

**Abstract 722**

**TITLE:** Why, What, Where and How: Framing the Topic on Structural Approaches to HIV Prevention

**SESSION:** Structural Factors and Interventions in HIV Prevention: Micro, Macro, And In Between

This presentation will introduce a topic that is attracting increasing national interest: the impact of structural factors on HIV risk, and the promise of structural interventions to help prevent HIV. Structural factors are defined as barriers to or facilitators of an individual's HIV prevention behaviors. These barriers and facilitators may operate at the level of organizations, communities, the economy, laws, policies, or society. Although there are few published reports on structural interventions in the United States, examples include mandated condom use in brothels in Nevada (a legal facilitator) and closure of a needle exchange in Connecticut (a policy barrier). Recent activities at CDC on this topic include a national meeting of HIV experts and workgroups of CDC staff, both with the goal of identifying research priorities. This presentation will provide definitions and examples of structural factors and interventions, and review the activities and findings of the CDC meeting and workgroups.

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