

07/01/08

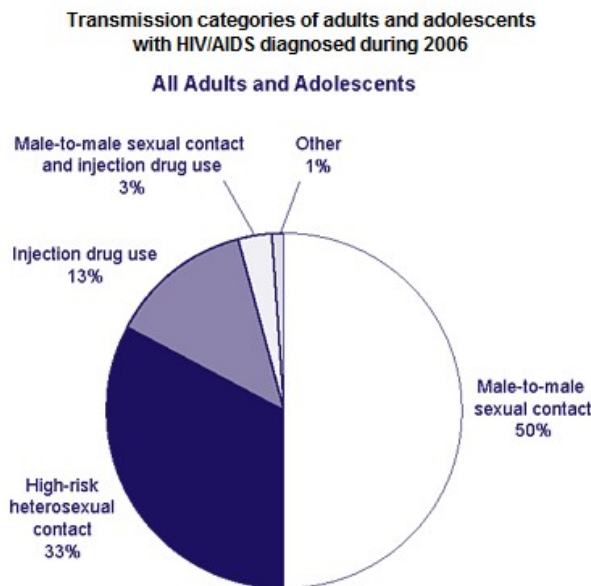
Julie Louise Gerberding, M.D., M.P.H,
Director
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
1600 Clifton Road, Atlanta, GA 30333

RE: CDC's omission of definition of "high-risk heterosexual sex"

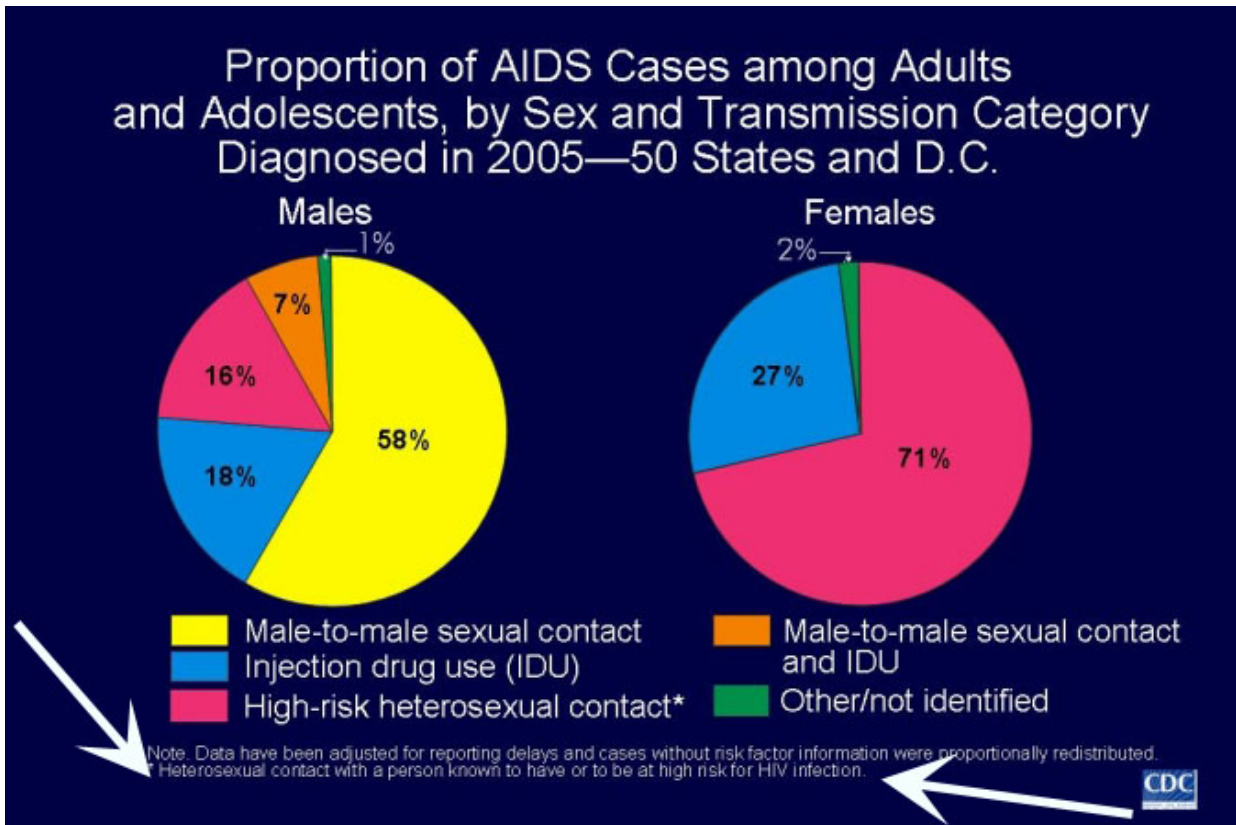
Dear Dr. Gerberding,

In the CDC's HIV/AIDS facts sheet links at <http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/resources/factsheets/index.htm> there are many important links describing trends such as "HIV/AIDS in the US," "HIV/AIDS among Men Who Have Sex with Men," "HIV/AIDS among African Americans," "HIV/AIDS among Hispanics/Latinos," etc.

In every link, your previous judicious inclusion of the definition of "high-risk heterosexual contact" has been omitted as you see below.



I am respectfully requesting that you have the clarifying definition that you have previously used and as you see in your chart below, "Heterosexual contact with a person known to have, or to be at high risk for, HIV infection," added to the text of each one of the links at the above facts page.



Not only will this educate America to the dangers of having sex with one who fits that definition, but it will also clarify confusion that presently exists regarding what is “high-risk.” For example, in the “Risk Factors and Barrier to Prevention” paragraph (<http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/topics/aa/resources/factsheets/aa.htm>) it is stated, “casual and chronic substance users are more likely to engage in high-risk behaviors, such as unprotected sex.” While that statement is true, it omits the definition of “high-risk heterosexual contact” as previously stated on your web site and that I referenced above. Clearly, we all want every risk factor disclosed to insure the benefits of your prevention efforts are realized to their full potential.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

With great respect for your efforts, I am,

Richard Darling, DDS

Richard Darling, DDS: Past National Public Citizen of the Year (NASW)
 President and CEO: The FAIR Foundation, a national organization with thousands of members and supporters whose goal is to reverse inequities in NIH research funding and to institute new organ-donor policies to reverse America’s organ-donor crisis
 Founder: The FAIR Foundation Liver Disease & Transplant Support Group
 Author: Coma Life, an autobiographical memoir of life "within" coma and survival over hepatitis C induced liver cancer, coma, 3 liver transplants, heart attack, diabetes & Muscular Dystrophy (Myasthenia Gravis)