HIV/AIDS and Youth

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Youth Behavioral Risk Survey (2012)

- 47.4% had sexual intercourse <13 yrs
- 15.3% had four or more lifetime sexual partners
- 8.0% have been forced to have sex (11.8% female, 4.5% male)
- 39.9% had smoked marijuana, 6.8% used a form of cocaine, 20.7% abused prescription drugs
- 22.1% used drugs or alcohol before their last sexual intercourse
What are the numbers?

According to the CDC (2011) in 2009:

- 8,294 youth (13-24 years) were diagnosed with HIV in 40 states with long-term HIV reporting
- Youth aged 20-24 years comprised 75% (n=6,237) of these new infections
- African-American youth (13-24 years) accounted for 65% (5,404) of these new HIV infections
- YMSM (13-29 years) made up 69% of new HIV infections in 2009
Contributing Factors

**Women:**

Age difference of first sexual partner correlated to future sexual behaviors
- Poor condom negotiation
- Increased STIs

Closeness of family and friends to adolescent sexual partners
- Lowered condom use
- Greater partner intimacy

* Need for appropriate education during adolescence which includes social networks and families
Contributing Factors (conti-)

**Males:**

- Fatalistic view of life – desire to have a child for “legacy”
- Determine how safe a partner is by partner’s social network
- Lack of gender appropriate health and sex education
- Lack of supportive adults and role models to obtain accurate information
Young Men Who Have Sex With Men

What puts YMSM More at risk for acquiring HIV?

- Closed social networks
- Closed sexual networks
- Lack of HIV knowledge and prevention
  - A study conducted CDC (2011) of 15 cities showed that 80% of YMSM of color have not received HIV intervention or prevention education
- heterosexism, homophobia (particularly those of school age) and “learning to manage a stigmatized identity” (Ryan & Hunter, 2003).
Young Men Who Have Sex With Men

- Intergenerational dating and power imbalance
- Developmental Challenges
- Poor Role Models
Transgender Youth

What puts transgender youth more at risk for acquiring HIV?

- Disproportionately affected by poverty
- More likely to engage in sex work due to discrimination faced in mainstream employment
- More likely to be harassed in public spaces making transgender persons less likely to access services.
Transgender Youth

- More likely to drop out of school due to harassment
What’s Up with STAR TRACK

- An medical center exclusively serving adolescents and young adults (12-24)
- Newly opened transgender health clinic
- Large scale social media targeting youth with HIV prevention messages
  - Facebook
  - Twitter
  - Adam4Adam
  - HIV STOPS WITH ME
What’s Up with STAR TRACK

- Using technology to improve adherence to HIV related medical care
  - ST-AMP
    - Text Messaging
    - Skype
- Targeted HIV outreach to high at-risk communities
- Community Based HIV Counseling and Testing Activities.
How to reach us

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