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Subject: Remove 'AIDS Virus' Language

Posted by [alstangl](#) on Thu, 27 Mar 2014 20:42:26 GMT

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ICRW, on behalf of the Global Stigma and Discrimination Indicator Working Group (GSDIWG), recommends the replacement of the 'AIDS virus' phrase with 'HIV' in all questions where it currently appears in the HIV module, including questions: 902, 903, 904, 905, 906, 907, 914, 915, 916, 921, 922, 924, 926 and 930.

Rationale for change: Technically, AIDS is not a virus, HIV is. Thus, using the terminology 'AIDS virus' is technically incorrect and could foster confusion and misunderstanding of the difference between HIV and AIDS, resulting in poor quality data. In addition, the term 'AIDS virus' is stigmatizing, as it infers that people living with HIV will all progress to AIDS. The 'AIDS virus' language can also foster stigma by directly linking HIV and AIDS in respondent's minds. Given the negative association of AIDS with a long, debilitating death, the term often inspires fear, which is a key driver of stigma towards people living with HIV. In 2011, UNAIDS recommended that HIV and AIDS not be linked directly and that the term most specific and appropriate to a given situation be used in its Terminology Guidelines (See:

<http://www.unaids.org/en/media/unaids/contentassets/document>

[s/document/2011/20111009\\_UNAIDS\\_Terminology\\_Guidelines\\_MidtermAdditions\\_en.pdf](http://www.unaids.org/en/media/unaids/contentassets/document/2011/20111009_UNAIDS_Terminology_Guidelines_MidtermAdditions_en.pdf)).

Moving forward, the outdated 'AIDS virus' terminology should be replaced with 'HIV'.

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Subject: Re: Remove 'AIDS Virus' Language

Posted by [UNAIDS\\_RAL](#) on Wed, 02 Apr 2014 17:12:41 GMT

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In 2011, in its Terminology Guidelines, UNAIDS recommended that HIV and AIDS not be linked directly and that the term most specific and appropriate to a given situation be used (See:

<http://www.unaids.org/en/media/unaids/contentassets/document>

[s/document/2011/20111009\\_UNAIDS\\_Terminology\\_Guidelines\\_MidtermAdditions\\_en.pdf](http://www.unaids.org/en/media/unaids/contentassets/document/2011/20111009_UNAIDS_Terminology_Guidelines_MidtermAdditions_en.pdf)). The

outdated 'AIDS virus' terminology should be replaced with 'HIV', to avoid confusion and misunderstanding of the difference between HIV and AIDS which may affect quality of data. The term 'AIDS virus' is stigmatizing, due to the negative association of AIDS with a long, debilitating death that inspires fear. Research has identified fear as a key driver of stigma towards people living with HIV.

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Subject: Re: Remove 'AIDS Virus' Language

Posted by [james.hargreaves@lshtm.ac](#) on Thu, 03 Apr 2014 11:00:48 GMT

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I agree with the comments made by Anne Stangl on behalf of the Global Stigma and Discrimination Indicator Working Group (GSDIWG)

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Subject: Re: Remove 'AIDS Virus' Language  
Posted by [cwolf](#) on Mon, 07 Apr 2014 09:55:57 GMT  
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On behalf of the Key Populations team at USAID Office of HIV/AIDS, I would like to support the changes ICRW has requested to remove the dated, inaccurate AIDS virus language.

Cameron Wolf, PhD, MSc  
Senior HIV/AIDS Advisor for Key Populations  
USAID Office of HIV/AIDS

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Subject: Re: Remove 'AIDS Virus' Language  
Posted by [lmyblade](#) on Thu, 10 Apr 2014 15:23:15 GMT  
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On behalf of the Health Policy Project, I am writing to support removal of the term "AIDS virus". While it may have been helpful a decade ago to use this term to ensure respondents understood the questions, it is no longer necessary. We also know from the past decade of research that equating HIV and AIDS only serves to further stigma.

Laura Nyblade  
Senior Technical Advisor, Stigma and Discrimination  
Health Policy Project and RTI

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