

ORGANIZATION OF THE PROFILE

The epidemiologic profile is organized into 2 main sections, within which the 5 key questions are addressed.

Section 1: Core Epidemiologic Questions

This section provides the reader with an understanding of the characteristics of the general population in Louisiana, the distribution of HIV disease, and a detailed look at persons at risk for HIV infection. The section is organized around 3 key questions:

Question 1: What are the sociodemographic characteristics of the general population in Louisiana? Orients the reader to the overall demographic and socioeconomic characteristics of the general population of Louisiana.

Question 2: What is the scope of the HIV/AIDS epidemic in Louisiana? Examines the effect of the HIV/AIDS epidemic on a number of population groups in Louisiana to help planners focus prevention and care services.

Question 3: What are the indicators of risk for HIV/AIDS infection in Louisiana? Provides a detailed look at high-risk populations. Examines direct measures of risk behaviors associated with HIV transmission and indirect measures that may serve as indicators of high-risk behavior.

Section 2: Ryan White HIV/AIDS CARE Act Special Questions and Considerations

This section focuses on questions that pertain to HRSA HIV/AIDS care planning groups. Section 2 describes access to, use of, and standard of care among persons in Louisiana who are HIV-infected. It is organized around 2 key questions:

Question 1: What are the patterns of utilization of HIV services of persons in Louisiana? Characterizes the patterns in the use of services by a number of the populations living with HIV/AIDS in Louisiana. Information is provided from HRSA-funded programs as well as supplemental studies that examine specific aspects of HIV care in Louisiana.

Question 2: What are the number and characteristics of persons who know they are HIV-positive but who are not receiving primary medical care? Describes current studies in Louisiana to assist in assessing the unmet need of persons who know they are HIV-positive, but who are not in care. Presents special studies in which persons living with HIV/AIDS are asked about their service needs and their perceptions of care in Louisiana.