Unit 5: Civil Rights and Infectious Diseases

Instructional Activities for Adults

PKIDs’ Infectious Disease Workshop

Made possible by grants from the Northwest Health Foundation, the Children’s Vaccine Program at PATH and PKIDs.
PKIDs’ Infectious Disease Workshop

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Acknowledgements

Producing this workshop has been a dream of ours since PKIDs’ inception in 1996. It has been more than two years since we began work on this project, and many people helped us reach our goal. It’s not done, because it is by nature a living document that will evolve as science makes strides in the research of infectious diseases, but it’s a great beginning.

There are people who’ve helped us whose names are not on this printed list. That omission is not deliberate, but rather from our own clumsiness in losing important pieces of paper, and we apologize.

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This publication contains the opinions and ideas of its authors. It is intended to provide helpful and informative material on the subject matter covered. Any information obtained from this workshop is not to be construed as medical or legal advice. If the reader requires personal assistance or advice, a competent professional should be consulted.

The authors specifically disclaim any responsibility for any liability, loss, or risk, personal or otherwise, which is incurred as a consequence, directly or indirectly, of the use and application of any of the contents of this workshop.
Introduction

PKIDs (Parents of Kids with Infectious Diseases) is a national nonprofit agency whose mission is to educate the public about infectious diseases, the methods of prevention and transmission, and the latest advances in medicine; to eliminate the social stigma borne by the infected; and to assist the families of the children living with hepatitis, HIV/AIDS, or other chronic, viral infectious diseases with emotional, financial and informational support.

Remaining true to our mission, we have designed the Infectious Disease Workshop (IDW), an educational tool for people of all ages and with all levels of understanding about infectious diseases. In this workshop, you will learn about bacteria and viruses, how to prevent infections, and how to eliminate the social stigma that too often accompanies diseases such as HIV or hepatitis C.

We hope that both instructors and participants come away from this workshop feeling comfortable with their new level of education on infectious diseases.

The IDW is designed to “train-the-trainer,” providing instructors not only with background materials but also with age-appropriate activities for the participants. Instructors do not need to be professional educators to use these materials. They were designed with both educators and laypersons in mind.

The IDW is comprised of a master Instructor’s Background Text, which is divided into six units: Introduction to Infectious Diseases, Disease Prevention, Sports and Infectious Disease, Stigma and Infectious Disease, Civil Rights and Infectious Disease, and Bioterrorism and Infectious Disease.

For each unit, instructors will find fun and helpful activities for participants in five age groups: 2 to 6 years of age, 6 to 9 years of age, 9 to 12 years of age, 13 to 18 years of age and adults.

We welcome any questions, comments, or feedback you may have about the IDW or any other issue relating to infectious diseases in children.

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CIVIL RIGHTS AND DISABILITY
A Timeline of Events

LEVEL
Adult

OBJECTIVE
• Participants will integrate historical facts about the disability civil rights movement into their civil rights studies.
• Participants will consider the impact of the disability civil rights movement on society when analyzing and discussing civil rights topics.

MATERIALS
1 copy of the Disability Civil Rights Timeline handout per participant, or 1 overhead of the timeline for classroom use.

PREP
None

INSTRUCTIONAL COMPONENTS
1. This timeline is intended for use as a supplement to civil rights studies.
2. When discussing discrimination and other civil rights issues, participants should integrate consideration of a wide variety of groups, including people with infectious diseases.
3. Participants should analyze the impact of various civil rights movements on each other, as well as the impact of these movements on law and society in general.
DISABILITY CIVIL RIGHTS

Often, the term *disability* brings to mind visible disabilities, such as loss of limb or paralysis requiring the use of a wheelchair. However, mental and emotional illnesses, certain learning disabilities, and various infectious diseases—sometimes referred to as “hidden” disabilities—are included in the federal government’s legal definition of potential or perceived disability.

While much disability legislation aims to ensure access to services and buildings, it also speaks to discrimination based on disability. People with infectious diseases may not have trouble climbing stairs or need special accommodations in order to carry out the functions of their occupations, but they do suffer the same discriminations people with visible disabilities encounter when applying for jobs, attending schools, or even seeking housing. Therefore, people with infectious diseases are covered under disability rights laws in certain circumstances.

TIMELINE OF EVENTS

Late 1700s—1800s: Some people with sensory and mental disabilities and physical illnesses are segregated from the general population and shipped off to remotely-located institutions. Others with physical disabilities remain at home, unable to participate in daily living due to architectural barriers.

Late 1950s—mid-1960s: Civil Rights movement based on racial equality takes place.

1960s: Students with disabilities at the University of Illinois and the University of California at Berkeley begin working toward the elimination of architectural and transportation barriers on their campuses. Parents of children with disabilities work for equal educational opportunities in the schools.

1963: The March on Washington takes place; Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., gives his famous “I Have A Dream” speech.

1964: The first of several major civil rights statutes, the Civil Rights Act of 1964, is passed, prohibiting discrimination on the basis of race, national origin, or religion. Disabilities are not addressed by this act.

1968: Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., is assassinated. The Civil Rights Act of 1968 is passed. Title VIII of this act, the Fair Housing Act, prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex, race, national origin, and religion in the sale or rental of housing.

1968: The Architectural Barriers Act is passed requiring that buildings constructed/remodeled with federal funds be made accessible to people with disabilities. Although it is a weak law, it provides a basis for later legislation of similar nature.

1970s: Veterans of the Vietnam war return home with disabilities acquired during the war.
They join with other groups to form the American Coalition of Citizens with Disabilities (ACCD), the first “umbrella” organization for disability advocacy.

1972: The *PARC v. Pennsylvania* district court case decision helps make way for the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

1972—1973: The Berkeley Center for Independent Living is established.

1973: The Rehabilitation Act is passed into law. Section 504 of this act is instrumental in creating architectural access for people with disabilities; however, it applies only to public entities receiving federal funding.

1975: The Education for All Handicapped Children Act is passed into law; in 1990 it is renamed the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). It states that handicapped children are to receive an appropriate education in the least restrictive environment and allows funding to be provided to schools to assist them in adapting to the Act’s requirements.

1975—1981: The ACCD spearheads the movement for expanded rights for disabled citizens in areas of daily living, such as education and transportation.

1977—late 1980s: Much of the architectural reconstruction done under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act occurs.

1981: This year is designated the “International Year of Disabled Persons.”

Early 1980s: Most centers for independent living (CILs) are set up during this time.

1985: The AIDS Medical Foundation and the National AIDS Research Foundation join to become amfAR, the American Foundation for AIDS Research.

1986: ACT UP (AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power) is founded in New York.

1986: People with disabilities are assured access to air travel by the Air Carriers Access Act.

1988: The Fair Housing Amendments Act is passed to amend the Fair Housing Act to include people with disabilities and families with children.

1990: The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is passed into law.

1996: The Telecommunications Act is passed, which requires telecommunications manufacturers and service providers to ensure accessibility for disabled persons. This act amended relevant sections of the Communications Act of 1934.
INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND CIVIL RIGHTS
Court Cases for Analysis and Discussion

LEVEL
Adult

OBJECTIVE
• Participants will discuss issues surrounding actual court cases involving infectious diseases and civil rights.
• Participants will analyze court decisions.
• Participants will form their own opinions regarding the issues presented in the selected court cases.

MATERIALS
1 copy of each court case (and the accompanying assessment questions) per participant, or per discussion group.

PREP
• Determine whether participants will work individually or in groups.
• Determine whether participants will answer assessment questions in written or oral format.

INSTRUCTIONAL COMPONENTS
1. Place participants into groups, if desired.
2. Pass out to each group/participant a copy of one of the five selected court cases.
3. Allow class time for participants to read their cases, ask questions, and/or work in groups.
4. Set due date for presentation/discussion of answers to assessment questions.

ASSESSMENT
Participants will answer the assessment questions pertaining to their particular case.
CASE #1: Chevron U.S.A. Inc. v. Echazabal

United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit
No. 00-1406. Decided June 10, 2002

View the full text online at:
www.supremecourtus.gov/opinions/01pdf/00-1406.pdf

The Case

Echazabal was employed by an independent contractor in charge of running one of Chevron's oil refineries. He wanted to work directly for Chevron. In order to do so, he had to take a physical. The physical revealed his hepatitis C status, and Chevron’s doctors said exposure to toxic chemicals at the refineries would aggravate his hepatitis. (Hepatitis weakens the liver, therefore making exposure to chemicals at the refinery a health risk.) Chevron asked the contractor to either reassign Echazabal or remove him from the refinery. The contractor laid him off, and Echazabal claimed that Chevron’s actions violated the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA).

Chevron based its argument on a regulation by the Equal Employment Opportunities Commission (EEOC), which states that a business can refuse to hire an individual on the grounds that performance of his job may endanger his own health. Chevron argued that they could refuse to hire Echazabal based on this regulation and medical opinion. It appeared that the EEOC regulation was in conflict with the ADA.

The Decision

The courts ultimately ruled that the EEOC regulation was not in conflict with the ADA. The EEOC regulation was deemed a valid and legitimate interpretation of the ADA, because the EEOC is the federal agency entrusted with enforcing the ADA and its regulations. Its regulations can only be overturned for one of three reasons: 1) if the language of the EEOC regulation was in conflict with the language of the ADA statute, 2) the agency was not empowered to regulate in that area, or 3) if the regulation was not properly put into effect or was purposefully left to the discretion of the courts. Echazabal argued that the language was in conflict with the ADA. The courts ruled that Congress, in the ADA, had clearly anticipated companies limiting the hiring of disabled persons based on qualifications that are job-related and deemed a business necessity. These qualifications would also be established by the additional liability the company would incur under OSHA for allowing a person to work in an unsafe environment, resulting in the deterioration of his health, or death. For these reasons, the courts deemed the EEOC regulation valid and ruled against Echazabal.

Questions

1. Do you agree with the courts’ decision? Why or why not?
2. Should companies require physical examinations? Why or why not?
3. Do you think it is appropriate that Chevron did not hire Echazabal because of the health risks he would encounter as a result of working in the refinery? Do you think it is appropriate that the contractor laid Echazabal off because of the health risks he would encounter as a result of working in the refinery?

4. How would you have handled the situation if you had authority at Chevron? What if you were the contractor?
CASE #2: Bragdon v. Abbott et al.

United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit
No. 97-156. Decided June 25, 1998

View the full text online at:
www.supremecourtus.gov/opinions/boundvolumes/524bv.pdf
(p. 669 of the .pdf document)

The Case

Abbott was infected with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), but had not manifested serious symptoms at the time the events in question occurred. Abbott went to a dentist’s office for an examination and disclosed her HIV status. The dentist found a cavity and informed Abbott of his policy not to fill cavities of HIV-positive patients in his office. He offered to fill her cavity at the local hospital; however, Abbott would be responsible for paying to use the hospital’s facilities. At that time, she filed suit under the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), which prohibits discrimination “on the basis of disability in the…enjoyment of the…services…of any place of public accommodation by any person who…operates [such] a place,” 42 U.S. C.12182(a).

The Decision

The courts found HIV to be a disability under the ADA. They ruled that according to the 1993 Dentistry Guidelines of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the 1991 American Dental Association Policy on HIV, use of universal precautions removes the risk of HIV transmission in the dental environment. The courts were influenced by the American Dental Association’s policy and the CDC, because they determined the policies to be based on years of medical experience sufficient to decrease the risk below the “direct threat” threshold. Therefore, the courts ruled in favor of Abbott.

Questions

1. Do you agree with the courts’ decision? Why or why not?
2. If you were a member of a dental staff, would you feel more comfortable filling the cavity of an HIV-positive patient in the office or a hospital? Why or why not?
3. Would it be appropriate if the dentist filled Abbott’s cavity at the hospital but did not make her responsible for the additional costs? Why or why not?
4. Would it have been appropriate for Abbott not to disclose her HIV status? Why or why not?
CASE #3: Onishea v. Hopper

United States Court of Appeals, Eleventh Circuit
No. 96-6213. Decided April 7, 1999

View the full text online at:
www.law.emory.edu/11circuit/apr99/96-6213.ma2.html

The Case

The plaintiffs, prison inmates testing positive for the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), sued the Alabama Department of Corrections under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act to force integration in prison recreational, religious, and educational programs. Within Alabama’s prison system, inmates are tested for HIV. HIV-positive inmates are segregated and unable to participate in many programs and activities. At the male facility, activities unavailable to HIV-positive inmates included jobs in various areas, such as the barbershop, prison farm, bus squad, facility maintenance, trash detail, kitchen, runner, and squad jobs maintaining the prison grounds. Unavailable classes included upholstery, electrical technology, auto mechanics, construction trade, automotive repair, horticulture, and welding. Other unavailable activities included the "Free by Choice" program (in which prisoners go to schools to talk to pupils about substance abuse and criminality), basketball and baseball tournaments, and "Alabama Volunteers in Corrections" meetings (to prepare prisoners for release). Some programs were available separately to HIV-positive inmates, such as paralegal training classes (HIV-positive inmates see videotapes of live instruction), adult basic education, GED testing, Narcotics and Alcoholics Anonymous meetings, graduation ceremonies, drafting classes, haircuts, visitation, medical treatment, gymnasium and library time, chapel services, dining, and prisoner transportation.

A similar range of programs is unavailable to HIV-positive inmates at the female prison facility: classes in data processing, clerical skills, cosmetology, sewing, building trades, automotive repair, welding, floral design, small business machine repair, foodservice, nutrition. Other unavailable activities include concerts and talent shows, softball and volleyball games, the "Free by Choice" program, college classes, and literacy training. In addition, jobs are unavailable in areas such as the sewing factory, data processing, "downtown" jobs for government agencies, community projects, road squad, kitchen, yard, maintenance, housekeeping, laundry, trash, runner, and haircutting. Similarly, female HIV-positive prisoners have access to many programs separately from the general population: chapel services, some rehabilitation programs such as substance abuse and stress management counseling, visitation, organized recreational activities such as May Day and Oktoberfest, dining, medical care, adult basic education, GED testing, library use, and prisoner transportation.

The defense claimed that due to risky behaviors often engaged in by inmates (resulting in blood-to-blood/body fluid contact), the risk of spreading HIV would be too great if HIV-positive prisoners were included in these activities.
The Decision

The courts affirmed judgment against the plaintiffs on constitutional claims. However, the law requires a program-by-program analysis to determine if the plaintiffs merit relief. The prisoners did not specify which programs could be made safe through accommodations, but instead argued that because the prison received federal funding, they were entitled to participate in all programs. The Department of Corrections cited numerous incidents in which prisoners engaged in risky behavior. Based upon the Department of Corrections’ detailed examples and the prisoners’ unwillingness to specify which could be integrated, the courts ruled against full integration of HIV-positive prisoners into prison programs.

Questions

1. Do you agree with the courts’ decision? Why or why not?
2. Do you think the prison staff treats the HIV-positive prisoners differently from the HIV-negative prisoners?
3. Is it possible that some prisoners have diseases other than HIV, like hepatitis? Do you think prisoners should be tested for these diseases as well? If they test positive for these diseases, should they be segregated?
4. How are the prisons’ segregatory policies different from the “separate but equal” policies that were eventually abolished by the Civil Rights Movement? How are they similar?
5. Do you think that blood-to-blood contact is a risk in the mentioned prison activities? Do some activities pose a higher risk than others?
6. Compare and contrast the risk factors for the following activities: GED completion courses and metal shop. Do you think they are equally risky? Why might the prison officials choose to see them as equally risky?
7. In what ways, if any, do the rights of prisoners differ from the rights of civilians? How might this affect the decision of the prison administration regarding the segregation of HIV-positive inmates?
CASE #4: Doe v. Dekalb County School District

United States Court of Appeals, Eleventh Circuit
No. 97-8915. Decided July 17, 1998

View the full text online at:
www.law.emory.edu/11circuit/july98/97-8915.man.html

The Case

John Doe, a teacher in the Dekalb County School District, was infected with HIV. Doe disclosed his HIV-positive status to the school district in February of 1995. Two months later, in April of 1995, the district transferred him from a classroom of children with severe behavioral disorders. These students are sometimes violent, and the school district feared that Doe might have blood-to-blood contact with a student and transmit HIV.

The school district has three different programs for children with behavioral disorders. "Interrelated" classrooms are for students with mild disorders; "self-contained" classrooms serve children who cannot participate in the interrelated program; and "psychoeducation" classrooms are for students with the most severe behavioral problems. Doe was transferred from a “psychoeducation” classroom to an "interrelated" classroom at a different school. As a result of his transfer, Doe was required to become certified to teach an interrelated classroom within three years.

Although Doe preferred to teach a psychoeducational rather than an interrelated class, his transfer did not appear to represent a demotion. His salary, benefits, and seniority all remained the same. Doe also agreed with the District that he would be more marketable as an interrelated teacher (once he obtained a certificate), with more long-term career opportunities, than he was before his transfer.

On August 1, 1995, the district’s Executive Director of Personnel told Doe that he could not return to a psychoeducational classroom because of his HIV status. On August 3, 1995, Doe filed a discrimination charge with the federal Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC), alleging that the district discriminated against him on the basis of his HIV disability. The EEOC issued Doe a right-to-sue letter, and he filed in the district court under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the Vocational Rehabilitation Act (VRA).

The Decision

In order for an individual to invoke the ADA, the individual must have a disability, be qualified despite the disability, and have suffered an adverse employment action because of the disability. The courts explored whether Doe had suffered adverse employment action. They sympathized with his admirable goal of working with severely disabled children, but ruled that the standard determining adverse employment action should be objective. Because Doe was afforded three
years to obtain an interrelated certificate, the hardship was not deemed “material.”

**Questions**

1. Do you agree with the courts’ decision? Why or why not?
2. Why do you think the fictitious name, “John Doe,” was used instead of the plaintiff’s actual name?
3. Do you think it is appropriate that the school district transferred Doe?
4. If the school district viewed Doe’s position as being risky enough to warrant transferring him, then do you think the district should test all teachers in such positions for bloodborne diseases such as HIV? Could the school district legally do this?
5. Do you agree with the courts’ policy on evaluating whether an individual’s illness significantly impacts his ability to perform his job functions and poses health and safety risks to others?
6. Do you think the health and safety risks are greater for HIV than other infectious diseases? Consider how HIV is transmitted and compare this to transmission methods of other diseases.
7. Reverse roles. What if one of Doe’s potentially violent students had disclosed his/her own HIV status. Should Doe be allowed to request that this student be transferred from his classroom?
8. Do you think Doe or any other teacher should be required to reveal his/her infectious disease status to school officials?
CASE #5: School Board of Nassau Co. v. Arline

The United States Supreme Court
No. 85-1277. Decided March 3, 1987

To view the full text, visit your local law library. 480 U.S. 273 (1987).

The Case

Arline, an elementary school teacher, was discharged after three relapses of tuberculosis in two years. After her second relapse in the spring of 1978 and her third relapse in the winter of 1978, the school board suspended her with pay for the remainder of the school year. At the end of the school year, the school board held a hearing and discharged Arline, “‘not because she had done anything wrong,’ but because of the ‘continued reoccurrence of tuberculosis.’”

Because she was dismissed solely on the basis of her illness, Arline sued the school district under the Rehabilitation Act, claiming that her illness qualified as a disability protected under Section 504. The school district argued that Arline was not a "handicapped person" within the meaning of the Rehabilitation Act.

The district court in Florida ruled that Congress did not intend the Rehabilitation Act to extend to persons with contagious diseases, and, therefore, Arline's discharge was not precluded by it. The Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit disagreed, and reversed the trial court ruling. The school district appealed this ruling to the Supreme Court, and the Supreme Court agreed to hear the case on the issue of whether a person with a contagious disease fell within the meaning of a "handicapped person" under the Rehabilitation Act.

The Decision

The courts stated that according to the Rehabilitation Act, persons with contagious diseases (or known to have a disease that is thought to be contagious) are handicapped provided that “one or more major life activities [are] limited by [the] impairment.” Since Arline had been hospitalized for respiratory problems related to her tuberculosis, one major life activity was clearly limited. They further determined that if an individual could be discriminated against based on unwarranted accusations of risk, then individuals (including those with non-infectious diseases such as cancer or cerebral palsy) could be discriminated against because of fear that they might “infect” others. Therefore, the individuals with contagious diseases do not pose too great of a risk to be protected by the Rehabilitation Act.

Legitimate concerns regarding contagion can be determined by first asking whether the individual’s disease limits his/her qualifications for the job. This means determining the nature, duration, and severity of the risk to others. It also means determining the probabilities of transmission and harm—according to expert medical testimony, with all inferences to be drawn in favor of public health. Additionally, addressing concerns meant determining whether proper accommodations could be made to eliminate the limiting effects of his/her disease, again according to
expert medical testimony.

After addressing each of these issues, the courts ultimately found that, since Arline no longer had tuberculosis as of the time of the trial, she was entitled to reinstatement with full seniority, or damages totaling $768,000. It was also determined that, due to wrongful discharge, she was entitled to any additional damages determined by the parties involved.

Questions
1. Do you agree with the courts’ decision? Why or why not?
2. What is the difference between latent tuberculosis infection and tuberculosis disease?
3. What is the difference between the transmission methods of tuberculosis disease and the transmission methods of HIV or hepatitis B/C?
4. Do you think the school district was concerned about the potential for transmission of tuberculosis? Do you think there were any other factors affecting the district’s decision to discharge Arline? How could they have dealt with the situation differently?
WORD SEARCH

LEVEL
Adult

OBJECTIVE
Participants will identify civil rights terminology.

MATERIALS
One copy of the word search handout (included with lesson) per participant.

PREP
None

INSTRUCTIONAL COMPONENTS
None.

ASSESSMENT
Answer key:

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WORD SEARCH:
CIVIL RIGHTS AND INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Words may be hidden in any direction!

HIDDEN WORDS:

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<th>INFECTIOUS</th>
<th>EQUAL</th>
<th>ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act)</th>
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<td>PROTECTED</td>
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<td>FERPA (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act)</td>
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PKIDs’ IDW — Instructional Activities for Adults 20 Unit 5: Civil Rights and Infectious Diseases
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Additional Activities and Resources
for Teachers, Students and Parents

Discusses the complex and changing field for social work students, practitioners, and educators who will be working with an increasing population of clients infected or at risk of becoming infected with HIV and who therefore must be knowledgeable about its legal aspects.

An invaluable tool for people living with HIV, their friends, families, partners, and advocates, and lawyers discussing the health policies, practices, and programs generated in response to HIV and challenging legal questions.

Analyzes the close relationship between public health and human rights using the AIDS pandemic as a lens.

Nine important essays analyze the legal and social policy failures that have led to widespread discrimination against persons with HIV disease and present concrete recommendations for a more just and effective AIDS policy.