

Presentation delivered during the Second Technical Advisory Committee on HIV/AIDS/STI

Brasilia, Brazil

16-19 January 2006



***Critical line of action* 2**

**Strategies Recommended in PAHO's
Regional HIV/STI Plan for the Health
Sector**

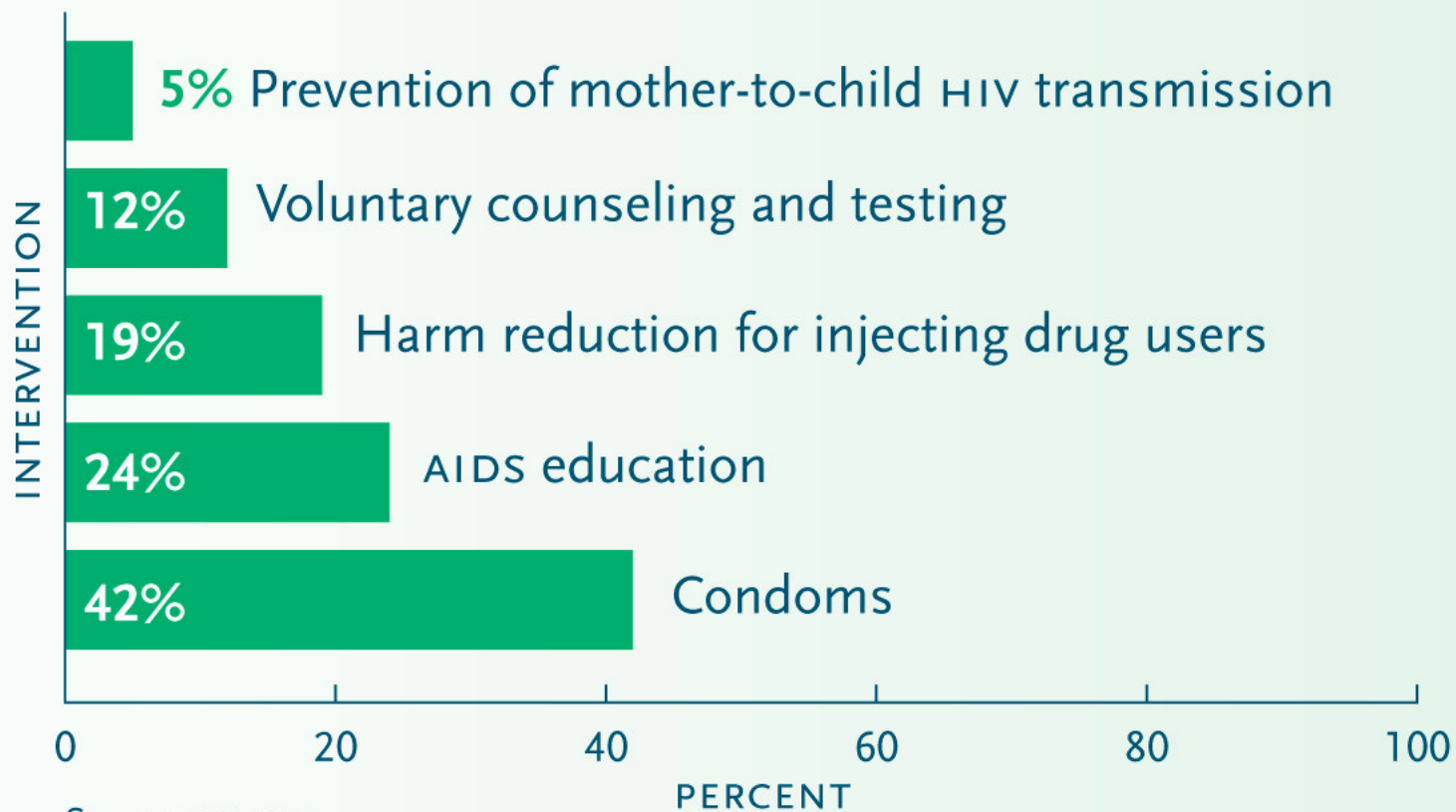
January 16, 2006

Understanding Roles and Responsibilities

- **NAP's should link prevention and care and integrate this with other health programs**
- **NAP's can define core elements of essential interventions**
- **NAP's can rekindle focus on health promotion and preventive approaches**
- **NAP's can promote the outreach of health services to vulnerable groups and the health-seeking behaviors of their members**

Access to Selected Interventions in 2001

Percent of Individuals At Risk with Access to Select Interventions, 2001



Source: UNAIDS

Access to Selected Interventions...

- **Preliminary evidence of increased condom use and demand for VCT in the Caribbean**
- **Very limited evidence of programs that articulate interventions (i.e. set of mutually reinforcing actions)**
- **Availability of saving treatments has caused a diversion of interest/resources to the treatment agenda**

The expected impact of timely implementation of comprehensive prevention programs

- **Reduction of annual incidence among most affected groups**
- **Behavioral change (ascertained through behavioral surveillance)**
- **Less people to treat**
- **Improvement of comprehensive care**

The Key Prevention Strategies

- **Strong support (political, financial)**
- **Better planning of sets of interventions proven to be effective**
- **Use of state-of-the-art knowledge and technologies**
- **Removal of stigma and other social factors that hamper prevention**

A Shift in Paradigms is Needed

- **Most new infections are by sexual transmission**
- **Special accent on promotion of sexual health**
- **Combat to homophobia, sexism, hatred**
- **Use of gender perspective communication and educational approaches**

Proposed Targets...

- ...policies and health reforms...to implement universal access to [prevention] services
- ...make it a priority in political and public health [discussions/debates]
- ...work actively with other sectors [in interfaces] to promote overall wellness

Proposed Targets...

- ... targeted interventions according to situation analysis
- ...quality assurance of interventions being carried out
- ...human resources management systems in place
- comprehensive management of STI

Proposed Targets...

- ...75% increase in reported condom use
- involvement of PLWH
- condom procurement mechanisms in operation
- M&E of prevention

The Challenges Ahead

- **Lack of real commitment to the Prevention & Health Promotion Agenda**
- **Growing demand for access to treatments**
- **Misconceptions/misunderstandings about treatment**

The Challenges Ahead

- **Insufficient discipline in planning and carrying out preventive interventions**
- **Difficulty to discuss sexual issues**
- **Homophobia, sexism and hatred**
- **Existence of “gray areas”**

We are convinced we can make a difference

- **The Health Sector has a unique role to play on health and wellbeing issues**
- **An important role is to support and provide guidance to other sectors**
- **Health services are ideal bastions to implement some preventive interventions**
- **We can help to bridge gaps**