

Chicago Area Priority Access Project



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The Chicago Area Priority Access Project



- Targets YAAMSM ages 13-24
- The City of Chicago
- Major Goals
 - Conduct outreach and in reach strategies
 - Increase early detection of seropositive YAAMSM
 - Develop an adolescent specific continuum of care network for seropositive YAAMSM
 - Operate a Youth Empowerment Center

Local HIV Epidemiological Data

All Cases Under 25

Data as of 6/2008

2006-2007

- City of Chicago (N=266)
 - Non-Hispanic Black MSM 53%
 - Non-Hispanic Black Female 21%
 - Non-Hispanic White Male MSM 11%
 - Hispanic Male MSM 8%
- City of Chicago (N=201)
- (Target Area - south and west sides)
 - Non-Hispanic Black MSM 61%
 - Non-Hispanic Black Female 25%
 - Non-Hispanic White Male MSM 2%
 - Hispanic Male MSM 5%

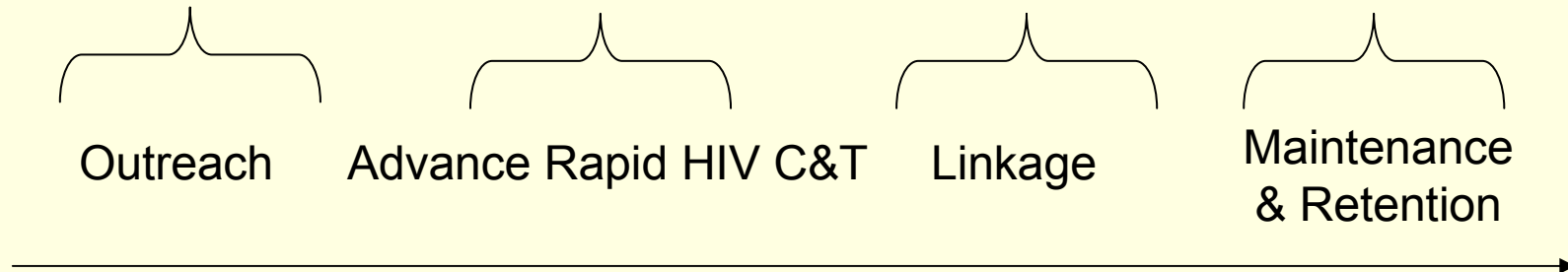
Service Area

Targeted Outreach and Testing

- West Side of Chicago
 - From Downtown to Austin Ave (42 blocks)
 - Location of Office and YEC (drop in)
 - Includes six high schools, two colleges, clinics and selected balls
- North Side of Chicago
 - Special Events (i.e. Gay Pride)
- South Side of Chicago
 - From Downtown to Jackson Park (63rd Street) – includes public parks, gay bars and selected balls

Continuum of Care Plan

1. Targeted Outreach in Service Areas
2. Rapid HIV Testing in Service Areas



3. Linkage to The Cook County Bureau of Health Core Center (CCBH)
4. Maintenance and Retention with Clinical Partner (CCBH)

*Co-Principal Investigator and Connection to Care Coordinator

Outreach Strategy: Mobile Tech



- Successes/Pros
 - Innovative approach
 - Captivates youth with multi-media
 - Brings intervention to where target population is
- Barriers/Cons
 - Parking
 - Stigma of vehicle being associated with HIV
 - Continued maintenance and high cost of fuel
 - Decided it was not the best way to conduct outreach targeting YAAMSM

Successful Outreach Strategies

■ School and Clinics

- Controlled environment for targeted age group
- Targeted to YAAMSM who may already be engaging care and treatment
- Ideal for the winter months
- Is good for recruitment for YEC and testing opportunities

■ Bars, Clubs and Balls

- Venue and target population specific
- Allows for HIV prevention messages to be integrated in ball activities

Summary of Outreach/Testing Evaluation Results

Type	Number Successfully Engaged	Number in Target Population (YAAMSM)	% of Target population
*Multi-site Evaluation	23	23	100%
Mobile Tech	1623	1161	72%
Bars, Clubs & Balls Special Events	1857	1328	72%
Schools & Clinics	602	533	89%

***12 youth identified
in the last 8 months**

The Youth Empowerment Center



- Served an average of 32 Unique YAAMSM per week.
- A Drop in Center for YAAMSM
 - Empowerment Activities
 - Open House
 - Resume Writing
 - Job Searches
 - Spiritual Awareness

The Youth Empowerment Center



- A Place to Increase Self-esteem and Efficacy
 - Group Discussions and Interventions
 - Very Informed Brothers Engaged in Survival (VIBES)
 - Friend to Friend (social networking)
 - HIV Counseling and Testing

Outreach Materials

**THE CAPA PROJECT @
WORKING FOR TOGETHERNESS**

YOUTH EMPOWERMENT CENTER

3333 W. Arthington St., #108
Phone: 773-265-5626

for youth
13-24 years old

DROP-IN HOURS
MONDAY: 12-6
WEDNESDAY: 12-6:30
FRIDAY: 12-6:30

Programs and services include: Free HIV Testing & STD Screening, Prevention Case Management, Peer Education and Support, Empowerment Groups, HIV Education & Prevention Workshops, & Social Events

*Please pass this flyer along to any GLBT youth who may be interested in our innovative education and prevention services.

YOUTH EMPOWERMENT CENTER

The Youth Empowerment Center and CAPA Project are funded by a HRSA Special Projects of National Significance grant awarded to Working For Togetherness. The CAPA Project is a research collaboration between Working For Togetherness and the Division of Adolescent and Young Adult Medicine at John H. Stroger, Jr. Hospital of Cook County (Protocol # 05-231).

Very Informed Brothers Engaged in Survival (VIBES)

- HIV Prevention Group Level Intervention
 - Uses outreach for recruitment
 - Targets YAAMSM
- Discussion Topics
 - Racism and HIV
 - The Black Church and HIV
 - Homophobia in the Black Community
- Engages Youth in conversations
 - What outreach strategies work?
 - Do you feel supported by your community, social networks, family?

Social Networking and the CAPA Project



- Reaches hidden population segments
 - Youth who may only be “out” to friends
 - Youth who do not go to bars and clubs
- Reaches persons who are distrustful of authorities but trust their peers
 - Allows for new relationships to be developed
- Reaches those who cannot be reached through traditional outreach strategies

Friend to Friend Social Networking Strategy: Findings from the CAPA Project

- Four groups were conducted
- A total of 30 participants from target population
- Fifteen new YAAMSM started coming to the YEC
- A 10% increase in YEC attendance
- A new venue was identified for outreach
- Over one-fourth of the youth said they do not go to bars
- All youth “strongly agreed” that they would practice safer sex

Successful Strategies: Case Finding

- **By communities identified as epicenters for HIV and co-morbidity factors (STDs, TB) as identified by the Chicago Department of Health**
- **By sub-populations and subcultures, noting that outreach prevention education and HIV testing efforts alone may not effectively reach all subcultures of YAAMSM**
- **By working the network of youth (the index case and their friends and sexual partners) who are often characterized by similar risky behaviors and co-morbid factors**

Successful Strategies: YEC

- Social Networking
- Structured Group Level Interventions
- Keeping the “safe space” safe
- Mini-balls and related activities
- Empowering Youth
 - Building self-esteem
 - Peers working with staff as a team

Successful Strategies: Outreach

- Understand the target population
 - Talk to peers
 - Learn the language
- Be More targeted!
 - Health centers and clinics
 - Balls
 - Use social networking strategies

Sustainability Efforts

- The Illinois Department of Public Health Center for Minority Health Services (Two Initiatives)
 - The Illinois HIV/AIDS Communities of Color Initiative
 - The Illinois Brothers and Sisters United Against HIV/AIDS (BASUAH) Initiative

- Funded Activities (program components):
 - Youth Empowerment Center
 - Outreach and In Reach Strategies (i.e. balls, parks and clubs)

Lessons Learned

- The multi-pronged approach to outreach is most successful
- Relationships must be built to combat the mistrust and fear that many YAAMSM face
- Creating a safe space for YAAMSM gives them a sense of “belonging”
- Outreach and retention strategies must be dynamic and informed by the target population
- Invest in youth and they will be empowered to make a change

Final Acknowledgements

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