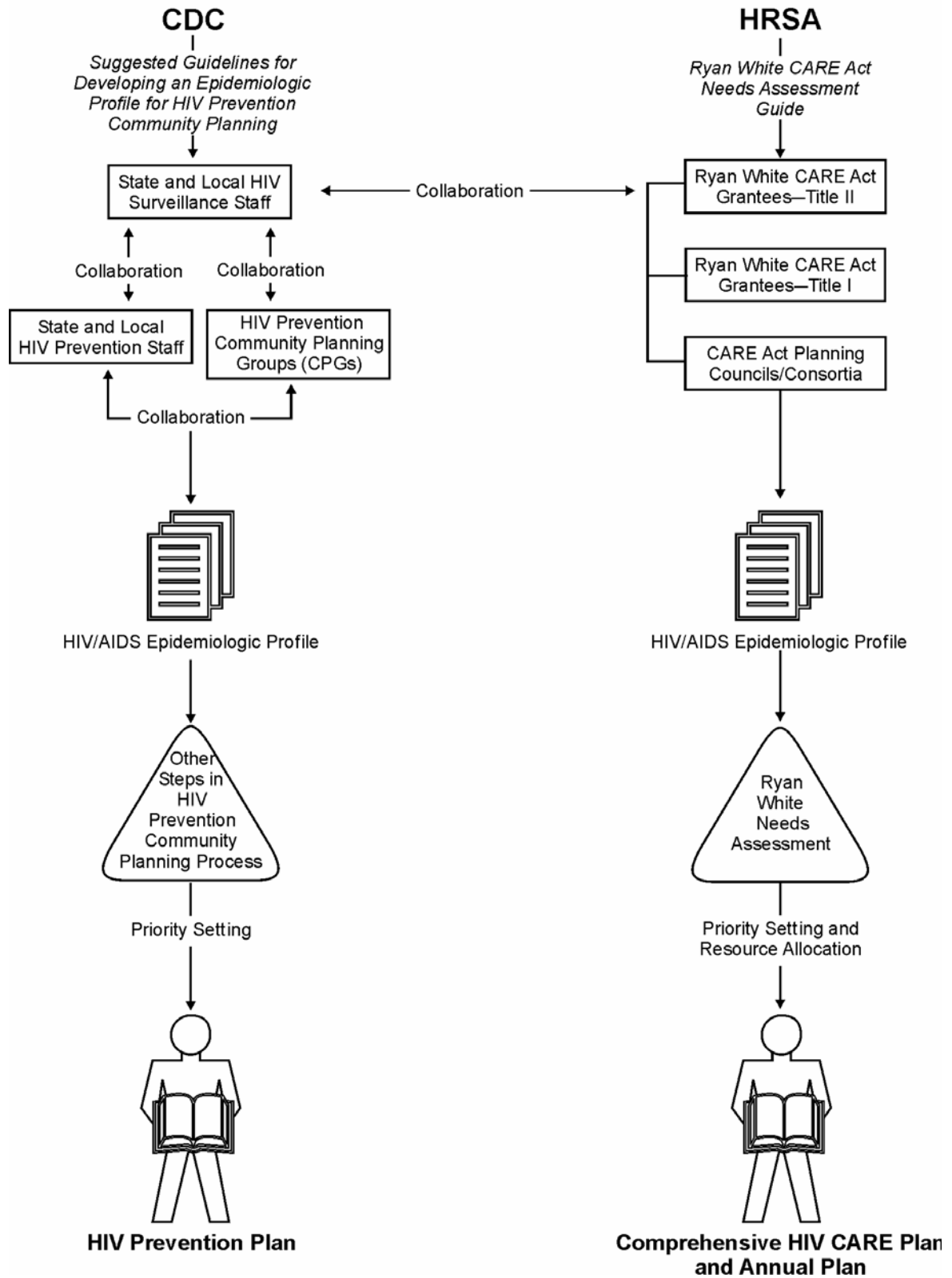


Section 2: The Need for Integrated Guidelines

Prevention and care planning groups sponsored by CDC and HRSA use HIV/AIDS epidemiologic profiles for multiple purposes. Despite the overlap in many of the data needs of prevention and care planning groups, profile writers now use separate guidelines to prepare their epidemiologic profiles (Figure 1).

Figure 1-1. Current development of HIV/AIDS epidemiologic profiles



Current Process

The current process for preparing separate epidemiologic profiles has several disadvantages:

- The demands of preparing 2 profiles may put a burden on state and local resources.
- Data sharing and collaboration between prevention and care are complicated by different time frames and methods of presentation.
- Variations in profile quality and content may result.
- Lack of consistency and comparability of profiles may lead to disparities in setting priorities or allocating resources.

Goals and Benefits of Integrated Guidelines

Recognizing that epidemiologic profiles for HIV prevention and care share common purposes, data needs, and staff demands, CDC and HRSA agreed to create a set of common guidelines that will contribute to the following goals and benefits:

Goal	Benefit
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consistent epidemiologic profiles <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ common time frame ▪ common data ▪ core elements with specific sections to meet the individual requirements of CDC and HRSA ▪ common data elements, definitions, categories, time frames 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased usefulness and application • Enhanced sharing of information at all levels (federal, state, regional, and local) and in all organizations • Increased quality • Increased confidence in data validity because the data are being used for two processes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • User-friendly epidemiologic profiles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Easy interpretation and application to local needs • Enhanced possibility that data will be used in planning
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flexibility to customize profiles to meet local needs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhanced quality and sharing of information while meeting local requirements
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shared resources for prevention and care 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced strain on local capacity • Reduced duplication of effort