

Youth HIV Action

Latin American and
Caribbean Youth HIV/AIDS
Quarterly Newsletter

Published by the Pan American Health Organization: No. 9, January 05

Online Adolescent Health Diploma

Human resources development for the promotion of comprehensive adolescent and youth health, including HIV/AIDS, is one of the key strategies adopted by PAHO's Child and Adolescent Health Unit. After the success of an initial round of distance education courses offered by PAHO to 80 specialists throughout Latin America via Chile's Catholic University in 2004, the Unit is announcing a new distance education Adolescent Health and Development diploma beginning in May.

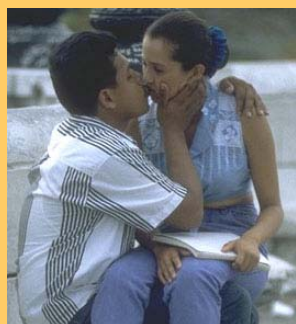
Applications for this course will be accepted March 1 through April 30, 2005. The Catholic University of Chile Medical School will once again offer the Internet course, which will feature an in-person evaluation upon completion. The course is 240 credit hours, and lasts 12 months. There is a \$500 cost, payable at the beginning of the course.

Interested specialists with professional degrees from accredited universities, who have access to and basic knowledge of computers and Internet surfing, and the possibility of working with adolescents in a health care setting should send their resumes to Ema Catalán, ecatalan@med.puc.cl. For more information, visit <http://escuela.med.puc.cl/ops/home.html>



In this Issue:

- *Online Adolescent Health Diploma*
- *Multisectorial Coordination for Youth in Jamaica*
- *What's New...*
- *Links...*
- *"Wan Lobi Tori": Edutainment in Suriname*
- *Research Shows...*



Multisectorial Coordination for Youth in Jamaica

A recent POLICY Project brief, distributed by the Washington, DC-based Futures Group, details the efforts in Jamaica to strengthen multisectorial coordination on youth issues such as teen pregnancy and HIV/AIDS prevalence.

Lessons learned included the realization that youth CAN lead, that youth participation lends greater legitimacy to the policymaking process and that the quality of information on youth and youth activities was key to success. The full report is available here:

http://www.policyproject.com/pubs/YRHCBS/Jam_YRH.pdf

What's New...

At the Crossroads: Accelerating Youth Access to HIV/AIDS Interventions

http://www.unfpa.org/upload/lib_pub_file/316_filename_UNFPA_Crossroads.pdf

Reducing Risk, Increasing Protective Factors: Caribbean Youth Health Survey

<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/B6T80-4DXK6X8-F/2/f37fc1b6645506df96f4d0036f335e87>

Impact of Cultural Context on Brazilian Adolescents' Sexual Practices

http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/query.fcgi?cmd=Retrieve&db=pubmed&dopt=Abstract&list_uids=15563034



Links...

International Association for Adolescent Health

<http://www.iaah.org>

2nd Congress on Integral Adolescent Health (Cuba, in Spanish)

<http://cencomed.sld.cu/adoles2005/>

1st Congress on Adolescent and Youth Health (Mexico, in Spanish)

<http://www.amsaj.com>

“Wan Lobi Tori”: Edutainment in Suriname

A love story between two youths from very different social backgrounds, who are confronted by an HIV- positive diagnosis, is the premise behind “Wan Lobi Tori: Lesley and Anne” (A Love Story), a highly-successful edutainment initiative from Suriname, sponsored in part by PAHO/WHO.

The 40-minute film, written and directed by Sharda Ganga and starring Diego Dhanradj, Farida Colom and Kim Aikman, debuted on World AIDS Day in Suriname and Guyana in December, and has received praise from youth audiences, the media and health specialists; local teachers have also requested the film be shown in schools. Wan Lobi Tori shows how the young couple deal with the disapproval of their respective families over their relationship, the HIV-positive diagnosis and how a family’s love and understanding can help a person live positively with HIV.

Diego Dhanradj, a 20-year-old studying to become a teacher, plays Lesley, the HIV-positive youth. He said he has not received any negative comments over his portrayal, and thinks this is because Lesley was portrayed in all his vulnerability, and not as a spectacle. Farida Colom, who plays Lesley’s girlfriend Anne, is also 20 and studying at the Surinamese Pedagogical Institute. She said what most attracted her to Anne was her strong will and sense of principles, which she will not sacrifice for anyone. Thirteen-year-old Kim Aikman, who plays Lesley’s sister Debbie, says her part was not such a stretch, because she too is inquisitive and likes to take the lead in situations. A great example to follow for other youth participation initiatives in HIV prevention. To order a copy of the DVD (with English subtitles), send an e-mail to Sharda Ganga at projekta@sr.net.

View the final report at www.paho.org/English/AD/FCH/CA/SurinameEduReport.pdf

Research Shows...

Monitoring and Evaluation Guide for Youth HIV/AIDS Prevention Programs

http://www.who.int/hiv/pub/me/en/me_prev_intro.pdf

Young people are at the center of the global HIV/AIDS pandemic, which is why, according to the World Health Organization, it is necessary to have a separate guide to indicators for monitoring and evaluating HIV/AIDS prevention programs focused on youth. This new guide stems from findings from previously evaluated programs, which state that young people are not a homogenous group, and therefore require interventions designed for specific subgroups. Also, special care should be taken to find data on vulnerable youth, such as IV drug users, commercial sex workers and men who have sex with men, as well as data differentiating between individual and contextual factors that increase a young person’s likelihood of engaging in high-risk behavior.

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.paho.org/adolescence
and www.adolec.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
Photos: Armando Waak, OPS