



# Youth and AIDS Project's HIV Prevention Program

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## FOCUS

- Primary Pregnancy Prevention
- Secondary Pregnancy Prevention
- STD/HIV/AIDS Prevention

## ORIGINAL SITE

- School-Based
- Community-Based
- Clinic-Based

## APPROACH

- Abstinence
- Behavioral Skills Development
- Community Outreach
- Contraceptive Access
- Contraceptive Education
- Life Option Enhancement
- Self-Efficacy/Self-Esteem
- Sexuality/STD/HIV/AIDS Education

## COMPONENTS

## SUMMARY

A community, clinic and university partnership launched this program to provide education, peer support, counseling and case management to gay and bisexual male adolescents between 13 and 21 years of age, who are at high risk for HIV/ AIDS. The program begins with an initial two hour interview for individualized HIV/AIDS risk assessment and risk reduction counseling. Youth then participate in a 90-minute interactive peer education program designed to provide clear, factual information in an atmosphere of mutual support. The program's lessons are reinforced in an educational video. Optional peer support groups meet weekly, if youth wish to attend. Finally, there is a one-hour follow-up visit for reassessment and referrals, as needed, to medical and social services. A field study of the program was conducted with a predominantly white sample of males, ages 13-21, who identified themselves as gay or bisexual. Following the intervention, the 139 participants reported less frequent unprotected anal intercourse and more frequent use of condoms. A reduction in substance abuse, particularly amphetamines and amyl nitrate, was also recorded.

## SUITABLE FOR USE IN

This program can be implemented by a variety of clinics and community-based organizations serving gay and bisexual teens, providing that necessary medical and social services are available for referrals.

## ORIGINAL INTERVENTION SAMPLE

### Age, Gender

The original sample included 139 males, ages 13 to 21 years (avg.= 19.3 yrs.).

### Race/Ethnicity

75% White, 14% African-American, 4% Asian American, 3% Latino, 3% Native American.

## PROGRAM LENGTH

The basic program includes 3 1/2 hours of activities: a two-hour risk assessment interview and a 90-minute peer education session. Meetings of the peer support groups follow the education sessions; participation in these groups is optional. Three to six months after the basic intervention, a one-hour follow-up assessment is scheduled.

## STAFFING REQUIREMENTS/TRAINING

One peer educator (18 to 22 years old) is recommended for every four teens; these educators must be well-informed about issues pertinent to gay and bisexual youth. Training includes background information on HIV/AIDS, as well as practice in facilitating group discussions. A psychologist, physician or social worker is needed to perform the risk assessments. Additional professional staff (e.g., physicians, vocational counselors) should be on call to provide necessary services.

- Adult Involvement
  - Case Management
  - Group Discussion
  - Lectures
  - Peer Counseling/Instruction
  - Public Service Announcements
  - Role Play
  - Video
  - Other
- Optional peer support groups

## PASHA PROGRAM PACKAGE

The PASHA Program Package for this program includes:

- ▶ PASHA User's Guide
- ▶ Surviving AIDS: Simple Answers to Complex Questions about AIDS and Adolescent Homosexuality Handbook
- ▶ Peer Education Session
- ▶ Gay Youth and AIDS: Surviving AIDS videotape
- ▶ What Do these Guys Have in Common? brochure
- ▶ *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, March 10, 2002
- ▶ Resources for Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Youth
- ▶ HIV Infection and AIDS: What Everyone Should Know
- ▶ A Set of Original Evaluation Instruments Set of Original Evaluation Instruments
- ▶ Prevention Minimum Evaluation Data Set (PMEDS)
- ▶ Local Evaluator Consultant Network Directory
  
- ▶ Telephone technical support on implementation and evaluation for 1 year