HIV Non-Name Code Reporting in California

Monthly Update Archive

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Office of AIDS

HIV Non-Name Code Reporting
Implementation Countdown Update
(September 2001)

Introduction:

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has recommended that all States and Territories conduct case surveillance for human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection as an extension of current acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) surveillance activities. The State of California will use a non-name code to track HIV, which, along with AIDS case surveillance, will both provide a better assessment of the epidemic.

HIV Reporting Non-Name Code Regulations:

The Department of Health Services (DHS) released the original proposed regulations in March 2001. The Office of AIDS (OA) has revised the proposed regulations based on analysis of public comments and input from the HIV Surveillance Workgroup.

The DHS/OA plans to release the amended version of the regulations in the next several weeks; there will be a 15-day public comment period to receive input on the changes to the original proposed regulation. The target date for implementation of the HIV reporting regulations is July 2002.

Request for Proposal to Develop Training Protocols for HIV Reporting:

In October 2001, the OA will solicit proposals for a contract to provide a curriculum plan for non-name HIV reporting training and education. The contractor will train and educate laboratories and health care providers on HIV reporting procedures using the proposed regulations. The OA intends to use a competitive bid process and will make a single contract award based on the highest score. This procurement is open to all eligible firms or individuals which meet the qualification requirements, including commercial businesses, nonprofit organizations, public or private universities (including auxiliary organizations), and other entities.

Pilot Study:

The reporting of HIV requires both the laboratory and health care provider to submit appropriate forms to the local Health Officer. San Diego County is currently performing a pilot study of HIV reporting by non-name code at selected health provider sites. The mission of the pilot project is to identify operational and technical challenges, evaluate the performance of the non-name code (the proposed HIV reporting system), and assess the quality of the surveillance data collected under the new reporting system. San Diego has completed about two-thirds of the implementation and evaluation process and will share their overall experience and results of the pilot study with OA after it concludes on December 31, 2001.

HIV NON-NAME CODE REPORTING IN CALIFORNIA

IMPLEMENTATION COUNTDOWN UPDATE - OCTOBER 2001

WHAT HAS HAPPENED SINCE OUR SEPTEMBER UPDATE?

HIV Reporting Non-Name Code Regulations:

The revised proposed regulations are currently under Department review prior to release for the 15-day public comment period. The 15-day comment period is likely to begin in November 2001. Only those individuals who commented on the regulations during the 45-day public comment period or those who have indicated that they wish to be notified of changes to the regulations will receive a copy of the revised proposed regulations.

Individuals who did not comment on the regulations during the 45-day comment period and who wish to be placed on the mailing list to receive a copy of the revised proposed regulations may contact Ms. Linda Tudor at the Department of Health Services, Office of Regulations at (916) 654-0381. The regulations should be identified by the Department Regulation Control Number R-19-00. The revised proposed regulations will also be available on the Department of Health Services, Office of AIDS website http://www.dhs.ca.gov/AIDS once the 15-day public comment period has begun.

Health Care Provider Survey

The Office of AIDS in collaboration with Alameda, Kern, Sacramento, and San Bernardino counties will conduct a survey among health care providers of HIV-related services in the four counties. The primary goals of the survey are to: 1) assess providers' knowledge about the proposed non-name-based HIV reporting regulations and their attitudes toward mandatory HIV reporting; 2) identify potential operational and technical challenges providers may encounter; and 3) identify any needs for training and technical assistance in implementing the proposed HIV reporting regulations. Results of the survey study will provide valuable information to the state and local health departments regarding providers' ability to work with the proposed reporting system and needs for training and technical assistance.

The Office of AIDS has issued a Request for Application (RFA) to the four participating counties. State and county researchers are currently developing a detailed study protocol and scope of work for the survey project. We plan to field the questionnaire survey during January 2002.

Laboratory Survey

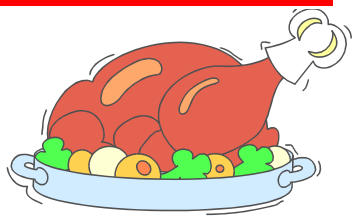
The Office of AIDS has completed a survey of California laboratories licensed to conduct HIV antibody tests. The purposes of the survey were to determine, in 1999: 1) the number of HIV-related tests performed (antibody and viral load tests) by the laboratories; 2) HIV seropositivity rates; and 3) the availability of data elements for notification to local health officers. Researchers at the Office of AIDS are finalizing their analysis of the data, and a statewide report of the survey results will be released in the near future.

Request for Proposal (RFP) to Develop Training Curriculum for HIV Reporting

The Office of AIDS will use a competitive bid process to solicit proposals for a contract to develop and provide a non-name-based HIV reporting education and training curriculum, targeting laboratories, health care providers, and HIV/AIDS surveillance staff at local health departments. The procurement will be open to all eligible firms or individuals that meet the qualification requirements, including commercial businesses, nonprofit organizations, public or private universities, and other entities. The RFP will be issued when the revised proposed regulations are ready for release for public comment.

HIV NON-NAME CODE REPORTING IN CALIFORNIA

IMPLEMENTATION COUNTDOWN UPDATE – NOVEMBER 2001



WHAT HAS HAPPENED SINCE OUR OCTOBER UPDATE?

HIV Reporting Non-Name Code Regulations

The revised regulations were reviewed and approved by the Department of Health Services Office of Regulations and the Office of Legal Services and are currently under review by the Director's Office. The proposed regulations are expected to be released for the 15-day public comment period in early December 2001. Individuals who commented on the regulations during the 45-day public comment period or those who have indicated that they wish to be notified of changes to the regulations will receive a copy of the revised proposed regulations.

Individuals who did not comment on the regulations during the 45-day comment period and who wish to be placed on the mailing list to receive a copy of the revised proposed regulations may contact Ms. Linda Tudor at the, Office of Regulations at (916) 654-0381. The regulations should be identified by the Department Regulation Control Number, R-19-00. The revised proposed regulations will also be available on the Department of Health Services, Office of AIDS (OA) website http://www.dhs.ca.gov/AIDS once the 15-day public comment period has begun.

Health Care Provider Survey

The OA has developed the study protocol and the questionnaire for the pre-implementation survey of health care providers of HIV-related services in Alameda, Kern, Sacramento, and San Bernardino Counties. The survey, which will be conducted between January and March of 2002, is designed primarily to assess health care provider knowledge about the proposed reporting regulations and their perceived barriers to reporting, and most importantly, to identify any needs for training and technical assistance in implementing the proposed HIV reporting regulations. The study protocol, questionnaire and consent form have been submitted to the State of California, Health and Human Services Agency, Committee for the Protection of Human Subjects for review and approval.

Office of AIDS, HIV/AIDS Surveillance Unit

The OA has provided funds to local health departments to develop an infrastructure and assist with the implementation of HIV non-name reporting. The HIV/AIDS Registry dedicated a centralized computer, database and Soundex system to meet the needs of HIV non-name reporting. Staff is currently developing a program that will match and unduplicate identical HIV/AIDS cases. In addition, an HIV/AIDS Surveillance Conference will be held in February 2002, and will focus on HIV reporting. San Diego County, who has been piloting HIV non-name reporting since March 2001, will discuss their experiences and share their knowledge during a half-day session at the conference.

San Diego's Pilot Project for HIV Non-Name Reporting Update Through October 2001

San Diego recruited laboratories and health care providers from the public and private sector to participate in the pilot project. Training programs were developed to address the needs of laboratories, providers, and local HIV/AIDS surveillance staff. Periodic evaluations were conducted to identify barriers to HIV reporting. Policies and protocols were developed addressing the surveillance program's position as it relates to laboratories and providers, reporting practices, confidentiality, and program evaluation. A document entitled "Questions and Answers" was developed and distributed to all pilot participants. Additional questions from pilot project participants are responded to and resolved by surveillance staff, as policies and protocols continue to be updated. San Diego County has requested authorization to continue piloting HIV reporting through June 30, 2002.

HIV NON-NAME CODE REPORTING IN CALIFORNIA

IMPLEMENTATION COUNTDOWN UPDATE – DECEMBER 2001

HIV Reporting Non-Name Code Regulations

After the initial 45-day public comment period, the proposed regulations were revised and submitted to the Department of Health Services, Office of Regulations (OR) to re-initiate the review process. The revised regulations were released for the 15-day public comment period on December 10, 2001. The comment period ended on December 26, 2001 and comments are currently under review by the Department. The regulations are identified by the Department Regulation Control Number, R-19-00, and are accessible via the Department of Health Services, Office of AIDS (OA) website http://www.dhs.ca.gov/AIDS.

Health Care Provider Survey

The OA submitted the study protocol, questionnaire and consent form to the State of California, Health and Human Services Agency, Committee for the Protection of Human Subjects, and received verbal approval on December 14, 2001. This study is a pre-implementation survey of health care providers of HIV-related services in Alameda, Kern, Sacramento, and San Bernardino Counties. The survey, which will be conducted between January and March 2002, is designed to assess health care provider knowledge about the proposed reporting regulations, determine their perceived barriers to reporting, and identify needs for training and technical assistance related to the implementation of HIV reporting.

Request for Proposal (RFP) to Develop Training Curriculum for HIV Reporting

The OA anticipates release of the RFP in January 2002. The RFP will use a competitive bid process to solicit proposals for a contract to develop and provide a non-name-based HIV reporting education and training curriculum, targeting laboratories, health care providers, and HIV/AIDS surveillance staff at local health departments (LHD). The procurement will be open to all eligible firms or individuals that meet the qualification requirements, including commercial businesses, nonprofit organizations, public or private universities, and other entities. The OA HIV/AIDS Registry staff will continue to provide technical assistance to LHD during the pre/post implementation period.

Office of AIDS, HIV/AIDS Surveillance Conference

The HIV/AIDS Surveillance Conference will be held February 27 - March 1, 2002 in Sacramento. There will be two plenary sessions highlighting HIV Non-Name Reporting. One breakout session will present the twenty most frequently asked questions about HIV Non-Name Reporting and will offer the opportunity for further questions. This session will be held twice, once in the morning and afternoon, allowing conference participants an opportunity to attend. All sessions on Friday, March 1st, will highlight successes and barriers encountered by the San Diego HIV Reporting Pilot Project.

HIV NON-NAME CODE REPORTING IN CALIFORNIA

IMPLEMENTATION COUNTDOWN UPDATE – JANUARY 2002

HIV Reporting Non-Name Code Regulations

The Office of AIDS (OA) is finalizing the proposed regulations package which will undergo Department review and approval. The regulations are identified by the Department Regulation Control Number, R-19-00, and the most recently released version is accessible via the Department of Health Services, OA website http://www.dhs.ca.gov/AIDS.

Health Care Provider Survey

The OA submitted the study protocol, questionnaire and consent form to the State of California, Health and Human Services Agency, Committee for the Protection of Human Subjects, and received written approval on January 2, 2002. This study is a pre-implementation survey of health care providers of HIV-related services in four selected counties. The survey, which will be conducted between April and June 2002, is designed to assess health care provider knowledge about the proposed reporting regulations, determine their perceived barriers to reporting, and identify needs for training and technical assistance related to the implementation of HIV reporting.

Request for Proposal (RFP) to Develop Training Curriculum for HIV Reporting

The OA anticipates release of the RFP in February 2002 pending approval from the Department. The RFP will use a competitive bid process to solicit proposals for a contract to develop and provide a non-name-based HIV reporting education and training curriculum, targeting laboratories, health care providers, and HIV/AIDS surveillance staff at local health departments (LHD). The procurement will be open to all eligible firms or individuals that meet the qualification requirements, including commercial businesses, nonprofit organizations, public or private universities, and other entities. The OA HIV/AIDS Registry staff will continue to provide technical assistance to LHD during the pre/post implementation period.

Office of AIDS, HIV/AIDS Surveillance Conference

The HIV/AIDS Surveillance Conference will be held February 27 - March 1, 2002 in Sacramento. There will be two plenary sessions highlighting HIV Non-Name Reporting. One breakout session will present the twenty most frequently asked questions about HIV Non-Name Reporting and will offer the opportunity for further questions. This session will be held twice, once in the morning and afternoon, allowing conference participants an opportunity to attend. All sessions on Friday, March 1st, will highlight successes and barriers encountered by the San Diego HIV Reporting Pilot Project.

The OA sent a survey to all LHD HIV/AIDS Surveillance coordinators on January 22, 2002. The survey is designed to identify needs for training and technical assistance prior to the implementation of the non-name HIV reporting system. The survey also assesses the type of activities the local HIV/AIDS surveillance coordinators have conducted over the past year to promote the concept of non-name HIV reporting to healthcare providers and laboratory personnel in their county. The OA will present and discuss the results of this brief survey at the Conference.

HIV NON-NAME CODE REPORTING IN CALIFORNIA

IMPLEMENTATION COUNTDOWN UPDATE – FEBRUARY 2002

HIV Reporting Non-Name Code Regulations

The Department is conducting the final review and approval of the proposed regulations package before submittal to the Office of Administrative Law. The Office of Administrative Law is responsible for the final review and approval of the regulations prior to filing with the Secretary of State. The regulations are identified by the Department Regulation Control Number, R-19-00, and the most recently released version is accessible via the Department of Health Services, Office of AIDS (OA) website http://www.dhs.ca.gov/AIDS. The Department is still on target for implementation of the regulations by July 2002.

Health Care Provider Survey

This study is a pre-implementation survey of health care providers of HIV-related services in selected counties. The survey, which will be conducted between April and June 2002, is designed to assess health care provider knowledge about the proposed reporting regulations, determine their perceived barriers to reporting, and identify needs for training and technical assistance related to the implementation of HIV reporting.

Request for Proposal (RFP) to Develop Training Curriculum for HIV Reporting

The OA will release the RFP in March 2002. The RFP will use a competitive bid process to solicit proposals for a contract to develop and provide a non-name-based HIV reporting education and training curriculum, targeting laboratories, health care providers, and HIV/AIDS surveillance staff at local health departments (LHD). The procurement will be open to all eligible firms or individuals that meet the qualification requirements, including commercial businesses, nonprofit organizations, public or private universities, and other entities. The OA HIV/AIDS Registry staff will continue to provide technical assistance to LHD during the pre/post implementation period.

Office of AIDS, HIV/AIDS Surveillance Conference

The HIV/AIDS Surveillance Conference was held February 27 - March 1, 2002 in Sacramento. The featured topic of the conference was HIV Non-Name Reporting. Staff members from the San Diego Pilot Project shared their experiences on the successes and barriers encountered during their HIV Reporting Pilot Project. In addition, a representative from the State of Massachusetts, which reports HIV cases with a non-name code, provided first hand knowledge and lessons learned. A variety of presentations throughout the three-day conference provided information on the proposed HIV reporting regulations, including responses to the “top 20” questions received from the LHDs, and the results of the survey of all LHD HIV/AIDS Surveillance coordinators. Finally, conference participants learned that OA’s HIV/AIDS Case Registry Section will conduct a series of HIV non-name code reporting workshops for HIV/AIDS surveillance coordinators; most of the training will take place prior to implementation of the regulations and the remainder immediately thereafter.

HIV NON-NAME CODE REPORTING IN CALIFORNIA

IMPLEMENTATION COUNTDOWN UPDATE – MARCH 2002

HIV Reporting Non-Name Code Regulations

The Department conducted final review and approval of the proposed regulations package and submitted them to the Office of Administrative Law. The Office of Administrative Law is responsible for the final review and approval of the regulations prior to filing with the Secretary of State. The regulations are identified by the Department Regulation Control Number, R-19-00, and the most recently released version is accessible via the Department of Health Services, Office of AIDS (OA) website http://www.dhs.ca.gov/AIDS. The Department is still on target for implementation of the regulations by July 2002.

Health Care Provider Survey

This study is a pre-implementation survey of health care providers of HIV-related services in selected counties. The survey, which will be conducted between April and June 2002, is designed to assess health care provider knowledge about the proposed reporting regulations, determine their perceived barriers to reporting, and identify needs for training and technical assistance related to the implementation of HIV reporting. During March 2002, OA staff visited Alameda County Public Health staff that pilot tested the proposed provider survey instrument. Alameda County Public Health staff shared their experiences from the pilot test with OA. Based on that meeting OA staff made adjustments to the survey instrument and will release the new version to Kern, Sacramento, and San Bernardino, the other participating counties.

Request for Proposal (RFP) to Develop Training Curriculum for HIV Reporting

The OA released the RFP in March 2002, and will hold a Bidders Conference on April 11, 2002 from 0900 – 1200. The meeting will open with introductions followed by a brief overview of the HIV Non-Name Code Reporting System and State RFP and contract process. The RFP will use a competitive bid process to solicit proposals for a contract to develop and provide a non-name-based HIV reporting education and training curriculum, targeting laboratories, health care providers, and HIV/AIDS surveillance staff at local health departments (LHD). The procurement will be open to all eligible firms or individuals that meet the qualification requirements, including commercial businesses, nonprofit organizations, public or private universities, and other entities. The OA HIV/AIDS Registry staff will continue to provide technical assistance to LHD during the pre/post implementation period of the HIV non-name reporting system.

Training/Technical Assistance for Local Health Departments

During March, surveillance trainers and technical staff visited Los Angeles and San Francisco to assure coordination of efforts in the implementation of HIV non-name reporting in California. Training/technical assistance sessions for 31LHDs are scheduled for the month of April. These trainings will focus on the LHDs responsibilities for collecting and matching data, establishing contacts with laboratories and providers, and becoming familiar with the provisions of the HIV reporting regulations. Although, a more detailed training and education curriculum will be developed and conducted by the entity that is awarded the training contract, the LHD surveillance staff will have a key role in informing major health care providers of the HIV reporting process.

HIV NON-NAME CODE REPORTING IN CALIFORNIA

IMPLEMENTATION COUNTDOWN UPDATE – APRIL/MAY 2002

HIV Reporting Non-Name Code Regulations

California's regulations for reporting HIV infection by non-name code were approved by the Office of Administrative Law on May 2, 2002 and filed with the Secretary of State; the regulations will become effective July 1, 2002. The HIV reporting regulations will be published in the California Code of Regulations, Title 17, Division 1, Chapter 4, Subchapter 1, Article 3.5, Sections 2641.5–2643.2. The Regulations are accessible via the Department of Health Services, Office of AIDS (OA) website http://www.dhs.ca.gov/AIDS and will be posted on the Office of Regulations website http://www.applications.dhs.ca.gov/Regulations.

Health Care Provider Survey

This study is a pre-implementation survey of health care providers of HIV-related services in selected counties. The survey, will conclude July 1, 2002, and is designed to assess health care provider knowledge about the reporting regulations, determine their perceived barriers to reporting, and identify needs for training and technical assistance related to the implementation of HIV reporting. The OA has visited public health surveillance staff from the counties of Alameda, Kern, Sacramento, and San Bernardino to review and discuss the provider survey prior to their contact with their local health care providers.

Request for Proposal (RFP) to Develop Training Curriculum for HIV Reporting

The OA held a pre-Bidders Conference on April 11, 2002 from 0900 – 1200. During this time, OA provided a brief overview of the HIV non-name code reporting system, the State RFP and contract process, and responded to pre-submitted questions. This was a voluntary conference and no new information was given. Proposals were due May 2, 2002 and the review process began shortly thereafter. The RFP used a competitive bid process to solicit proposals for a contract to develop and provide a non-name-based HIV reporting education and training curriculum, targeting laboratories, health care providers, and HIV/AIDS surveillance staff at local health departments (LHD). The procurement was open to all eligible firms or individuals that met the qualification requirements, including commercial businesses, nonprofit organizations, public or private universities, and other entities. The OA HIV/AIDS Registry staff will continue to provide technical assistance to LHD during the pre/post implementation period of the HIV non-name reporting system.

Training/Technical Assistance for Local Health Departments

During April, OA surveillance and technical staff provided provisional training on HIV non-name code reporting system to thirty-two local health jurisdictions (LHJ). These trainings focused on the responsibilities of LHJ for collecting and matching data, establishing contacts with laboratories and health care providers, and becoming familiar with the provisions of the HIV reporting regulations. All counties will be contacted and given provisional training prior to July 1, 2002. OA surveillance and epidemiology staff have also met with the largest laboratories licensed to perform HIV testing in California to discuss their role in HIV reporting, and to address their needs and concerns.

HIV NON-NAME CODE REPORTING IN CALIFORNIA

IMPLEMENTATION COUNTDOWN UPDATE – JUNE 2002

HIV Reporting Non-Name Code Regulations

California's regulations for reporting HIV infection by non-name code were approved by the Office of Administrative Law on May 2, 2002 and filed with the Secretary of State. The regulations will become effective July 1, 2002. The HIV reporting regulations will be published in the California Code of Regulations, Title 17, Division 1, Chapter 4, Subchapter 1, Article 3.5, Sections 2641.5–2643.2. These regulations are accessible via the Department of Health Services, Office of AIDS (OA) website at http://www.dhs.ca.gov/AIDS and the Office of Regulations website at http://www.applications.dhs.ca.gov/Regulations.

Health Care Provider Survey

This OA pre-implementation survey involves health care providers of HIV-related services in selected counties (Alameda, Kern, Sacramento, and San Bernardino). The survey is designed to assess health care provider knowledge, attitudes, and needs about the HIV reporting regulations, and perceived barriers to reporting, as well as to identify needs for training and technical assistance related to the implementation of HIV reporting. The information from the survey will assist OA in developing a training curriculum targeted to health care providers. The counties are currently in the process of conducting interviews with health care providers and submitting completed surveys to OA for data entry.

Request for Proposal (RFP) to Develop Training Curriculum for HIV Reporting

OA is pleased to announce the selection of ETR Associates for the Non-Name HIV Reporting Curriculum Development Education/Training Project. ETR will educate and train health care providers, local HIV/AIDS surveillance staff, and public and private clinical laboratory management about the regulations for HIV reporting using a non-name code. ETR Associates is recognized as a national leader in the development and implementation of skill-based trainings for professionals such as schoolteachers, clinicians, social workers, health educators and youth workers. ETR will develop and implement an education and training program for the two-year contract period from July 1, 2002 to June 30, 2004.

Training/Technical Assistance for Local Health Departments

OA surveillance and technical staff are currently providing training on the HIV non-name code reporting system to local health departments (LHD). The training focuses on the responsibilities of LHD to collect and match data, establish contacts with laboratories and health care providers, and become familiar with the provisions of the HIV reporting regulations. So far, 48 LHD have received training from OA; the remaining 13 LHD will receive training on the HIV reporting system before July 1, 2002. In addition, OA surveillance and epidemiology staff are meeting with the largest laboratories licensed to perform HIV testing in California to discuss their role in HIV reporting, and to address their technical needs and reporting concerns. Training activities include the laboratory's role in completing the partial non-name code, and sending it both to the LHD and to the health care provider who submitted the blood specimen. Four laboratories were visited in May, and another four will be visited in June 2002. OA has developed and tested standardized reporting formats, coding vocabularies, and forms for the reporting of confirmatory HIV test results and will make these available to laboratories, along with software for generating the Soundex code.

During May, OA provided case report forms, software to accommodate the reporting code, the new numbering system for all HIV and AIDS cases, and allocations of these new case numbers to all LHD. Many of the larger LHD received software to generate the Soundex code, and Regtext to assist in the process of unduplicating case reports in the HIV/AIDS Reporting System (HARS). Each LHD was assigned a unique set of numbers, seven digits in length, to be used when entering the state number on their case report forms.

Other activities included the release of letters announcing the approval of California's HIV reporting system. Letters were sent to all local health officers, local AIDS directors, and numerous laboratories, organizations, and other interested parties. Plans are in progress to include the announcement in newsletters targeting physicians.

HIV NON-NAME CODE REPORTING IN CALIFORNIA

MONTHLY HIV UPDATE – JULY 2002

HIV Reporting Non-Name Code Regulations

California's regulations for reporting HIV infection by Non-Name Code became effective July 1, 2002. The HIV reporting regulations are published in the California Code of Regulations, Title 17, Division 1, Chapter 4, Subchapter 1, Article 3.5, Sections 2641.5–2643.2. These regulations are also accessible via the Department of Health Services, Office of AIDS (OA) website at http://www.dhs.ca.gov/AIDS .

ETR Associates to Develop a Training Curriculum for HIV Reporting

On July 2, 2002, ETR Associates met with OA staff in a collaborative effort to review the HIV regulations and present an outline of their plan, materials and personnel to develop and implement the education and training curriculum for the HIV reporting system. ETR will educate and train health care providers, local HIV/AIDS surveillance staff, and public and private laboratories about the HIV regulations and the reporting of HIV using a Non-Name Code. ETR anticipates that announcements for statewide trainings will be posted by September 2002, that trainings will begin by October 2002, and that a comparable interactive on-line training system will be available by December 15, 2002. The contract period runs from July 1, 2002 to June 30, 2004.

Health Care Provider Survey

This OA pre-implementation survey has been extended through July 31, 2002 and involves health care providers of HIV-related services in selected counties (Alameda, Kern, Sacramento, and San Bernardino). The survey is designed to assess health care provider knowledge, attitudes, and needs regarding the HIV reporting regulations, and perceived barriers to reporting, as well as to identify needs for training and technical assistance for HIV reporting. Information from the survey will assist ETR Associates to develop a training curriculum for health care providers. The counties are currently in the process of conducting interviews with health care providers and submitting completed surveys to OA for data entry.

University of California San Francisco AIDS Policy Research Center – Survey Acceptability of the HIV Non-Name Code Reporting System

The purpose of this three-year project is to evaluate the acceptability of the HIV Non-Name Code Reporting System by conducting focus groups and interviews with test-takers, advocacy groups, community planning groups, local health departments' HIV/AIDS surveillance staff, laboratory personnel, medical societies, and health care providers. The pre-implementation phase (May and June 2002) involved interviewing key stakeholder groups in four selected counties: Fresno, Los Angeles, Riverside, and Santa Clara. Those interviews have been completed and the evaluation study now enters a period of data analysis and findings. This will be followed by the post-implementation phase that takes place after one year (July and August 2003) of HIV reporting experience. The information gained from the first and second phase of this project will assist ETR Associates in developing and adjusting the training curriculum.

Milestones in the Implementation Process

OA surveillance and technical staff continue to provide training on the HIV Non-Name Code Reporting System - focusing on the roles and responsibilities of the local health departments (LHDs), providers, and laboratories. The training will facilitate the standardization of HIV reporting statewide. Major activities included: 1) notification of other state health departments about the implementation of our HIV reporting system; 2) meetings with major laboratories to determine electronic and manual reporting formats, coding vocabularies, and instructions for reporting of confirmed HIV cases to the LHDs; 3) presentations on the HIV reporting process to laboratory associations; 4) providing ongoing technical assistance to laboratories and providers; and 5) development of a list of frequently asked questions for health care providers that will be posted on the OA website at http://www.dhs.ca.gov/AIDS . In addition, OA is planning to develop and post FAQs for laboratories and LHD.

As of July 15, 2002 over 1,600 unduplicated HIV cases have been reported to DHS/OA from LHD.

HIV NON-NAME CODE REPORTING IN CALIFORNIA

MONTHLY HIV UPDATE – AUGUST 2002

HIV Reporting Non-Name Code Regulations

California's regulations for reporting HIV infection by Non-Name Code became effective July 1, 2002. The HIV reporting regulations are published in the California Code of Regulations, Title 17, Division 1, Chapter 4, Subchapter 1, Article 3.5, Sections 2641.5–2643.2. These regulations are also accessible via the Department of Health Services, Office of AIDS (OA) website at http://www.dhs.ca.gov/AIDS .

ETR Associates to Develop a Training Curriculum for HIV Reporting

On August 7, 2002, ETR Associates met with OA staff to review the first draft of the training curriculum for the HIV Non-Name Code Reporting System. The training curriculum included detailed procedures for training health care providers, public and private laboratories, and local HIV/AIDS surveillance staff on the HIV reporting system, and outlined specific tasks for each entity. By September 2002, ETR will begin an information campaign announcing a timetable for trainings in the 10 most populated areas in California. The trainings will begin by October 2002, and an interactive on-line training module will be available by December 2002. The contract period runs from July 1, 2002 to June 30, 2004.

Health Care Provider Survey

This OA pre-implementation survey concluded July 31, 2002 and the four participating counties (Alameda, Kern, Sacramento, and San Bernardino) are submitting the last of their health care provider surveys to the OA for data entry. The survey is designed to assess health care provider knowledge, attitudes, and needs on the subject of the HIV reporting regulations, and perceived barriers to reporting, as well as to identify needs for training and technical assistance for HIV reporting. Information from the survey will assist ETR Associates in developing and adjusting the training curriculum for health care providers.

University of California San Francisco AIDS Policy Research Center – Survey Acceptability of the HIV Non-Name Code Reporting System

The purpose of this three-year project is to evaluate the acceptability of the HIV Non-Name Code Reporting System by conducting focus groups and interviews with test-takers, advocacy groups, community planning groups, local health departments' HIV/AIDS surveillance staff, laboratory personnel, medical societies, and health care providers. The pre-implementation phase (May and June 2002) involved interviewing key stakeholder groups in four selected counties: Fresno, Los Angeles, Riverside, and Santa Clara. Those interviews have been completed and the evaluation study now enters a period of data analysis and findings. The information gained from the first phase of this project will assist ETR Associates in developing and adjusting their training curriculum.

Implementation Progress

OA registry staff completed all the initial training on HIV Non-Name Code Reporting for local health departments (LHD). The training focused on the HIV Regulations and the role and responsibilities of LHD, while facilitating the standardization of HIV reporting statewide.

As the LHD receives new HIV case reports, surveillance staff have been able to provide feedback and assistance with HIV reporting issues and concerns. OA encourages LHD to contact the state surveillance staff to discuss situations that may arise while implementing HIV reporting, i.e., interacting with health care providers and laboratories, resolving potential problems associated with matching and unduplicating cases. It is anticipated that many of the questions that are now being asked will be reduced once ETR & Associates implement the HIV reporting training curriculum in October 2002.

By the end of July 2002, there were 2,135 HIV cases reported by 14 LHD to the OA. Most of the reports were complete and accurate including the last 4-digits of the social security number and the mode of transmission. It is felt that the early success of the HIV reporting system can be attributed to the cooperative effort of laboratories, health care providers and the LHD HIV/AIDS surveillance staff.

HIV NON-NAME CODE REPORTING IN CALIFORNIA

MONTHLY HIV UPDATE – SEPTEMBER 2002

HIV Reporting Non-Name Code Regulations

California's regulations for reporting HIV infection by Non-Name Code became effective July 1, 2002. The HIV reporting regulations are published in the California Code of Regulations, Title 17, Division 1, Chapter 4, Subchapter 1, Article 3.5, Sections 2641.5–2643.2. These regulations are also accessible via the Department of Health Services, Office of AIDS (OA) website at http://www.dhs.ca.gov/AIDS.

ETR Associates Develops a Training Curriculum for HIV Reporting

ETR Associates has developed an HIV reporting curriculum which includes detailed procedures for training health care providers, and public and private laboratories. The training outlines specific tasks for each entity. ETR has begun an information campaign announcing a timetable for trainings in the 10 most populated areas in California. The trainings will begin in October 2002 and registration can be done on-line. The OA website provides a link to ETR's training sites, times, and on-line registration. In December 2002, an interactive on-line training module will also be made available. ETR's contract period runs from July 1, 2002 to June 30, 2004.

Health Care Provider Survey

This OA pre-implementation survey concluded July 31, 2002 in the four participating counties (Alameda, Kern, Sacramento, and San Bernardino) and the information from the health care provider surveys has been entered in the database. The survey was designed to assess health care provider knowledge, attitudes, and needs on the subject of the HIV reporting regulations, and perceived barriers to reporting, as well as to identify needs for training and technical assistance for HIV reporting. The data is being analyzed and a summary report will be available upon its completion. Information from the survey will assist ETR Associates in adjusting the training curriculum for health care providers.

University of California San Francisco AIDS Policy Research Center – Survey Acceptability of the HIV Non-Name Code Reporting System

The purpose of this three-year project is to evaluate the acceptability of the HIV Non-Name Code Reporting System by conducting focus groups and interviews with test-takers, advocacy groups, community planning groups, local health departments' HIV/AIDS surveillance staff, laboratory personnel, medical societies, and health care providers. The pre-implementation phase (May and June 2002) involved interviewing key stakeholder groups in four selected counties: Fresno, Los Angeles, Riverside, and Santa Clara. A preliminary analysis and report was provided to the OA to assist ETR Associates in adjusting their training curriculum. Further analysis of the pre-implementation data will be made available when it is completed.

Implementation Progress

OA registry staff have provided and will continue to provide assistance to local health departments (LHDs) in unduplicating HIV cases, and to laboratories and providers who have questions about the HIV reporting system. As the LHDs receive new HIV case reports, their surveillance staff have provided feedback and assistance to health care providers with HIV reporting issues and concerns. OA continues to encourage LHDs to contact the state surveillance staff to discuss special situations that may arise while implementing HIV reporting. It is anticipated that the number questions now being asked will be reduced once ETR Associates implements the HIV reporting training curriculum in October 2002.

By the end of August 2002, there were 3,183 unduplicated HIV cases reported by 22 LHDs to the OA. Most of the reports were complete and accurate, including the last 4-digits of the Social Security Number and the mode of transmission. The early success of the HIV reporting system can be attributed to the cooperative effort of laboratories, health care providers and the LHD HIV/AIDS surveillance staff.

HIV NON-NAME CODE REPORTING IN CALIFORNIA

MONTHLY HIV UPDATE – OCTOBER2002

HIV Reporting Non-Name Code Regulations

California's regulations for reporting HIV infection by Non-Name Code became effective July 1, 2002. The HIV reporting regulations are published in the California Code of Regulations, Title 17, Division 1, Chapter 4, Subchapter 1, Article 3.5, Sections 2641.5–2643.2. These regulations are also accessible via the Department of Health Services, Office of AIDS (OA) website at http://www.dhs.ca.gov/AIDS.

ETR Associates Develops a Training Curriculum for HIV Reporting

ETR Associates has developed an HIV reporting curriculum that includes detailed instruction and guidance in reporting procedures for health care providers and public and private laboratories. ETR will be conducting up to 33 trainings from October through December in high incidence health jurisdictions. Classes are two hours in length and include a question and answer module conducted by a local health department (LHD) surveillance representative. Provider and laboratory personnel are encouraged to register for a class in their area as soon as possible. Online registration is available via the OA website which provides a link to ETR's training locations, sites, and times. In December 2002, an interactive on-line training module will also be available.

Health Care Provider Survey

This OA pre-implementation survey concluded July 31, 2002 in the four participating counties (Alameda, Kern, Sacramento, and San Bernardino) and the information from the health care provider surveys has been entered in the database. The survey was designed to assess health care provider knowledge, attitudes, and needs on the subject of the HIV reporting regulations, and perceived barriers to reporting, as well as to identify needs for training and technical assistance for HIV reporting. The data are being analyzed and a summary report will be available upon its completion. Information from the survey will assist ETR Associates in adjusting the training curriculum for health care providers.

University of California San Francisco AIDS Policy Research Center – Survey Acceptability of the HIV Non-Name Code Reporting System

The purpose of this three-year project is to evaluate the acceptability of the HIV Non-Name Code Reporting System by conducting focus groups and interviews with test-takers, advocacy groups, community planning groups, local health departments' HIV/AIDS surveillance staff, laboratory personnel, medical societies, and health care providers. The pre-implementation phase (May and June 2002) involved interviewing key stakeholder groups in four selected counties: Fresno, Los Angeles, Riverside, and Santa Clara. A preliminary analysis and report was provided to the OA to assist ETR Associates in adjusting their training curriculum. Further analysis of the pre-implementation data will be made available when it is completed.

Implementation Progress

OA registry staff continue to work with local LHD to develop strategies for bringing providers and laboratories into compliance with the HIV regulations and to ensure that unique HIV cases are being reported. OA staff have noticed an increased interest in, and requests for, partner counseling and referral services (PCRS). OA staff encourage local surveillance staff to collaborate with LHD PCRS programs to develop protocol for, and receive training in, how to provide PCRS. OA also encourages LHDs to contact their assigned state surveillance staff to discuss other special situations that may arise while implementing HIV reporting. It is anticipated that the HIV reporting training and curriculum materials being developed and delivered for providers and laboratories by ETR Associates will enhance their respective reporting capacities by providing tools and resources to simplify the reporting process.

By the end of September 2002, there were 4,412 unduplicated HIV cases reported to the OA by 35 LHDs. Most of the reports were complete and accurate, including the last four digits of the patient's Social Security Number and the mode of transmission. The continued early success of the HIV reporting system can be attributed to the cooperative effort of laboratories, health care providers and the LHD HIV/AIDS surveillance staff.

HIV NON-NAME CODE REPORTING IN CALIFORNIA

MONTHLY HIV UPDATE – NOVEMBER 2002

HIV Reporting Non-Name Code Regulations

California's regulations for reporting HIV infection by Non-Name Code became effective July 1, 2002. The HIV reporting regulations are published in the California Code of Regulations, Title 17, Division 1, Chapter 4, Subchapter 1, Article 3.5, Sections 2641.5–2643.2. These regulations are also accessible via the Department of Health Services, Office of AIDS (OA) website at http://www.dhs.ca.gov/AIDS.

ETR Associates Training for HIV Reporting Is Now Available

ETR Associates has developed an HIV reporting curriculum that includes detailed instruction and guidance in reporting procedures for health care providers and public and private laboratories. During October ETR provided 12 trainings throughout the state. There are 12 trainings scheduled for November and nine trainings scheduled for December. Classes are two hours in length and include a question and answer session. A surveillance representative from the local health department (LHD) will also be in attendance. Provider and laboratory personnel are encouraged to register for a class in their area as soon as possible. ETR's online registration and training program (the electronic version of the in-class training) is now available via the OA website. The website also provides a link to ETR's training locations, sites, and times.

Implementation Progress

OA registry staff are conducting site visits to all LHDs to monitor the flow of HIV cases, and to assist in the process of contacting and training providers and laboratories in each local health jurisdiction. OA encourages LHDs to contact their assigned state surveillance staff to discuss any special situations that may arise while implementing HIV reporting. It is anticipated that the HIV reporting training and curriculum materials now being delivered to providers and laboratories by ETR Associates will enhance their respective reporting capacities by providing tools and resources to simplify the reporting process. In addition to the health care provider frequently asked questions (FAQs), the OA recently compiled a list of FAQs by laboratory personnel regarding HIV reporting regulations in California. Responses to these questions are now available through the OA website.

By the end of October 2002, there were 5,888 unduplicated HIV cases reported to the OA by 38 LHDs. Most of the reports were complete and accurate, including the last four digits of the patient's Social Security Number and the mode of transmission. Each LHD that has not yet reported an HIV case has been contacted to determine if they are having problems and are in need of technical assistance to get their system started. The continued early success of the HIV reporting system can be attributed to the cooperative effort of laboratories, health care providers and the LHD HIV/AIDS surveillance staff.

Impact Of HIV Surveillance On AIDS Case Reporting

Among the many important public health reasons for conducting HIV surveillance is the expectation that it will enhance AIDS case reporting. Since HIV reporting regulations became effective on July 1, 2002, the State HIV/AIDS Case Registry has detected a significant increase in the number of reported AIDS cases. Between July and September (3rd quarter) of this year, a total of 1,299 cases of AIDS were reported to the Registry, showing an increase of 29.3% when compared to the 1,005 AIDS cases reported during the same time period last year. The following table compares the number of AIDS cases reported during 3rd quarter 2001 and 2002 by race/ethnicity, gender, and age group.

	Number of AIDS Cases Reported		
	3rd Quarter 2001	3rd Quarter 2002	Percent Increase
Race/Ethnicity			
White	440	502	14.1%
African American	233	301	29.2%
Hispanic	285	439	54.0%
Other*	44	54	22.7%
Unknown	3	3	-
Gender			
Male	882	1,135	28.7%
Female	123	164	33.3%
Age			
Less than 20	10	5	-
20 – 29	114	148	29.8%
30 – 39	430	550	27.9%
40 – 49	301	421	39.9%
50 and over	150	175	16.7%

* Include Asian Pacific Islander and Native American. Source: DHS, Office of AIDS Case Registry

While the number of reported AIDS cases have increased, the number of newly diagnosed AIDS cases continues to decline from 1,056 in 3rd quarter 2000, to 914 and 346 during the same quarter in 2001 and 2002 respectively (The number of AIDS cases diagnosed in 3rd quarter 2002 is expected to exceed 346 due to reporting delay). Therefore, the marked increase in the number of AIDS cases during 3rd quarter 2002 is not because more individuals are being diagnosed with AIDS, but rather a direct impact of implementing HIV reporting as it resulted in better reporting of prevalent AIDS cases by health care providers and local health department surveillance staff.

HIV NON-NAME CODE REPORTING IN CALIFORNIA

MONTHLY HIV UPDATE – DECEMBER 2002

HIV Reporting Non-Name Code Regulations

California's regulations for reporting HIV infection by Non-Name Code became effective July 1, 2002. The HIV reporting regulations are published in the California Code of Regulations, Title 17, Division 1, Chapter 4, Subchapter 1, Article 3.5, Sections 2641.5–2643.2. These regulations are also accessible via the Department of Health Services, Office of AIDS (OA) website at http://www.dhs.ca.gov/AIDS.

ETR Associates Training for HIV Reporting Is Now Available

ETR Associates has developed an HIV reporting curriculum that includes detailed instruction and guidance in reporting procedures for health care providers and public and private laboratories. During November, ETR provided 12 trainings throughout the state, and nine trainings scheduled for December. Classes are two hours in length and include a question and answer session. A surveillance representative from the local health department (LHD) also attends. Provider and laboratory personnel are encouraged to register for a class in their area as soon as possible. ETR's online registration and training program (the electronic version of the in-class training) is now available via the OA website. The website also provides a link to ETR's training locations, sites, and times. In addition, ETR can provide onsite training to providers if 10 or more individuals will attend the training. Please contact Christina Alvarez, at ETR, by phone at (831) 438-4060 extension 173, or by e-mail at christinaa@etr.org to coordinate the training.

Implementation Progress

OA registry staff continues to conduct site visits to all LHDs to monitor the flow of HIV cases, and to assist in the process of contacting and training providers and laboratories in each local health jurisdiction. OA encourages LHDs to contact their assigned state surveillance staff member to discuss any special situations that may arise while implementing HIV reporting. The HIV reporting training and curriculum materials, furnished to providers and laboratories by ETR Associates, will enhance respective reporting capacities by providing tools and resources to simplify the reporting process. Frequently asked questions (FAQs) for the laboratories and providers are available on the OA website.

By the end of November 2002, there were 7,936 unduplicated HIV cases reported to the OA by 43 LHDs. This is an increase of 2,048 cases and five additional LHDs reporting since last month's report. Most of the case reports were complete and accurate, and included the last four digits of the patient's Social Security Number and the mode of transmission. LHDs that have not yet reported an HIV case have been contacted to determine if they are having problems and are in need of technical assistance. The continued early success of the HIV reporting system can be attributed to the cooperative effort of laboratories, health care providers and the LHD HIV/AIDS surveillance staff. OA extends a special thanks for the challenging work performed by the LHD surveillance staff.

Health Care Provider Survey

This OA pre-implementation survey was designed to assess health care provider knowledge, attitudes, and needs on the subject of the HIV reporting regulations, and perceived barriers to reporting, as well as to identify needs for training and technical assistance for HIV reporting. A summary report will be available when the review process is completed.

University of California San Francisco AIDS Policy Research Center – Survey Acceptability of the HIV Non-Name Code Reporting System

The purpose of this three-year project is to evaluate the acceptability of the HIV Non-Name Code Reporting System by conducting focus groups and interviews with test-takers, advocacy groups, community planning groups, LHD HIV/AIDS surveillance staff, laboratory personnel, medical societies, and health care providers. The pre-implementation phase (May and June 2002) involved interviewing key stakeholder groups in four selected counties: Fresno, Los Angeles, Riverside, and Santa Clara. A preliminary analysis and report was provided to the OA to assist ETR Associates in adjusting their training curriculum. Further analysis of the pre-implementation data will be made available when it is completed.

HIV NON-NAME CODE REPORTING IN CALIFORNIA

MONTHLY HIV UPDATE – JANUARY 2003

HIV Reporting Non-Name Code Regulations

California's regulations for reporting HIV infection by Non-Name Code became effective July 1, 2002. The HIV reporting regulations are published in the California Code of Regulations, Title 17, Division 1, Chapter 4, Subchapter 1, Article 3.5, Sections 2641.5–2643.2. These regulations are also accessible via the Department of Health Services, Office of AIDS (OA) website at http://www.dhs.ca.gov/AIDS.

ETR Associates Training for HIV Reporting Is Now Available

ETR Associates has developed an HIV reporting curriculum that includes detailed instruction and guidance in HIV reporting procedures for health care providers and public and private laboratories. Classes are two hours in length and include instruction in how and what to report, form completion, and a question and answer session. An HIV/AIDS surveillance representative from the local health department (LHD) attends to provide assistance in region-specific protocol and practices. Physicians, laboratory administrators and their staff who are responsible for communicable disease reporting are encouraged to register for a class in their area as soon as possible in order to adequately comply with the new HIV reporting requirements.

During December, ETR provided seven trainings throughout the state, and scheduled seven trainings for January. Continuing education credits are provided to physicians, nurses, health educators and laboratory scientists. ETR's online registration and training program (the electronic version of the in-class training) is now available via the OA website. The website also provides a link to ETR's training locations, sites, and times. In addition, ETR can provide onsite training to providers if 10 or more individuals will attend. If you are interested in scheduling training for your organization or facility, please contact Christina Alvarez by accessing the ETR link on the OA web page. Scroll down to the section titled "Special Training Needs" under the "Live Trainings" section.

Implementation Progress

OA registry staff conducted site visits to four LHDs to monitor and facilitate HIV reporting practices, and to assist in contacting and training providers and laboratories in these local health jurisdictions. OA encourages LHDs to contact their assigned state surveillance staff member to request a site visit or discuss any special situations that may arise. The HIV reporting training curriculum and educational materials furnished by ETR Associates will enhance provider and laboratory reporting capacities by offering tools and resources to simplify the reporting process. Frequently asked questions (FAQs) developed for providers and laboratories are available on the OA website.

By the end of December 2002, there were 9,155 unduplicated HIV cases reported to the OA by 45 LHDs. This is an increase of 1,219 cases and two reporting LHDs since last month's report. Most of the case reports were complete and accurate and included the last four digits of the patient's Social Security Number and the mode of transmission. The continued early success of the HIV reporting system can be attributed to the cooperative effort of laboratories, health care providers and the LHD HIV/AIDS surveillance staff. OA extends a special thanks for the challenging work performed by the LHD surveillance staff.

Health Care Provider Survey

This OA pre-implementation survey was designed to assess health care provider knowledge, attitudes, and needs on the subject of the HIV reporting regulations, and perceived barriers to reporting, as well as to identify needs for training and technical assistance for HIV reporting. A summary report will be available when the review process is completed.

University of California San Francisco AIDS Policy Research Center – Survey Acceptability of the HIV Non-Name Code Reporting System

The purpose of this three-year project is to evaluate the acceptability of the HIV Non-Name Code Reporting System by conducting focus groups and interviews with test-takers, advocacy groups, community planning groups, LHD HIV/AIDS surveillance staff, laboratory personnel, medical societies, and health care providers. A complete report of the findings from the "pre-implementation phase" is being finalized.

HIV NON-NAME CODE REPORTING IN CALIFORNIA

MONTHLY HIV UPDATE – FEBRUARY 2003

HIV Reporting Non-Name Code Regulations

California's regulations for reporting HIV infection by Non-Name Code became effective July 1, 2002. The HIV reporting regulations are published in the California Code of Regulations, Title 17, Division 1, Chapter 4, Subchapter 1, Article 3.5, Sections 2641.5–2643.2. These regulations are also accessible via the Department of Health Services, Office of AIDS (OA) website at http://www.dhs.ca.gov/AIDS.

New Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Race/Ethnicity Requirement

CDC has notified all states of a new mandate (effective January 1, 2003) for reporting race/ethnicity. As a result, the OA has provided a race/ethnicity addendum for use with all HIV/AIDS Case Report forms. The form will be amended in the near future to reflect this new method. For more information on this requirement, contact your local health department (LHD), and by March 2003 this information will be available on the OA website.

ETR Associates Training for HIV Reporting Is Now Available

ETR Associates has revised the HIV reporting training curriculum to include information on the new race/ethnicity HIV/AIDS Case Report addendum and detailed instruction on HIV reporting procedures for health care providers and public and private laboratories.

Revised curricula will be available on March 1, 2003. Classes are two hours in length and include instruction in how and what to report, form completion, and a question and answer session. An HIV/AIDS surveillance representative from the local health department (LHD) attends to provide assistance in region-specific protocol and practices. Physicians, laboratory administrators and their staff who are responsible for communicable disease reporting are encouraged to register for a class in their area as soon as possible in order to adequately comply with the new HIV reporting requirements.

During January 2003, ETR provided seven trainings throughout the state, and nine training sessions are scheduled for February. Continuing education credits are provided to physicians, nurses, health educators and laboratory scientists. ETR's online registration and training program (the electronic version of the in-class training) is now available via the OA website. The website also provides a link to ETR's training locations, sites, and times. In addition, ETR can provide onsite training to providers if five or more individuals will attend. To schedule training for your organization or facility, please contact Christina Alvarez by accessing the ETR link on the OA web page. Scroll down to the section titled "Special Training Needs" under the "Live Trainings" section.

Implementation Progress

OA registry staff conducted site visits to three major LHDs to monitor and facilitate HIV reporting practices, and to assist in contacting and training providers and laboratories in these local health jurisdictions. OA encourages LHDs to contact their assigned state surveillance staff member to request a site visit or discuss any special situations that may arise. The HIV reporting training curriculum and educational materials furnished by ETR Associates will enhance provider and laboratory reporting capacities by offering tools and resources to simplify the reporting process. Frequently asked questions (FAQs) developed for providers and laboratories are available on the OA website, the FAQs are scheduled to be updated in March 2003.

By January 31, 2003, there were **10,320 unduplicated HIV cases reported to the OA** by 45 LHDs. This is an increase of 1,165 cases since last month's report. Most of the case reports were complete and accurate and included the last four digits of the patient's Social Security Number and the mode of transmission. The continued early success of the HIV reporting system can be attributed to the cooperative effort of laboratories, health care providers and the LHD HIV/AIDS surveillance staff. OA extends a special thanks for the challenging work performed by the LHD surveillance staff.

University of California San Francisco AIDS Policy Research Center – Survey Acceptability of the HIV Non-Name Code Reporting System

The purpose of this three-year project is to evaluate the acceptability of the HIV Non-Name Code Reporting System by conducting focus groups and interviews with HIV test-takers, advocacy groups, community planning groups, LHD HIV/AIDS surveillance staff, laboratory personnel, medical societies, and health care providers. Initial results from recent HIV test-takers (N=206) in the four survey counties indicate widespread support for non-name HIV reporting. Eighty- eight percent preferred name-to-code or code-based HIV reporting systems to name-based systems. Of those preferring a non-name system 22 percent preferred name-to-code, and 78 percent preferred a code-based system. A complete report of the findings from the “pre-implementation phase” is in progress.

HIV NON-NAME CODE REPORTING IN CALIFORNIA

MONTHLY HIV UPDATE – MARCH 2003

HIV Reporting Non-Name Code Regulations

California's regulations for reporting HIV infection by Non-Name Code became effective July 1, 2002. The HIV reporting regulations are published in the California Code of Regulations, Title 17, Division 1, Chapter 4, Subchapter 1, Article 3.5, Sections 2641.5–2643.2. These regulations are also accessible via the Department of Health Services, Office of AIDS (OA) website at http://www.dhs.ca.gov/AIDS.

New Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Race/Ethnicity Requirement

The OA HIV/AIDS Registry Section would like to commend health care providers and local health departments (LHD) for adapting so quickly to CDCs new mandate (effective January 1, 2003) for reporting race/ethnicity, and completing the HIV/AIDS Case Report form addendum. A permanent change to the HIV/AIDS Case Report form will occur through the formal regulations amendment process. For more information on the CDC requirement, contact your LHD or access the expanded race/ethnicity requirements on the OA website.

ETR Associates Training for HIV Reporting Is Now Available

ETR Associates delivers training in HIV reporting and offers tools and resources to health care providers and laboratories to simplify the reporting process. Classes are two hours in length and include instruction in how and what to report, how to complete a case report form, and offers a question and answer session. An HIV/AIDS surveillance representative from the LHD attends to provide assistance in region-specific protocol and practices. Physicians, laboratory administrators and their staff who are responsible for communicable disease reporting are encouraged to register for a class in their area as soon as possible in order to adequately comply with the new HIV reporting requirements. Additionally, ETR can provide onsite training and technical assistance to providers.

Most recently, ETR has revised the training curriculum to include information on the new HIV/AIDS Case Report form addendum to include race/ethnicity. The new curriculum will be available in March 2003.

During February 2003, ETR provided training at the Early Intervention Program Annual Statewide Conference and seven trainings in seven health jurisdictions. Two on-site technical assistance visits were conducted at provider offices who do major reporting of HIV cases in their region. In March there are two conferences, two technical assistance visits and eight health care provider trainings scheduled. ETR offers continuing education credits to physicians, nurses, health educators and laboratory scientists. ETR's online registration and training program (the electronic version of the in-class training) is available via the OA website and is currently being updated to reflect the new curriculum. The website also provides a link to ETR's training locations, sites, and times. To schedule a site visit or training for your organization or facility, please contact Christina Alvarez by accessing the ETR link on the OA web page. Scroll down to the section titled "Special Training Needs" under the "Live Trainings" section.

Implementation Progress

OA's HIV/AIDS Registry staff continue to conduct site visits to LHDs to monitor and facilitate HIV reporting practices, and to assist in contacting and training providers and laboratories. OA encourages LHDs to contact their assigned state surveillance staff member to request a site visit or discuss any special situations that may arise. Frequently asked questions (FAQs) developed for providers and laboratories are available on the OA website, the FAQs are currently being updated.

By February 28, 2003, there were **12,762 unduplicated HIV cases reported to the OA** by 48 LHDs. This is an increase of **2,442** cases since last month's report. The continued early success of the HIV reporting system can be attributed to the cooperative effort of laboratories, health care providers and the LHD HIV/AIDS surveillance staff. OA extends a special thanks for the challenging work performed by the LHD surveillance staff.

University of California San Francisco AIDS Policy Research Center (APRC) – Survey Acceptability of the HIV Non-Name Code Reporting System

The purpose of this three-year project is to evaluate the acceptability of the HIV Non-Name Code Reporting System by conducting focus groups and interviews with HIV test-takers, advocacy groups, community planning groups, LHD HIV/AIDS surveillance staff, laboratory personnel, medical societies, and health care providers. Last month APRC reported initial results from recent test takers in Fresno, Los Angeles, Riverside and Santa Clara - the four survey counties. Beginning in April and continuing through June, APRC is preparing to return to the four counties to evaluate the acceptability/feasibility of the HIV reporting system to complete the Year-1 portion of the survey.