



Collaborative HIV/STD Prevention Trial (C-POL)



RTI International is serving as the data coordinating center for a trial examining the efficacy of a community-level intervention to reduce HIV/STD incidence and high-risk behaviors in China, India, Peru, Russia, and Zimbabwe.

The high incidence of HIV in developing countries has resulted in an urgent need to develop and evaluate community-level interventions that are targeted at populations most vulnerable to HIV, that can be adapted across cultures, and that can be administered by service providers in resource-poor regions of the world. In response to this need, the U.S. National Institute of Mental Health is sponsoring the Collaborative HIV/STD Prevention Trial. Begun in 1999, this trial is examining the efficacy of a community-level intervention to reduce HIV/STD incidence and high-risk behaviors in China, India, Peru, Russia, and Zimbabwe. The intervention seeks to modify social norms at the community level using community popular opinion leaders (C-POLs) as behavior change agents. As members of the community (friends, neighbors, coworkers) adopt the safer behaviors endorsed and practiced by the C-POLs, the behaviors gradually diffuse through the community and become normative. Both biological and behavioral outcomes are being collected to assess the success of the intervention.



Approach

- An ethnographic study to determine HIV/STD-related knowledge, attitudes, and behaviors in target communities
- Pilot studies to assess data collection and intervention procedures
- Large epidemiologic studies to obtain data to plan the main trial and to establish that risk profiles of the selected communities are conducive for the trial
- Baseline and 12-month and 24-month followup assessments providing behavioral and biological data for trial evaluation
- Randomization of pairs of venues in each country to intervention and control conditions
- Tailoring and implementation of the C-POL Intervention in selected venues
- Implementation of the intervention in control venues after the 24-month followup
- Analysis and dissemination of study methodology and results

(continued)



RTI's Role

RTI International is serving as the Data Coordinating Center for this trial, which is being implemented under the U.S. National Institute of Mental Health Cooperative Clinical Research (U10) award mechanism, which requires all sites to work collaboratively and implement the same protocol. RTI's responsibilities include

- Statistical and operational leadership
- Overall study coordination and execution, including oversight of materials development and distribution
- Design and implementation of the data collection, data management, and data analysis aspects of the study

- Logistics and selected aspects of training for ethnography, behavioral data collection, biospecimen collection and analysis, data management, and intervention study activities using a train-the-trainer model
- Tracking, management, and inventory of biospecimens and oversight of collection
- Quality control (assessment, laboratory, protocol, intervention, ethnography)
- Dissemination of study results and materials, including publications and presentations

Selected Accomplishments to Date

- Ethnographic studies provided data to tailor study materials and procedures to each site.
- Epidemiological studies indicated the need to refine community selection in India and Peru, and a second epidemiological study was conducted in these two countries.
- Baseline assessments are complete in all countries; followup assessments are in process.
- The intervention has been tailored for each country and implemented in all intervention venues; intervention is being implemented in control communities as followup assessments are completed.
- Overall and site-specific publications and presentations related to preliminary activities and methodology are being developed and submitted.

Next Steps

Data collection will end in late summer or early fall 2007. Study results should be available in 2008.

For more information about the Collaborative HIV/STD Prevention Trial, contact

Lisa Strader, MPH
Senior Research Epidemiologist
International Studies Program
Statistics and Epidemiology Division

PHONE: 919-541-5991

E-MAIL: lcs@rti.org

RTI International
3040 Cornwallis Road, P.O. Box 12194
Research Triangle Park, NC 27709-2194 USA

RTI-3160 07/2006