

ABSTRACT

A NEEDS ASSESSMENT OF PERSONS OVER THE AGE OF 18 WHO RESIDE IN METROPOLITAN FRESNO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA AND ARE HIV-POSITIVE

The purpose of this study was to conduct a needs assessment among persons over the age of 18 who reside in metropolitan Fresno County and are HIV-positive and/or AIDS diagnosed. This study will determine the perceived need for HIV prevention programs targeting HIV-positive persons, the barriers/risk factors that need to be addressed, and the types of education and prevention programs that would best suit the HIV-positive persons in Fresno County. HIV/AIDS education and prevention aimed at preventing transmission of the virus continues to be necessary because “every new HIV infection is the result of a seropositive individual inadvertently transmitting the virus” (Centers for Disease Control, 2001a, p. 1). The results of this study will be disseminated to the Fresno County Department of Community Health and used to guide Education and Prevention efforts for HIV-positive individuals receiving case management services in Fresno County.

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