

# Youth HIV Action

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Latin American and  
Caribbean Youth HIV/AIDS  
Quarterly Newsletter

## Youth Training Center for HIV/AIDS Prevention in Honduras

The first HIV training center for youth in Honduras opened June 28, a project sponsored by the country's COMVIDA (Communication and Life) initiative and UNICEF. The center, which will feature training for youth facilitators in basic messages for preventing HIV/AIDS in youth, is located in San Pedro Sula, thanks to a triple alliance between the municipal government, State institutions and civil society.

This is the first training center nationwide, and its methodology rests on youth-to-youth contact, in order to reach this population group, which is heavily affected by the pandemic. The training center will function in an area with one of the highest incidences of the infection, from which close to 2,000 people have died.

The northern and Atlantic sections of Honduras are experiencing growing rates of HIV/AIDS, and between 73 and 77% of those affected are between 15 and 49 years old, many of them with children and in the prime of their lives. The Honduran government estimates a yearly cost of US\$27 million to adequately face this challenge.

The center, called "Youth Voices and Actions: Idalia Pinto", hopes to reach youth through their peers, so they may make free, responsible and informed decisions, and adopt healthy, nonviolent lifestyles that respect gender equity. Youth facilitators will receive training to enable them to deliver basic messages on how youth can protect themselves against HIV/AIDS, prevent pregnancy during adolescence and the consumption of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs.



### In this Issue:

- *Youth Training Center for HIV/AIDS Prevention in Honduras*
- *Youth Against HIV: Their Own Story*
- *What's New...*
- *Links...*
- *HIV/AIDS: An International Youth Issue*
- *Research Shows...*



## Youth Against HIV: Their Own Story

Youth participation in social and health topics is a crucial aspect of PAHO's adolescence projects. Coinciding with the 2004 International AIDS Conference in Bangkok, Thailand, held in July, PAHO's adolescent health team has showcased young people who are dedicated to the fight against HIV/AIDS in Latin America and the Caribbean. Their personal stories are detailed at <http://www.paho.org/English/AD/FCH/CA/Testimony.htm>

## What's New...

### UNAIDS Global HIV/AIDS Report

[http://www.unaids.org/html/pub/media/press-releases02/pr\\_globalreport2004\\_06jul04\\_en.pdf](http://www.unaids.org/html/pub/media/press-releases02/pr_globalreport2004_06jul04_en.pdf)

### SIECUS Report on Abstinence Based Programs in the US

<http://www.siecus.org/media/press/press0064.html>

### Condom Use among Mexican Adolescents Living on the US-Mexico Border

<http://www.extenza-eps.com/extenza/loadHTML?objectIDValue=29395&type=abstract>



## Links...

Communication Initiative: Adolescents

<http://www.comminit.com/adolescents>

Youth and HIV

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

Sexual and Reproductive Health of Indigenous Youth

<http://www.fhi.org/en/Youth/YouthNet/Publications/FOCUS/InFOCUS/indigenousinfoservices.htm>

## HIV/AIDS: An International Youth Issue

An estimated 11.8 million young people aged 15-24 are living with HIV/AIDS, according to UNICEF. This is almost one third of all people with HIV/AIDS. Of the more than 6,000 HIV/AIDS infections that occur daily, more than half are in youth under the age of 24. Half of all those with HIV become infected before their 25th birthday. Many of them die from AIDS before they turn 35, leaving behind a generation of orphans.

On occasion of the XV International AIDS conference, the World Assembly of Youth (WAY), an international coordinating body of national youth councils and organizations, urged governments, the international community and HIV advocates around the world to declare HIV and AIDS a youth issue.

In WAY's view, this declaration would allow governments and civil society to adequately tackle the pandemic by addressing the root causes of HIV/AIDS transmission among young people. According to WAY, polarizing youth and HIV/AIDS works against curbing the disease, given that both are closely intertwined.

For more information, contact Donald T. Charumbira, Secretary General at [worldyouth@myjaring.net](mailto:worldyouth@myjaring.net); <http://www.worldassemblyofyouth.org>

## Research Shows...

Compensated Sex in Young Mexican Women: Risk of STI/HIV/AIDS

[http://www.insp.mx/salud/46/eng/i462\\_4.pdf](http://www.insp.mx/salud/46/eng/i462_4.pdf)

This is a qualitative study conducted by the National Institute of Public Health in Cuernavaca, in youths 15 to 25 years of age in Cuernavaca, Morelos, Mexico, between September 2001 and December 2002. Research methods consisted of six focal groups and eight interviews with young subjects identified or self-declared as having practiced compensated sex (sex in exchange for social or economic benefits). Researchers found that, to conceal these practices, young girls disguise compensated sex as "courtship" and subject themselves to rules and behaviors that restrain them in terms of condom use and expose them to sexually transmitted infections (STI). The study concluded that, although compensated sex itself may not necessarily constitute a risky practice, the courtship context in which young women tend to develop these practices exposes them to a greater risk of STIs. *Courtesy of Salud Pública de Mexico*

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to [singlets@paho.org](mailto:singlets@paho.org)

**HIV/AIDS Event Calendar**

[www.calsplus.com/sida](http://www.calsplus.com/sida)

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Health Area**

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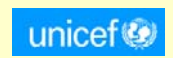
[www.paho.org/adolescence](http://www.paho.org/adolescence)  
and [www.adolec.org](http://www.adolec.org)

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