

RAPID POLICY ASSESSMENT & RESPONSE



Module III: Qualitative Data

Focus Group — Tools

Focus Groups: Tools

Purpose and Process

Purpose

- To learn qualitative data about key domains:
 - police behavior towards IDUs, commercial sex workers and MSM-IDUs
 - perceptions about these groups
 - access to harm reduction services
 - access to health care and drug treatment services
 - social stigma towards these groups
 - social risk behaviors involving these groups
 - social attitudes towards these groups.
- To identify potential systems and interactor key informants

Process

In this module, you will

- Identify focus group candidates
- Conduct focus group meetings
- Label and date tapes of the focus group
- Organize the data you collected in the attached data organization form.

The following forms will guide you through the process:

- Form to track potential candidates for focus groups
- Focus group note taker's data collection sheet
- Model moderator's guide for focus groups
- Form to track suggested people for system and interactor individual interviews
- Master data collection form

FOCUS GROUP NOTE SHEET

Topic Area	Focus Group Description:
<i>HIV/AIDS</i>	
<i>Other Infectious Diseases</i>	
<i>Injection Drug Use</i>	
<i>Public Health Interventions</i>	
<i>Economic and Social Indicators</i>	
<i>Law Enforcement</i>	
<i>Other Topics</i>	

FORM: Topic Guide

Model Moderator Topic Guide

The Model Topic Guide illustrates primary questions that could be addressed to each focus group as well as probes to encourage discussion of the topic.

Key Domains	Probes
How does law enforcement treat IDUs? How about people the police think are HIV+, MSM-IDUs, or CSW?	<i>Do police harass people they suspect of being IDUs, HIV+, or CSW?</i>
	<i>Does treatment depend on certain characteristics (age, gender, ethnicity, race, location)?</i>
	<i>Do police treat men and women differently?</i>
	<i>Do police appear to target IDUs for arrest?</i>
What happens once people are arrested?	<i>What is the process? Do police ask for bribes? What happens legally?</i>
How accessible are harm reduction methods (syringes, condoms, STD treatment, drug treatment)?	<i>What are the locations of harm reduction programs? Can people get syringes or condoms in other places like health clinics?</i>
What barriers prevent IDUs, CSWs, HIV+ from using them?	<i>Location barriers? Attitudes of the workers? Fear of the police?</i>
Stigma	<i>Is there any way that stigma influences HIV risks?</i>
Social risk	<i>How do attitudes and stigma affect IDUs, CSWs, and MSM-IDUs social risk?</i>
Social attitudes	<i>How are IDUs, CSWs, MSM-IDUs treated in general? By the police? By institutions?</i>
What questions didn't we ask that we should have?	
Who should be interviewed as key informants? [After brief introduction defining types of system and interactor key informants]	

DATA ORGANIZATION FORM

Master Report Section

Instructions:

At the end of each day’s data collection (focus group or interviews), you should go over all the information you obtained, identify information relevant for the final report and planning process, and record summary information on the following data organization forms. Identifying and summarizing these data are the first step necessary for the Analysis and Action planning module of the RPAR (Module IV). These sheets will help you:

- Identify important issues and problems in HIV prevention among IDUs in your community;
- Facilitate reporting of information to the CAB;
- Facilitate completion of the final report;
- Assemble important information for the process of analysis and developing solutions;
- Assemble information necessary for the process of planning community response.

*Example
Filling Out the Form*

Topic area/ domain	Category informant/ focus group	Information summary, key points	Comments:
HIV status and arrests	LE/ FG #1	<p>Key Point #1</p> <p>FG #1 was made up primarily of police officers. The group felt that all IDUs were HIV infected and thus were reluctant to arrest them for fear of becoming infected themselves. This health risk was considered to be the primary reason police accepted bribes instead of arresting IDUs. One person also reported that the "jails were full" as another reason police accepted bribes.</p>	<p>Added comment on (date):</p> <p>Individual interviews with police officers have confirmed the general finding of this focus group about HIV status and arrests. Officers interviewed individually suggested several other reasons why police are more likely to take a bribe than to arrest an IDU. See individual interviews with police officers for more detail.</p>

