

Key Populations and HIV/AIDS in Canada: A Determinants of Health Perspective

Preliminary Findings of the Youth Population-Specific HIV/AIDS Status Report

Caroline Babin, Centre for Communicable Diseases and Infection
Control, Public Health Agency of Canada

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PROTECTING CANADIANS FROM ILLNESS



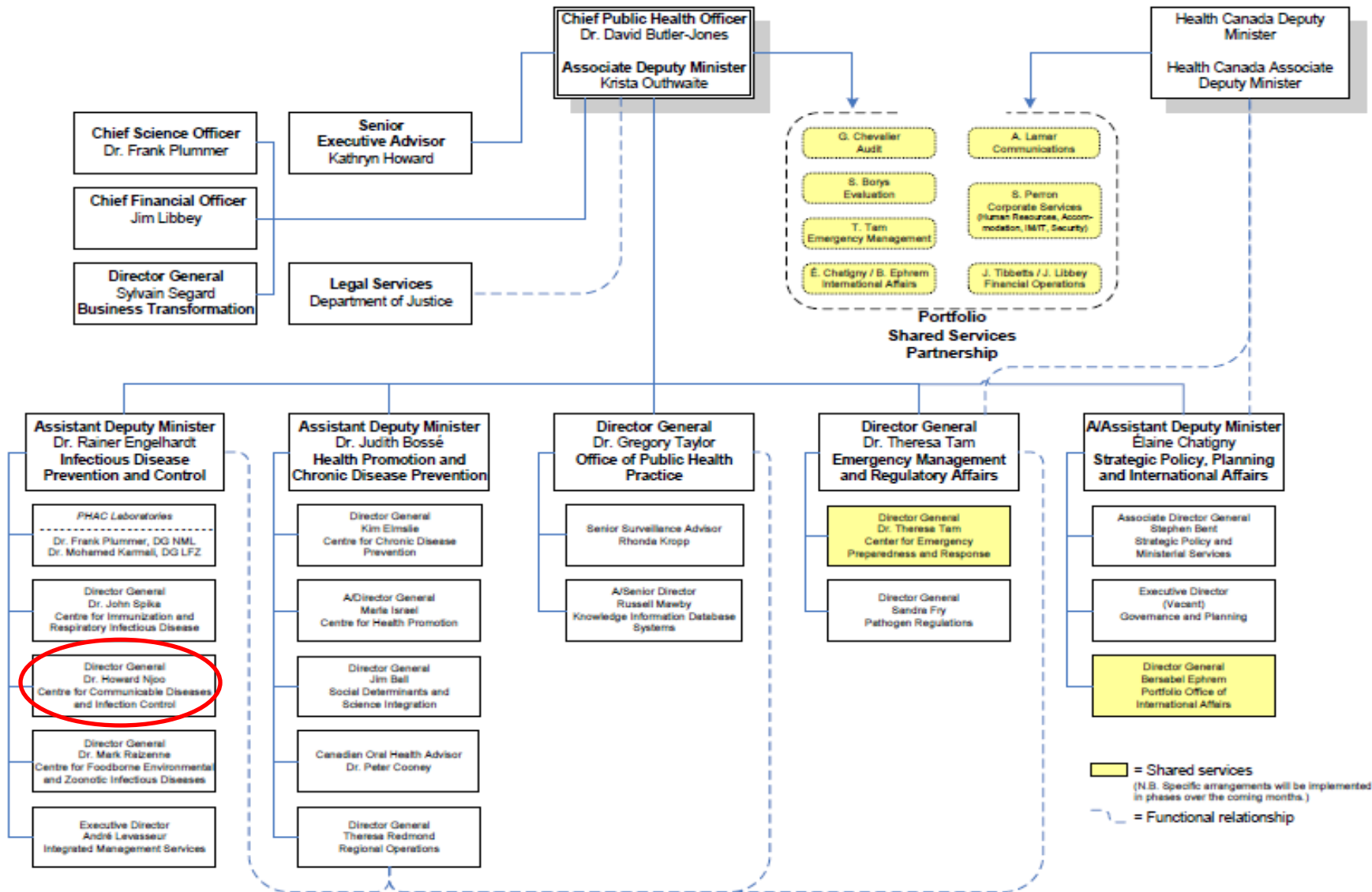
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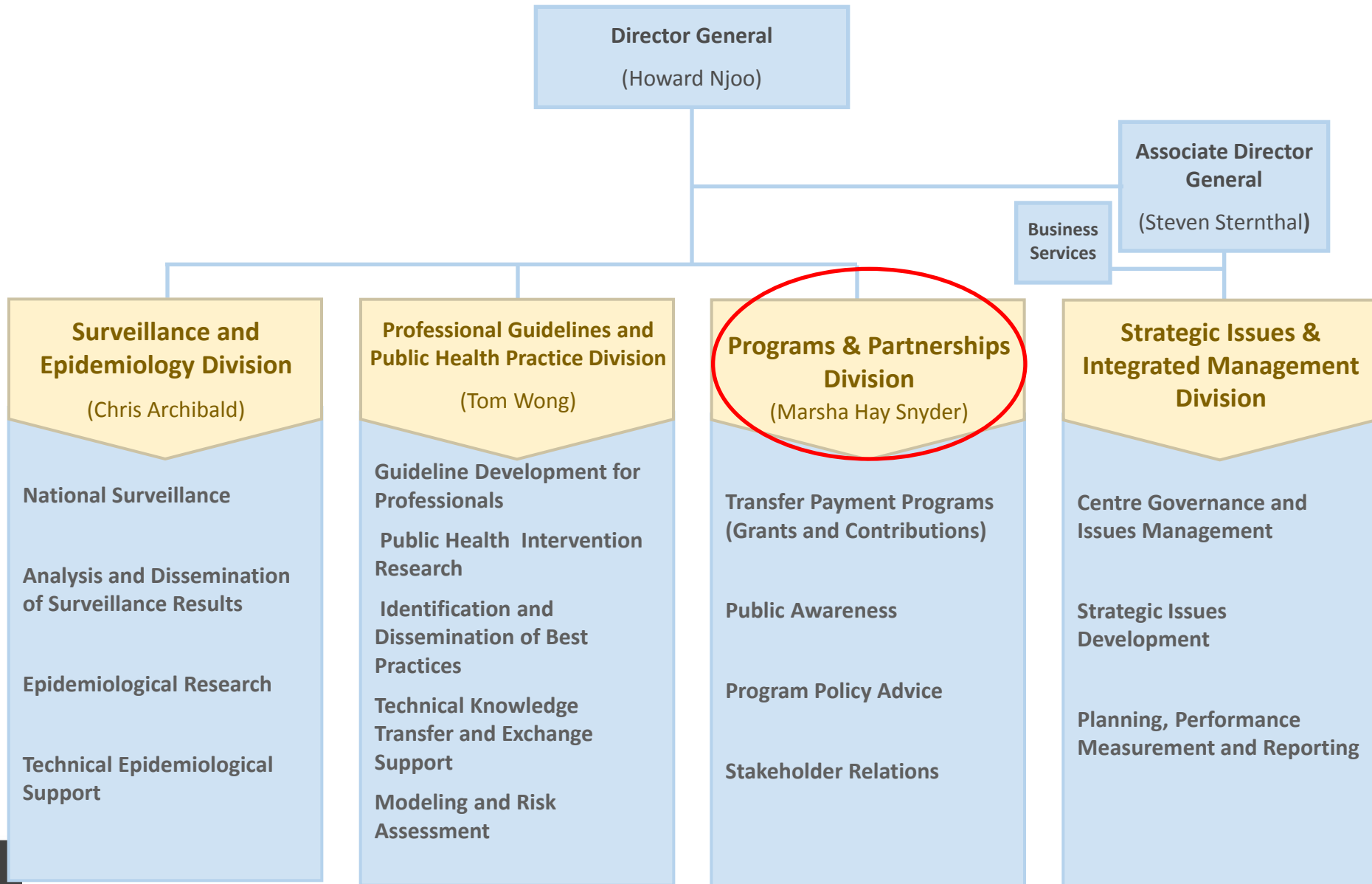
- Organizational Chart -



Mandate: To create and share credible knowledge and facilitate coherent national action which contributes to the prevention and control of specific communicable diseases, with a focus on key populations at risk

CCDIC is responsible for the following communicable/infectious disease areas: HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, sexually transmitted infections, bloodborne pathogens (hepatitis B & C), and healthcare associated infections

CCDIC Organizational Structure



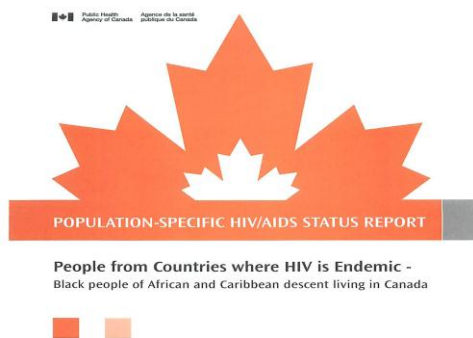
Population-Specific Approach

- The Public Health Agency of Canada, through *The Federal Initiative to Address HIV/AIDS in Canada*, identifies eight key populations particularly affected by HIV in Canada:
 - » People from countries where HIV is endemic
 - » Aboriginal Peoples
 - » Women
 - » People living with HIV/AIDS
 - » Gay, Two-Spirit, Bisexual, and other Men who have Sex with Men
 - » **Youth**
 - » People in prison
 - » People who use drugs

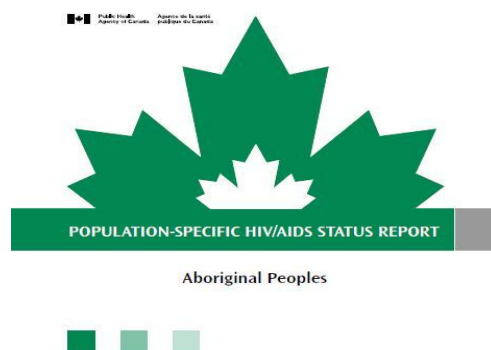
A Tool for Knowledge Translation & Exchange: The Status Reports

- A detailed synthesis of what is currently known about HIV and AIDS among each vulnerable population in Canada
- Provides an evidence base to inform future directions of policy, programs and research
- Audience: public health units, non-governmental organizations, federal and provincial governments, academia

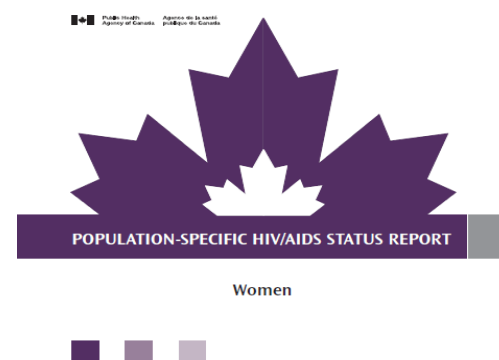
Reports Currently Available:



Canada



Canada



Canada

Available at: www.catie.ca

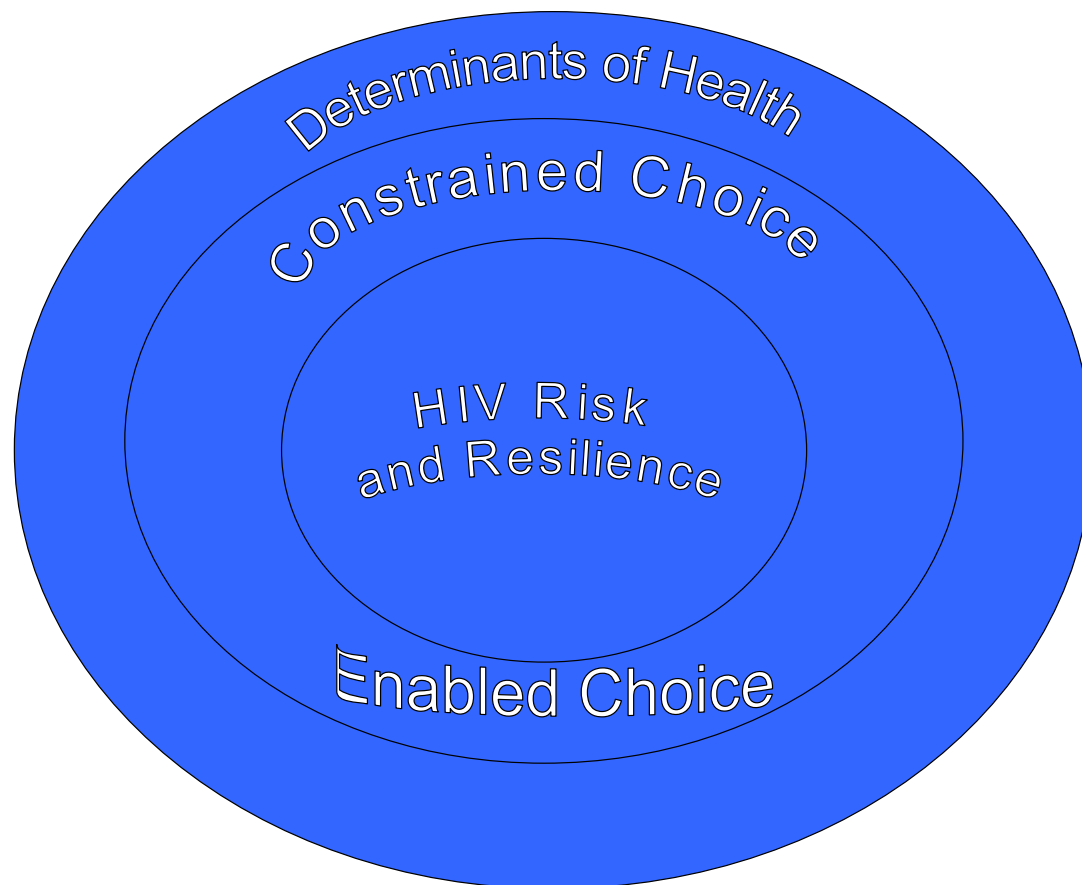
Status Report Methodology

- Literature review of Canadian publications
- Inclusion criteria: specific to the population, addresses HIV and determinants of health, Canadian, published within a specific time period
- Developed with the guidance of an expert working group

Status Report Structure

- Demographic profile of the population
- HIV/AIDS epidemiology
- **Determinants of health, vulnerability and resilience to HIV**
- Current Canadian research
- Current policy and program response

Vulnerability and Resilience to HIV/AIDS



Epidemiologic Highlights

- Cumulatively, youth aged 15-29 years, have made up 26.7% of all positive HIV test reports between 1985-2009
- The Men having Sex with Men exposure category accounts for the largest proportion of positive HIV test reports in all youth
- The number of positive HIV test reports for girls and young women has been increasing
- Young non-White women are disproportionately affected

Healthy Childhood Development

- Youth who had experienced sexual, physical, emotional abuse and neglect are more vulnerable to various HIV risk behaviours
- Some groups of youth show higher rates of different forms of abuse during their childhood
- Family connectedness is reported as a protective factor against risky behaviours

Social Environments

- Racism, sexism, homophobia, historical colonization, and social inequalities all contribute to HIV vulnerability
- Violence and abuse experienced by youth within their families, schools and communities can take the form of: bullying, peer pressure, social rejection, homophobia
- A positive and supportive social environment is an important protective factor

Health and Social Services

- Discrimination, homophobia, racism, and gender norms can limit youth access to social and health services
- Confidentiality of services is a key concern among youth
- Street-involved youth face specific issues when reaching out for help

Social Support Networks

- Healthy relationships in the family, school, peer group, and community enhance youth's healthy development, resilience and coping skills
- Being socially connected is key for youth who are sexually diverse, street-involved, Aboriginal and living with HIV, allowing them to learn life skills, overcome stigma, and get support
- Conversely, lack of social support can have negative health consequences, such as mental health issues and behavioural issues

Conclusions

- Some key determinants of vulnerability and resilience to HIV include:
 - » Healthy childhood development
 - » Various forms of discrimination
 - » Access to health and social services
 - » Social support networks
 - » Importance of mental health
- » Certain overlapping groups of youth may experience increased vulnerability to HIV (sexually diverse youth, street-involved youth, youth who had been sexually abused, Aboriginal youth)

Next Steps

- Report release expected in 2013
- Ongoing knowledge translation and exchange
- Supporting evidence-based policy and programs

For More Information

Caroline Babin

caroline.babin@phac-aspc.gc.ca

Brian Gottheil

brian.gottheil@phac-aspc.gc.ca