



## Tool 8.14 Testing and counselling for HIV/AIDS among people vulnerable to trafficking in persons

### Overview

*This tool discusses testing and counselling for HIV/AIDS among people vulnerable to trafficking.*

WHO and UNAIDS encourage States to increase their voluntary counselling and testing services and to standardize and expand provider-initiated testing and counselling so that more people learn their HIV status, particularly where HIV is concentrated, at the country level, among specific populations (e.g. injecting drug users, men who have sex with men). People vulnerable to human trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation might, in some circumstances, be considered eligible for provider-initiated testing and counselling.



*Provider-initiated HIV testing and counselling is not an endorsement of coercive or mandatory HIV testing.*

## Provider-initiated HIV testing and counselling for people vulnerable to trafficking

HIV/AIDS as it relates to people vulnerable to trafficking is a relatively new area of investigation and response. In addition to the informed consent provisions of the WHO guidance on HIV testing and counselling, provider-initiated testing and counselling should only be offered in accordance with the following considerations.

### ***Broadening of provider-initiated testing and counselling***

- People vulnerable to trafficking should be offered voluntary counselling and testing upon being identified by authorities in countries of transit and/or destination.
- Although it is recommended that provider-initiated HIV testing and counselling be administered in well-established health-care facilities, people vulnerable to trafficking may be unlikely to present themselves to such facilities. The range of providers of such testing and counselling might therefore be broadened to include non-governmental organizations and other civil society entities that provide care and assistance to people vulnerable to trafficking.

### ***Informed consent and pre- and post-testing counselling***

- Trauma potentially suffered by people who have been trafficked should be taken into consideration when administering provider-initiated HIV testing and counselling, and special care should be taken to ensure that consent is based on true understanding of all of the issues.

### ***Special attention for children and adolescents***

- Special attention should be given to children and adolescents. The provision of pre-test information should include discussion of trafficking and HIV/AIDS as they relate to each other.

### ***Training of medical staff***

- In administering provider-initiated HIV testing and counselling, specially trained medical staff and attendants should be guided, in a non-discriminatory fashion, by the nature of the exploitation endured by the person concerned.

### ***Relationship of HIV testing to other assistance***

- Provider-initiated HIV testing and counselling and/or voluntary testing and counselling (if requested) should not be linked to any other form of potential assistance. However, HIV testing should be linked, without prejudice, to the provision of care and treatment.

### ***Relationship of HIV testing to residency status***

- A victim who tests positive for HIV should not have his or her residency permit revoked.
- Countries should amend legislation that allows for the deportation of non-citizens on the basis of their HIV status.
- Legislation should provide for the special nature of HIV status resulting from trafficking to be given additional favourable consideration when residency applications are being reviewed.

### ***Monitoring and evaluation***

- Countries should actively monitor and report on provider-initiated HIV testing and counselling for people vulnerable to trafficking.

*Source:* UNODC, 2008, draft guidance on provider-initiated HIV testing and counselling for people vulnerable to human trafficking.

## Recommended resources



The WHO/UNAIDS *Guidance on Provider-initiated HIV Testing and Counselling in Health Facilities* and other resources are available at:  
[www.who.int/hiv/topics/vct/en/index.html](http://www.who.int/hiv/topics/vct/en/index.html)



*The IOM Handbook on Direct Assistance for Victims of Trafficking* is available at:

[www.iom.int/jahia/Jahia/cache/offonce/pid/1674?entryId=13452](http://www.iom.int/jahia/Jahia/cache/offonce/pid/1674?entryId=13452).

See also *IOM Guide for HIV Counsellors; IOM HIV Counselling in the Context of Migration Health Assessment* at:

[www.iom.int/jahia/Jahia/cache/offonce/pid/1674?entryId=9054](http://www.iom.int/jahia/Jahia/cache/offonce/pid/1674?entryId=9054)