Designing HIV/AIDS Intervention Studies: An Operations Research Handbook is a resource for HIV/AIDS researchers that can be used in workshops and courses on research design and proposal development. Organized chapter-by-chapter like a proposal, it gives users the tools to develop and write a detailed operations research (OR) proposal.

By reviewing many key concepts and methods essential for conducting HIV/AIDS field research studies, the Handbook also helps program administrators and health policymakers understand how OR works and how to use research findings to improve HIV/AIDS service delivery.

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DESIGNING HIV/AIDS INTERVENTION STUDIES
AN OPERATIONS RESEARCH HANDBOOK

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The Population Council is an international, nonprofit, nongovernmental institution that seeks to improve the wellbeing and reproductive health of current and future generations around the world and to help achieve a humane, equitable, and sustainable balance between people and resources. The Council conducts biomedical, social science, and public health research and helps build research capacities in developing countries. Established in 1952, the Council is governed by an international board of trustees. Its New York headquarters supports a global network of regional and country offices.

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The Handbook has several objectives and thus several uses. First and foremost, it is designed to help HIV/AIDS researchers develop and write a detailed operations research proposal. An appropriate use of the Handbook is as a resource in workshops or courses on research design and proposal development. Thus, the organization of the Handbook follows that of a research proposal, starting with identifying, defining, and justifying a research problem, and ending with how to prepare a budget. The chapters in between cover a variety of topics such as research objectives, study design, data tabulation, data analysis, and dissemination and utilization of research findings.

Although the Handbook is not an academic textbook on research methods, it does provide a review of many key concepts and important methods essential for conducting HIV/AIDS field research studies. These features can also help HIV/AIDS program administrators and managers as well as health policymakers understand the process of operations research and the uses of research findings to improve HIV/AIDS service delivery.

The Handbook assumes that the reader has some familiarity with the terms and concepts of research design and statistics as well as some experience with research studies, particularly those that address issues concerning HIV/AIDS. Most of the examples in the Handbook were drawn from actual HIV/AIDS operations research studies conducted in Asia, Africa, and Latin America by the Horizons Program.

Funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development, Horizons is a global HIV/AIDS operations research program implemented by the Population Council in collaboration with the International Center for Research on Women (ICRW), the International HIV/AIDS Alliance, the Program for Appropriate Technology in Health (PATH), Tulane University, Family Health International (FHI), and Johns Hopkins University (JHU).
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ANOVA</td>
<td>analysis of variance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARV</td>
<td>antiretroviral</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CBO</td>
<td>community-based organization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CDC</td>
<td>Centers for Disease Control and Prevention</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CEA</td>
<td>cost-effectiveness analysis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DOTS</td>
<td>Directory Observed Treatment Short Course</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FHI</td>
<td>Family Health International</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HAART</td>
<td>highly active antiretroviral therapy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICRW</td>
<td>International Center for Research on Women</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IEC</td>
<td>information, education, and communication</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ILO</td>
<td>International Labor Organization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IRB</td>
<td>Institutional Review Board</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JHU</td>
<td>Johns Hopkins University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MIS</td>
<td>management information system</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MTCT</td>
<td>mother-to-child transmission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NGO</td>
<td>nongovernmental organization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NIH</td>
<td>National Institutes of Health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OR</td>
<td>operations research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PATH</td>
<td>Program for Appropriate Technology in Health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLHA</td>
<td>people living with HIV/AIDS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSU</td>
<td>primary sampling unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RA</td>
<td>randomly assigned</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SDP</td>
<td>service delivery point</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STI</td>
<td>sexually transmitted infection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UCSF</td>
<td>University of California-San Francisco</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USAID</td>
<td>U.S. Agency for International Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VCT</td>
<td>voluntary testing and counseling</td>
</tr>
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