

## **PREGNANCY PREVENTION INTERVENTION IMPLEMENTATION REPORT**

### **Program Name:**

*Rikers Health Advocacy Program*

### **Developer:**

Stephen Magura, PhD

### **Program Description and Overview**

*Rikers Health Advocacy Program (RHAP)* is designed to produce problem-solving skills for HIV/AIDS prevention among high-risk youth, particularly drug users and youth in correctional facilities. The program features a "Problem-Solving Therapy" approach, which focuses on problem orientation, defining and formulating a problem, generating alternative solutions, decision-making, and implementing a solution. The program was originally delivered to a small group of male participants in a correctional facility setting. The intervention consists of four one-hour sessions delivered by a male instructor, biweekly over two weeks. Participants are engaged through sharing and discussion of facts and beliefs about HIV. They identify particular attitudes or behaviors that require modification and suggest potential solutions, which are then evaluated by other participants. The program includes role-play and rehearsal exercises for implementation of the suggested solutions. Topics discussed include general HIV education information; factors related to drug initiation or drug use; the meaning and consequences of sexual activity; the relationship between drug use and sexual activity and HIV risk; and how to seek health care services, social services, and drug treatment.

### **Core Components**

- Not available at this time.

### **Target Population**

#### **Target Population Evaluated**

- Incarcerated, inner-city adolescent males
- Youth ages 16-19

#### **Potential additional target populations noted by developers**

- Available information describes the target population as high-risk youth, particularly drug users and youth in correctional facilities.

### **Program Setting**

#### **Program setting evaluated**

- Small groups
- Correctional facility setting

### **Program Duration**

- 4, 1- hour sessions
- Bi-weekly over 2 weeks

### **Curriculum Materials**

Curriculum materials include a user's guide, protocol handbook, and evaluation instruments. Materials are available from Sociometric Corporation Program Archive on Sexuality, Health, and Adolescent (PASHA) at <http://www.socio.com/passt10.php>.

### **Adaptations**

None noted at this time.

**Program Focus**

*Rikers* focuses on HIV prevention.

**Research Evidence**

- Study Citation:** Magura, S., Kang, S. Y., & Shapiro, J. L. (1994). Outcomes of intensive AIDS education for male adolescent drug users in jail. *The Journal of Adolescent Health, 15*(6), 457–463.
- Study Setting:** Small-group sessions at the New York City Department of Correction’s Adolescent Reception and Detention Center on Rikers Island
- Study Sample:** 157 incarcerated, inner-city adolescent males
- Age range between 16 and 19 years
  - 64% African American, 33% Hispanic, 2% white
- Study Design:** Quasi-experimental design. The study compared 58 adolescents who received the intervention with 99 “wait list” controls who volunteered for the intervention but were released from jail or transferred to another facility before receiving it. Surveys were administered before the two-week intervention (baseline) and roughly 10 months later.
- Study Rating:** The study met the review criteria for a **moderate** study rating. The study did not meet the review criteria for a high study rating because participants were not assigned to the intervention and comparison groups at random.
- Study Findings:** Roughly 10 months after the baseline survey:
- Adolescents who had engaged in heterosexual sex (prior to arrest) and who participated in the intervention reported significantly higher frequency of condom use during vaginal, oral, or anal sex.
  - The study found no statistically significant program impacts on number of sexual partners or frequency of anal sex.

The study also examined program impacts on measures of substance use, number of high-risk sexual partners, access to condoms, and attitudes toward condoms. Findings for these outcomes were not considered for the review because they fell outside the scope of the review.

**Last Updated:** 05/31/2012