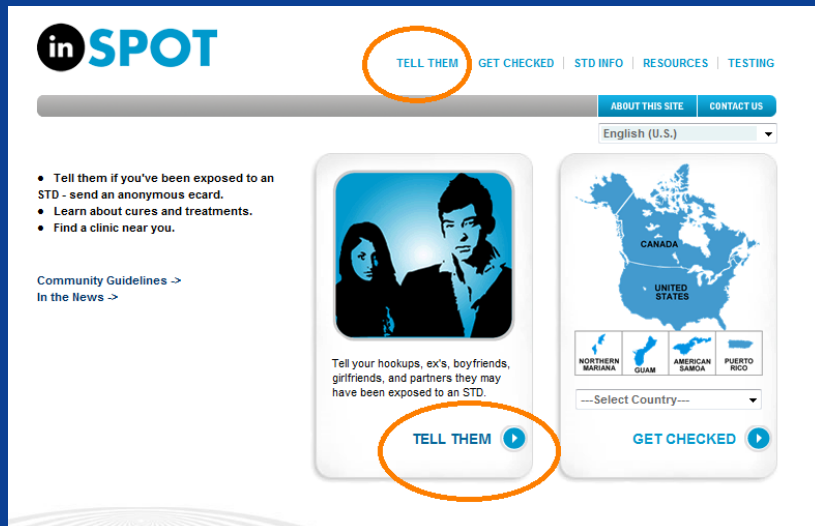
www.inspot.org

- You can send electronic postcards anonymously or from your email address to tell partners they may have been exposed to HIV or an STI.
- No personally-identifiable information is collected or shared with any public or private agency
- *Not meant to replace the use of traditional partner services referrals*

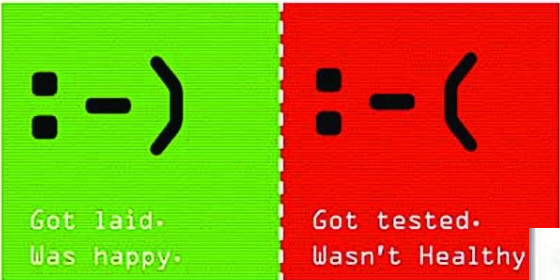


In-Spot Partner Notification System

1. Go to www.inspot.org
2. Click *TELL THEM*
3. Select Language
4. Select Region
5. Pick A Card
6. Create, Preview, Send



In-Spot Partner Notification System




Got laid.
Was happy.

Got tested.
Wasn't Healthy

Better get your own STD checkup soon.

Personal message goes here.

This is from a friend at **inSPOT** the [STD] Internet Notification Service for Partners Or Tricks.



It's not what you brought to the party, it's what you left with.

cked

e for Partners Or Tricks.

e-Card from a concerned friend re: your health - via inSPOT
getchecked@inspot.org

To:



I got screwed while screwing,
you might have too.

Get checked for HIV if you haven't recently. www.inspot.org

Whoops! I'm sorry but please take this seriously.

This is from a friend at **inSPOT** the [STD] Internet Notification Service for Partners Or Tricks.

Anonymous cards may go to spam and junk mail folders; Must be sent to a valid email address (social networking or dating sites names are not valid)



In-Spot Testing Info

1. Select **Country** 2. Select by ZIP or by **STATE/REGION**

The screenshot shows the inSPOT website home page. The navigation bar includes 'inSPOT', 'TELL THEM', 'GET CHECKED', 'STD INFO', 'RESOURCES', and 'TESTING'. The 'GET CHECKED' link is circled in orange. Below the navigation bar is a language dropdown set to 'English (U.S.)'. The main content area features a 'TELL THEM' button circled in orange, a 'GET CHECKED' button circled in orange, and a map of the United States with a dropdown menu for selecting a country. The 'GET CHECKED' button is also circled in orange.

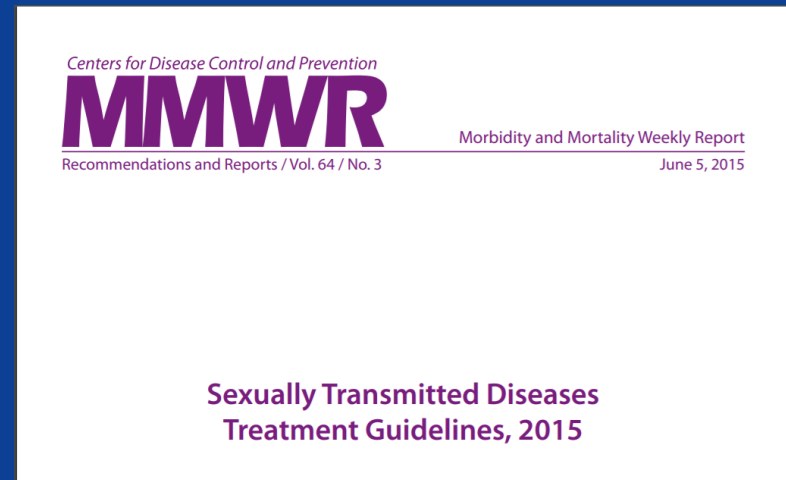
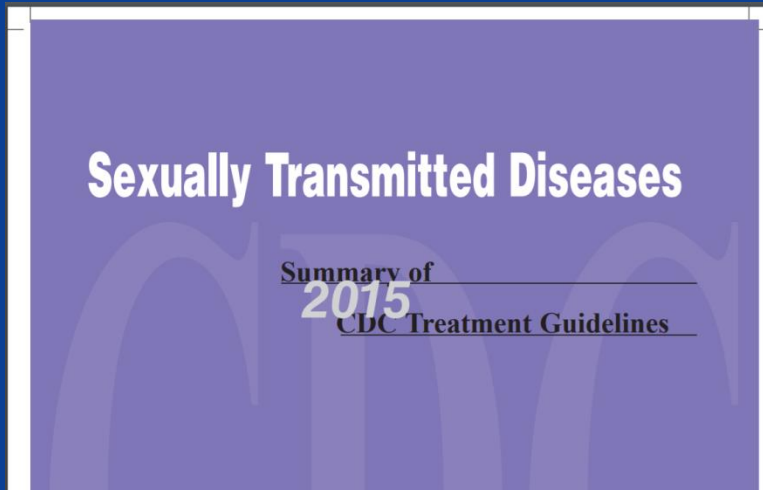
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2015 Treatment Guidelines

Guidelines, resources and info can be found online
via CDC:

<https://www.cdc.gov/std/tg2015/default.htm>



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