

# Youth HIV Action

Latin American and  
Caribbean Youth HIV/AIDS  
Quarterly Newsletter

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## Youth-Centeredness in HIV Counseling

Youth-centered counseling is a theory-based model that emphasizes HIV/STI prevention and the promotion of sexual and reproductive health in youth. It centers on adolescents' and youths' needs and wants, and is one of the most important multi-disciplinary interventions that can be delivered by front-line health or human services providers at various levels.

The PAHO Child and Adolescent Health and HIV/AIDS/STI units have just published a youth-centered counseling guide for such providers, which details how counseling pays attention to the psychosocial aspects of youth and provides the young person with the opportunity to learn practical skills for sexual and reproductive health development.

The guide does not take the place of formal education or training, supervision or professional consultation. Rather, it encourages readers to use it as a resource to engage in counseling with the aim of reducing HIV/STIs, preventing unwanted pregnancies, or caring for a young person who is HIV positive, promoting sexual and reproductive health and being responsive to youth needs and wants.



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## Using "Edutainment" to Reach Youth

As an instrument of social learning, "Education Entertainment" or "Edutainment" seeks to influence social values and behavior through the use of television and radio soap operas. In the fall of 2004, PAHO worked with director Sharda Ganga in Suriname to produce a 30-minute edutainment film on HIV/AIDS prevention and youth. Its focus is on issues of stigma and discrimination, sexuality, gender and coping with a positive diagnosis. The film premiered on television stations throughout Suriname on World AIDS Day. We'll have more information in the January 2005 issue of this newsletter.

## What's New...

PAHO Manual on HIV Prevention among Drug Users

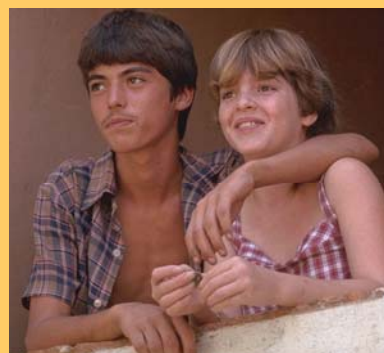
<http://www.paho.org/spanish/ad/fch/ai/InfecUDI.pdf> (in Spanish)

Effects of Television Sex on Adolescent Sexual Behavior

[http://www.parentstv.org/ptc/outsidestudies/RAND\\_Study.pdf](http://www.parentstv.org/ptc/outsidestudies/RAND_Study.pdf)

The Global Impact of HIV/AIDS on Youth

<http://www.kff.org/hivaids/6039-02.cfm>



## Links...

### Youth-Friendly Services

<http://www.fhi.org/en/Youth/YouthNet/ProgramsAreas/YouthFriendlyServices/index.htm>

### Youth Communication System, Red Camaleón (in Spanish)

<http://redcamaleon.com>

### Reproductive Rights for Women Affected by HIV

<http://www.genderhealth.org/pubs/MDGNov2004.pdf>

## Caribbean Youth Advocacy Movements

Growing concerns about HIV infection rates in the Caribbean have led the International Planned Parenthood Federation to update the sexual and reproductive health programs offered through its member associations' Youth Advocacy Movements. These movements feature youth participation in youth-oriented programs.

- In Grenada, YAM members have visited secondary schools to show videos and organize discussion groups on HIV/AIDS prevention with students and teachers. They also distributed fliers to beachfront visitors during Carnival and placed a banner in a busy part of the city reading "AIDS is a chain. Be the weakest link. Sexual responsibility is a must! Protect yourself from HIV."
- In Guyana, the country's Responsible Parenthood Association runs a youth center where YAM members operate a toll-free telephone hotline exclusively for youth needing counseling in sexual and reproductive health issues.
- In Jamaica, YAM adolescent peer and community educators bring vital information regarding HIV/AIDS prevention to adolescents in urban and rural areas. They also visit correctional facilities for juveniles, where inmates and officers are highly affected by the infection.

For more information, write to [hiv.info@ippfwhr.org](mailto:hiv.info@ippfwhr.org) or visit their website: [http://www.ippfwhr.org/publications/serial\\_article\\_e.asp?SerialIssuesID=144&ArticleID=315](http://www.ippfwhr.org/publications/serial_article_e.asp?SerialIssuesID=144&ArticleID=315)

## Research Shows...

### Links Between Condom Use, Sexual Behavior and Knowledge about HIV/AIDS among Mexican Public School Students

<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/B6VNM-4D4BSRV-F/2/77e54fe48d153dd066e3cd0bc4473d15>

A recent study by the Mexican Center for Population Research surveyed more than 13,200 public school students to determine their knowledge about HIV/AIDS transmission and its effect on their sexual behavior and condom use. The study found, among other things, that students knew more about HIV transmission than HIV prevention, and that, among young men, high levels of HIV/AIDS knowledge led to an increased likelihood of condom use, while this likelihood decreased in young women with high knowledge levels. The study concludes that more emphasis should be placed on HIV prevention in education programs, and that strategies are needed to deal with the social acceptability of condoms and increase skills related to condom negotiation in young women.

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**HIV/AIDS Event Calendar**  
[www.calsplus.com/sida](http://www.calsplus.com/sida)

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