

A WORD FROM THE EXPERTS

Rikers Health Advocacy Program

Interviews with Developers of Evidence-Based Programs for Teen Pregnancy Prevention



This webinar was developed by Child Trends under contract #GS-10F-0030R for the Office of Adolescent Health; US Department of Health and Human Services as a technical assistance product for use with OAH grant programs.



Inclusion on the HHS Teen Pregnancy Prevention Evidence Review does not indicate HHS or OAH endorsement of a program model.



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Program goals :

- Increase knowledge of HIV/AIDS its relation to drug use and sexuality
- Reduce HIV risk behaviors in the community

Target population:

- Incarcerated male adolescents and young adults aged 16-19

Key components:

- Problem-Solving Therapy
- Formulate the problem

- Generate alternative solutions
- Group implements chosen solution by role play and rehearsal

Delivery methods:

- Lecture
- Group discussion (8 per group)
- Four – 1 hr sessions

Previous evaluation results

- Rikers Island (New York City) Adolescent Jail, 1991-1993¹
 - ✓ Population: Incarcerated, inner-city adolescent and young adult males, aged 16-19
 - ✓ Findings: 411 youth interviewed; 110 received the education. Those released before being invited to the education became “wait list controls.” Interview follow-up 5 months after release; 66% response rate for those targeted.
 - More likely to report greater acceptability of condom use, more condom use, fewer high risk partners.
 - No effect on alcohol or drug use.
- Field Test: Program Archive on Sexuality, Health, and Adolescence (PASHA)²
 - ✓ Population: Residential treatment for adolescent felony offenders; male; predominately white from lower- and middle-income families.
 - ✓ Findings: Overall experience was acceptable; youth were least receptive to the drug use session.

¹ The RHAP program was funded by grant # R01 DA05942 from the National Institute on Drug Abuse.

² Information regarding field test can be found in the PASHA User's Guide from Sociometrics:

<http://www.socio.com/passt10.php>



- Evaluated populations
 - Inner city male youths
 - 64% African-American/33% Hispanic
 - Offender histories
 - Aged 16-19
- Target populations
 - Any race/ethnicity male youth; sexually active
 - Not limited to offenders; any "high risk" adolescents (e.g. those involved in drug misuse)



- Evaluated settings
 - Detention facility
- Other settings
 - Jails, residential drug treatment, outpatient drug treatment, any outpatient counseling or support programs for high risk adolescents



■ Potential adaptations

○ Settings

- Could be generalized to community programs serving high risk teens
- Criminal conduct is NOT mentioned in the curriculum, but could come up in discussion

○ Cultural relevance

- Every attempt made to make it universally relevant and understandable

○ Language

- The current materials are in English

○ Target population

- Adolescent and young adult males
- With modification, perhaps young women

Note: TPP grantees must obtain prior approval from OAH for any adaptations.

Staffing and training considerations

■ Staffing considerations

- Male counselor originally used, but a subsequent field test indicated it worked with female counselor
- Experienced counselor or health educator; masters' level not required. "Street cred" a plus.
- Comfort with non-directive style

■ Training considerations

- No in-person training available.
- However, any health education trainer could conduct such training.
- Materials were designed to be feasible for self-training.



■ Common challenges

- Population often does not define themselves as having a drug problem, even if engaging in drug use.
- At the time of the study, did not believe they were at high risk of HIV/AIDS; contraception more salient reason for condom use.

■ Strategies for success

- Don't tell them what is a problem, let them define the problems after giving some facts about HIV/AIDS and how its transmitted/contracted.



- Recent or planned curriculum revisions
 - No revision planned
 - Any revisions made should mention Hepatitis C and be up-to-date with HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment information.
 - There is evidence that many now believe that the new treatments have solved the problem of HIV/AIDS disease. The facts with regard to that should be communicated and explored in a revised curriculum.

- **HHS Teen Pregnancy Prevention Evidence Review**
 - <http://tppevidencereview.aspe.hhs.gov/>
- **Link to implementation report**
 - <http://tppevidencereview.aspe.hhs.gov/document.aspx?rid=3&sid=187>
- **Link to developer's website**
 - <http://www.socio.com/passt10.php>

Thank you!

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