

Youth HIV Action

Latin American and
Caribbean Youth HIV/AIDS
Quarterly Newsletter

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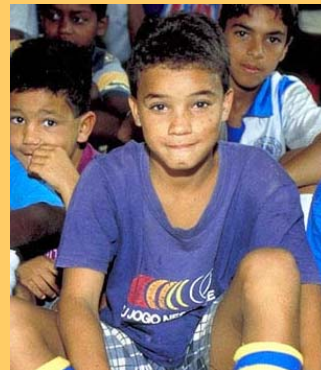
Addressing Gender Issues through Soccer

More than 200 soccer coaches and health professionals from six Latin American countries have been trained in the PAHO/WHO/Johan Cruyff Foundation project "Football, Health and Gender," to improve the health and development of adolescent boys through soccer. Since its inception in early 2004, the project has focused on the constructs of masculinity and its impact on young boys' health and their subsequent relationships. The project uses a curriculum involving soccer coaches, who transmit concepts of health promotion and healthy, equitable relationships with girls to adolescent boys in so-called "soccer clinics".

By the end of 2005, Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Mexico, Venezuela and Paraguay will have trained up to 20 soccer coaches each in the use of the curriculum. Close to 1200 boys ages 8 to 14 will have benefited from the curriculum, and ministries of health and soccer associations will have become involved in at least three of the six countries participating.

The project has generated much interest at the local level. In Brazil and Mexico, local authorities have requested its replication or sought to be involved in the project. Additional neighborhoods were added in Ceará, Brazil and in Mexico, the Ministry of Health decided to provide all participants with a full medical check-up, as well as national health insurance for coaches, adolescent participants and their families beginning in January 2005. In all, it is estimated that more than 4,000 adolescents, including girls, will have been reached by the end of the field test, surpassing expectations the project had set for itself. For more information, contact Ms.

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Caribbean Partnership Against HIV/AIDS

The Caribbean is second only to sub-Saharan Africa in HIV prevalence. Young people are the most affected: An estimated 2.9% of women and 1.2% of men ages 15 to 24 were living with the infection in 2003. For this reason, the Pan Caribbean Partnership Against HIV/AIDS (PANCAP) was established, in hopes of curtailing the spread of HIV. PANCAP has recently published a study describing the processes and events involved in its establishment, as well as accomplishments, challenges and lessons learned. Among the challenges are reaching young women, who have an HIV prevalence two to four times higher than all other female age cohorts, and three to six times higher than males in their 15-to-24 age group. The full report is available here: http://www.dec.org/pdf_docs/PNADB282.pdf

What's New...

New Web Resource on HIV/AIDS (Kaiser Family Foundation)

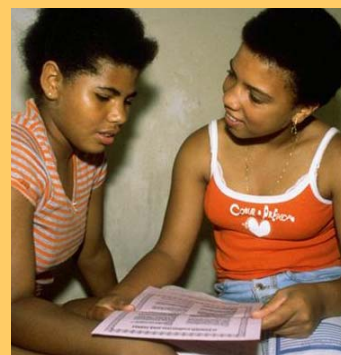
<http://www.globalhealthreporting.org>

Self-guided Training Module in HIV and Sexuality Education (SIECUS/CDC)

<http://www.siecus.org/school/trainingModules/index.html>

Youth: Choices and Change (PAHO publication)

http://publications.paho.org/english/moreinfo.cfm?Product_ID=786



Links...

New PAHO web on HIV and drug use (in Spanish)

http://www.paho.org/Spanish/AD/FCH/AI/VIH_drogas.htm

Promundo Case Study on Engaging Young Men in Violence Prevention and SRH (in Portuguese)

http://www.promundo.org.br/materia/resources/files/download/Estudo_de_Caso.pdf

Adolescentes por la Vida (youth and community-oriented NGO; in Spanish)

<http://www.adolescentesxla vida.com.ar>

STI Impact Despite Virginity Pledges

A recent Yale University study concerning adolescent virginity pledges has shown that STI impact is similar in these teens as in those who did not take the pledge.

The pledges, promises youth make to not have sex until marriage, began in the 1990s and were documented in the 1995 National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health, a comprehensive in-home survey of more than 20,000 students in grades 7-12. By the year of the study, some 2 million adolescents had taken the pledge, according to researchers Hannah Brückner and Peter Bearman.

However, follow-up data provided by study participants, both pledge takers and non-pledgers, in 2001-2002, showed that pledgers were just as likely as non-pledgers to get STIs. This despite the fact that pledgers tended to delay first intercourse up to 18 months after teens who did not pledge, tended to marry earlier, had fewer partners and reported more monogamous relationships.

Condom use was unlikely for all study participants during first time sex, but pledge takers were less likely to have used a condom during their first time, and were overrepresented among those who had only had oral or anal sex (no vaginal sex). Furthermore, pledge takers were less likely to know their STI status, and to have seen a doctor about STI symptoms.

Brückner and Bearman acknowledge that pledges are taken for moral and religious reasons, as well as for health reasons. But, as a social policy, they conclude virginity pledges are not effective in curbing STIs among youth.

More information: <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/B6T80-4FR4449-2/2/4dff1e3dd18413906879ef5d84c7c3ec>

Research Shows...

Bolivian Street Youth at Highest Risk for HIV Infection (abstract)

<http://www.stdjournal.com/pt/re/std/abstract.00007435-200504000-00007.htm;jsessionid=CN01zwrmaJW20KunsPQubPxX0DQggTI49pT2vVKPEIePkTjFfzRF1448184234!-949856031!9001!-1>

Street youths in Cochabamba, Bolivia, are at highest risk of HIV infection, according to a study begun in 2002. Voluntary counseling and testing were offered to homeless street youths, commercial sex workers, truck drivers and prisoners. Street youths over the age of 15 had an overall HIV prevalence of 3.5%, higher than for the other groups. The authors of the study argue for a comprehensive approach to the health and social problems of homeless youth to scale back HIV in this population group. *Published by the Journal of the American Sexually Transmitted Disease Association.*

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to singlets@paho.org

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

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