

FOIA MARKER

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Events - 2/9/1999 - Youth

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Events - 2/99
Youth

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Talking points for Sandra Thurman for:

AIDS Policy Center

"Ending AIDS with the Younger Generation"

February 9th, 9:30 to 10:30 AM

National Press Club, Morrow Room

Sarah
Call me, ^{17th}
Bob Schy

The Federal government is taking a leadership role in providing HIV infection prevention message to young people. The facts are alarming:

BACKGROUND STATISTICS RE: YOUTH AND HIV:

- o AIDS is the 6th leading cause of death for young people 15 to 24 years of age.
- o Almost 20% of all reported AIDS cases in the US have occurred in people between the ages of 20 and 29. Because the average period of time from HIV infection to AIDS is 10 years, most young adults with AIDS were likely infected with HIV as adolescents.
- o It is estimated that 1/4 of all new HIV infections occur in young people between the ages of 13 to 21 years.
- o Two Americans under 21 years of age become infected with HIV every hour.
- o In some communities as many as one in thirty 18 and 19 year olds may be HIV+.
- o Approximate 2/3 of the 12 million cases of STDs reported in the US each year are in individuals under the age of 25, and 1/4 are among teenagers.
- o Almost all adolescents recently infected with HIV are exposed to the virus through sexual intercourse or IDU. Most adolescent males are exposed to HIV through sex with men, with a small percentage being infected through IDU or heterosexual contact. Most adolescent females are infected through heterosexual contact, with a small percentage through IDU.
- o Data from the 29 states that conduct HIV surveillance indicate that among 13 to 19 year olds infected with HIV:
 - 48% were male
 - 52% were female
 - 29% were white, not Hispanic
 - 65% were black, not Hispanic
 - 1% were Hispanic
 - <1% were API, AI/AN

THE PRESIDENT'S YOUTH HIV PREVENTION INITIATIVE

The President's directive of December 1, 1997, calls for each Federal Agency to:

- 1) identify programs under its control that serve young people ages 13 - 21 and that offer a significant opportunity for preventing HIV infections, and
- 2) develop specific plans through which these programs could increase access to HIV prevention and education information, and to supportive services and care for those already infected.

ONAP, in conjunction with DHHS/Office of HIV/AIDS, is providing policy direction and technical assistance to those Federal Agencies that have programs capable of providing HIV prevention services to young people develop their plans.

ONAP/DHHS held a meeting on January 14th at ONAP offices to discuss the President's directive. Twenty six representatives from Federal Agencies attended. Many Agencies wrote to ONAP to say they did not have programs falling within the jurisdiction of the President's directive, and some of these indicated that they would like to help if possible. The Agencies present were enthused about developing/enhancing programs to comply with the President's directive to increase HIV prevention messages to adolescents. An "Inventory" of Federal programs that are providing, or have a significant opportunity to provide, HIV prevention messages to young people is due to ONAP February 9, so that ONAP/DHHS may produce a report by the end February.. (twiley)

A report on increasing access to HIV prevention is due on within 180 days (May 30, 1998) of the President's directive. ONAP/DHHS will be providing technical assistance to Federal Agencies in developing their access plans. ONAP/DHHS are currently developing this technical assistance. Initial thoughts are to develop multi-expert "teams", primarily from DHHS, to provide guidance, at a central location (here in DC) for small agencies, or "on-site" for agencies with large programs.