**A Participatory Approach to HIV Prevention in Brazil**

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### Introduction/Program

- HIV is taking an increasingly large toll on youth.
- In response, the MacArthur Foundation, the University of California at San Francisco, and the STD/AIDS Program of the State of Sao Paulo, Brazil created a program in order to educate incarcerated boys in Tatuape— the largest educational facility for incarcerated adolescents in the state of Sao Paulo—about HIV, AIDS, and precautionary measures.

### Methods

**Participants:** Data collection via questionnaire (previously used in public schools) completed by boys.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>93%</th>
<th>98%</th>
<th>69%</th>
<th>22%</th>
<th>38%</th>
<th>&lt;10%</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Between the ages of 16 and 19. Are sexually experienced.</td>
<td>Initiated sex between the ages of 8 and 13. Are already fathers.</td>
<td>Reported a sore on their genitals or pain while urinating.</td>
<td>Reported a homosexual experience.</td>
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### Program Description

**Intervention 1**

- Discuss symbolism, impact of AIDS.
- Discuss reproduction and sexual pleasure, how to properly put on a condom.

**Intervention 2**

- Researchers gained input from boys in the program.
- Boys suggested programs such as:
  - developing a relationship network with communities
  - Doing art graffiti and drawing ideas on walls

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**Results and Limitations**

**Results**

- First intervention was seen as irrelevant by the boys.
- Second intervention was more successful.
- Boys became more interested in creating music materials for the community and participating constructively in society.

**Limitations**

- Strong qualitative data, but no quantitative data.
- Program offers no criteria or mechanism for evaluating sustainability of the program.
- Program may inadvertently contribute to stigmatization by differentiating between the “general population” and “high-risk populations.”

### Scaling Up

Goal is to engage the community in creating a participatory approach so that youths can learn good behaviors early and formerly incarcerated males can enter an environment of support.

### References


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**Funding/Resources:** Initial funders would have to be involved. Resources necessary would be program researchers that work with community members, a way to distribute artistic works, and outside speakers to stimulate community members.

**Conclusions**

- A community-based participatory approach to research and intervention is more successful than an information-provision approach.
- Scaling provides a more comprehensive yet individualized approach to health and, specifically, an HIV intervention could be provided to disadvantaged adolescent populations.
- It would also serve to reinforce the positive ideals shared within the detention centers and help to de-stigmatize the ever-prevalent issue of HIV and AIDS.

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