

Youth HIV Action

Published by the Pan American Health Organization: No. 6, April 04

Latin American and
Caribbean Youth HIV/AIDS
Quarterly Newsletter

1st Caribbean Summit for Youth on HIV

Adolescents ages 10-16 met at the first regional children's summit on HIV/AIDS for the signing of two cornerstone declarations, the Caribbean Youth Declaration on HIV/AIDS and Commitment of Governments on March 21-24, 2004 in Bridgetown, Barbados. Delegates included adolescents both living with, and affected by, HIV/AIDS. The summit was hosted by the Government of Barbados, under the auspices of the Ministry of Social Transformation in collaboration with UNICEF's Caribbean Area Office.

AIDS is becoming the leading cause of death among 15-44 year olds in the English and Dutch speaking Caribbean. Of the 60,000 individuals who became infected in the region in 2000, half were young people between the ages of 10 to 24.

The youth drafting committee, nominated by their peers, discussed the articles of the declaration until consensus was reached. The declaration calls on Caribbean governments "to increase youth access to confidential and high quality youth-friendly services around sexual and reproductive health and HIV/AIDS." In addition, young people gave innovative solutions to increased access to information and services including "mobile health clinics in communities where youth cannot easily access quality, confidential services" and the use of interactive technologies to educate young people about HIV/AIDS. Ministers were quick to respond to the demands of the young people in the "Yes Minister" session, vowing to "support young people in their fight to end stigma and discrimination faced by those infected and affected by HIV/AIDS, and to empower them to make positive choices for their health and well being."

For more information: Heather Stewart, UNICEF Caribbean Area Office, (246) 467-6000. Go to http://www.unicef.org/media/media_20139.html for copies of the declaration.



In this Issue:

- 1st Caribbean Summit for Youth on HIV
- UN World Youth Report
- What's New...
- Links...
- Youth Demand More Health Information
- Research Shows...



UN World Youth Report

This 2003 review of relevant United Nations plans and programs of action regarding the situation of young people is a follow-up to the World Summit on Social Development and the 24th Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly. The full report can be accessed at: <http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/wyr/index.html>

What's New...

International AIDS Conference, July 11-16 2004

<http://www.aids2004.org>

Young People and HIV: Opportunity in Crisis

http://www.unicef.org/publications/pub_youngpeople_hiv_aids_en.pdf

Investing in Adolescents' Reproductive Health to Fight HIV

<http://www.unfpa.org/news/news.cfm?ID=377>



Links...

4th World Summit on Media for Children and Adolescents:

<http://www.riosummit2004.com.br/>

International "EcoClub" network of youth participation (in Spanish):

<http://www.ecoclubes.org/>

Meeting Report: HIV Prevention for Young People in Developing Countries:

<http://www.fhi.org/en/Youth/YouthNet/NewsEvents/HIVprevenmeeting.htm>

Youth Demand More Health Information

A survey of more than 500 adolescents from 11 Latin American countries shows that young people trust the health news they read and hear in the media, but consider it insufficient.

The report *Medios y salud: La voz de los adolescentes* (Media and Health: The Voice of Adolescents) resulted from the PAHO COMSALUD Project begun in 1997. The project's aim was to strengthen health communications and health journalism in Latin America.

The youth survey among 12 to 19 year olds found that there is a significant media presence in this age group, particularly from radio and television. However, many respondents said they received information about health issues from their families, schools and the media, in that order. The adolescents surveyed for the report acknowledged having difficulty talking about sex and sexuality with their parents. At the same time, however, they regard the information received at home as the most credible.

Youth identified HIV/AIDS as the health topic most often covered by the media, although they criticized the excessive use of technical jargon, which they said makes the risks and preventive measures of the infection more difficult to understand. Perhaps most significantly, very few of those surveyed said they had changed their habits after being exposed to health information.

View the whole study here (in Spanish, PDF):

<http://www.paho.org/Spanish/AD/FCH/CA/VozAdolescentes.pdf>

Research Shows...

Young Women in Argentina: Reproductive Health Concerns

A study published by the NGO Isis International shows that most adolescent girls in Argentina do not think they have any sexual and reproductive rights, and subscribe to erroneous views on sexuality. The article explores reasons behind unplanned pregnancies, abortion and HIV/AIDS among young women in Argentina within the context of the country's culture, the emergence of a national network of reproductive health advocates and new legislation. Read the full report at:

<http://www.isiswomen.org/pub/wia/wia203/miranda.htm>

Join the
**PAHO/SIDA/NORAD/
YouthNet
Latin American and
Caribbean
Youth HIV/AIDS
Network!**
Send name, profession,
organization,
mailing address and
e-mail address
to singlets@paho.org

HIV/AIDS Event Calendar
www.calsplus.com/sida

Family and Community Health Area

Child and Adolescent Health Unit FCH/CA

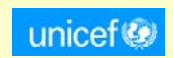
PAHO, 525 23rd St., N.W.
Washington, DC 20037
Phone: (202) 974-3881
Fax: (202) 974-3631

Adolescent Health Advisor:
Dr. Matilde Maddaleno
Internet: www.adolesc.org
and www.paho.org

HIV/AIDS/STI Unit FCH/AI

Phone: (202) 974-3842
Fax: (202) 974-3643

HIV/AIDS/STI Advisor:
Dr. Rafael Mazin
Internet: www.paho.org/aids



YouthNet
Partners in Reproductive Health and HIV Prevention

Design: Sylvia Singleton
Content: FCH/CA-ADH, FCH/AI, UNICEF
Photos: Armando Waak, OPS