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FACT SHEET

HIV/AIDS BUREAU • OFFICE OF SCIENCE AND EPIDEMIOLOGY • NOVEMBER 1997

Special Projects of National Significance (SPNS) Program Adolescent Care Demonstration & Evaluation Projects

The Special Projects of National Significance (SPNS) Program is authorized under Part F of the Ryan White Comprehensive AIDS Resources Emergency (CARE) Act and is administered by the Office of Science & Epidemiology of the HIV/AIDS Bureau, Health Resources and Services Administration. It supports demonstrations and evaluations of innovative and replicable models for delivering health and support services to people with HIV. Awards are made to non-profit organizations wishing to evaluate a model of care, and the SPNS Program uses a competitive grant award process to assure the fair and equitable distribution of funds to the organizations that apply for support.

Background

In FY 1993, the SPNS Program identified adolescents who were either at high risk for HIV infection or already infected as a separate and significantly important Special Projects category. During 1991-1992, a significant rate of increase in diagnosed AIDS cases occurred among young adults ages 20-24, with most of these young people having been infected during adolescence. Seroprevalence reports from a variety of HIV research studies and through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) also indicated substantial increases in the number of persons ages 13-19 counseled and tested for HIV.

Data gathered from the SPNS Program and Pediatric AIDS Demonstration Project grantees and from key informants also indicated that there had been an increase in the number of adolescents seeking HIV antibody testing and treatment for AIDS, and that continua of care specific to adolescents with HIV disease were virtually absent in the United States.

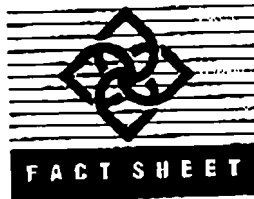
Program Descriptions

To address these service gaps, a total of \$2.7 million was awarded in FY 1994 through competitive application to ten adolescent-focused projects, the SPNS Program Adolescent Care Demonstration & Evaluation Projects. These projects, which cover a maximum 3-year period, target adolescents who are at high risk for HIV infection or already infected. Each grantee is providing and evaluating services, and several models of care are represented. Two-year extensions were awarded in FY 1996 through a competition limited to these 10 grantees.

- **University of Alabama at Birmingham (Birmingham AL)** provides HIV outreach, education, testing and counseling, and case management for disadvantaged, high risk females between the ages of 10 to 24 years. It seeks to improve access to medical and psychosocial services through family-centered case management and to identify HIV-positive women through early intervention, outreach, and testing.

- **Bay Area Young Positives (San Francisco CA)** uses a staff of full-time, paid young people and volunteers to provide support services for youth with HIV who are under 26 years of age. These services include peer counseling, advocacy education, practical support services, and information on youth-sensitive care providers.

- **Boston HAPPENS / Children's Hospital (Boston MA)** provides outreach to high risk, homeless, and street youth through a diverse and comprehensive network of primary care service providers. Its network model facilitates an integrated service referral program among the principal adolescent service providers in the Boston area.



- **Greater Bridgeport Adolescent Pregnancy Program (Bridgeport CT)** provides outreach, HIV prevention and early intervention, case management, and referral services for underserved minority adolescents, ages 15 to 24, who are HIV-positive or at high risk for HIV. Staff provide intensive supervision and support to ten peer-youth street outreach educators.

- **Children's Hospital of Los Angeles (Los Angeles CA)** disseminates HIV prevention and early intervention information, provides risk reduction counseling, and initiates case management services for youth at high risk for HIV who are also runaway, homeless, and/or injecting drug users. A wide range of medical and psychosocial services is provided, including case management, HIV testing and counseling, risk reduction services, mental health screening and crisis intervention, and substance abuse services.

- **Indiana Youth Access Project (Indianapolis IN)** is a peer-based model that addresses access to health and support services for underserved gay, lesbian, and bisexual adolescents who are HIV-positive or at risk for HIV. The project focuses on peer counseling, risk reduction and assessment, health evaluations, street outreach, and an HIV prevention case management model in central Indiana.

- **University of Minnesota Youth and AIDS Project (Minneapolis MN)** is developing and evaluating a model of outreach, early intervention, and service delivery for adolescents ages 13-21 living with HIV in Minnesota. It provides outreach and comprehensive, coordinated, and family-centered care to Minnesota youth who are HIV-positive.

- **Health Initiatives for Youth (HIFY) YES Project (San Francisco CA)** provides a comprehensive array of youth-centered services, self-help resources, and skills-training for young people with HIV, age 25 years and under.

- **Walden House, Inc. (San Francisco CA)** provides a multi-disciplinary approach to the substance abuse treatment, psychiatric, and

medical needs of dually diagnosed youth. The program combines long-term residential treatment with clinical and medical services specifically designed for adolescents living with HIV.

- **YouthCare, Inc. (Seattle WA)** combines HIV testing and counseling with early intervention and prevention case management services to develop a continuum of care for youth who are living with HIV.

Program Accomplishments

In addition to providing services, the projects evaluate, both individually and collectively, through a national evaluation study, the service needs of youth with HIV disease, how best to deliver those services, and specific barriers and means for more effectively overcoming these barriers. A crucial accomplishment has been the development of a research and evaluation infrastructure among many of the institutions and community-based organizations supported by these SPNS Program grants. Another accomplishment of these projects is the development of models of care that are uniquely youth-sensitive and specific to adolescents, rather than service models adapted from adult or pediatric populations.

Although evaluation is not complete, results to date suggest that the models are effectively meeting their goals. Some specific examples are illustrative of accomplishments.

Minnesota's model has provided an example of linking State mandatory reporting with early intervention to help ensure that HIV counseling and testing advance public health activities. Peer-based models have revealed both the strengths of peer-to-peer services and also areas where youth need support and development to be effective as organization leaders. Finally, Walden House, Inc. has data supporting the effectiveness of its model in helping youths access substance abuse treatment, as 66 percent of their outreach contacts eventually enroll in substance abuse treatment.

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Youth Related Activities at the Division of HIV AIDS Prevention

About the National Center for HIV, STD, and TB Prevention (NCHSTP)

The National Center for HIV, STD, and TB Prevention (NCHSTP) is responsible for public health surveillance, prevention research, and programs to prevent and control human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection and acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS), other sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), and tuberculosis (TB). NCHSTP contributes to reductions in these diseases through a systematic process of

- detection of the problem and determining the cause
- assessing what needs to be done by the private and public sectors to control the problem
- developing and testing interventions to help solve the problem
- implementing and evaluating proven interventions through private and public efforts as nationwide prevention programs
- developing prevention policies to guide further efforts.

About DHAP: Intervention Research and Support (IRS) Surveillance and Epidemiology (SE)

There are two Divisions of HIV/AIDS Prevention within NCHSTP: Intervention Research and Support (IRS) and Surveillance and Epidemiology (SE). Together, these two Divisions provide the science basis for preventing and controlling HIV infection through surveillance, research, and evaluation, as well as financial and technical support for the prevention programs of governmental and nongovernmental organizations at the state, local, and national levels.

Surveillance

HIV/AIDS Surveillance

The AIDS reporting system allows CDC researchers to monitor the incidence and prevalence of AIDS-related immunosuppression, morbidity, and mortality; identify and analyze trends; and document the cumulative number of persons reported with AIDS in the United States. Data on cases of HIV infection and AIDS are stratified by age, race, ethnicity, and primary risk.

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Youth Related Activities at the Division of HIV AIDS Prevention

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Surveillance

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The Sero-Survey of HIV in Youth

The Sero-Survey of Youth provides assistance to state and local health departments to conduct HIV seroprevalence surveys in selected settings. These data provide indicators of the magnitude of HIV in certain populations and changes in patterns of HIV infection over time. These studies are currently conducted in STD clinics, drug treatment centers, adolescent and young adult clinics, clinics serving homeless youth, clinics serving juveniles in correction facilities, and HIV screening programs with the Department of Labor.

The Adolescent Spectrum of Disease Project

The Adolescent Spectrum of Disease Project is conducted to describe the full spectrum of HIV disease and subsequent mortality at different levels of immunosuppression, and to monitor the use and effectiveness of recommended prophylactic intervention and antiretroviral and antimicrobial therapies. This system has been useful in determining how best to expand the AIDS surveillance case definition and to describe the rate of development of various opportunistic illnesses in HIV-infected persons.

The Pediatric Spectrum of HIV Disease Project

The Pediatric Spectrum of HIV Disease Project is active surveillance designed to increase our understanding of the pediatric HIV epidemic, specifically to

- provide epidemiological data on the characteristics, magnitude, pattern, and spread of HIV-disease in children
- follow trends in disease characteristics, patterns of recognition, and treatment
- assess responses to national guidelines.

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Youth Related Activities at the Division of HIV AIDS Prevention

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Research

<i>Prevention of HIV infection in Youth at Risk</i>	This program is developing and evaluating approaches to encourage young people, specifically young racial/ethnic minority men who have sex with men and engage in risky behaviors associated with HIV transmission, to change these behaviors. This program also seeks to develop methods that may build on evaluated community-level intervention efforts.
<i>Young Men's Survey</i>	This study assesses the prevalence and determinants of HIV-related risk behaviors among 15- to 22-year-old men who have sex with men. This study reinforces the understanding that prevention programs must intensify efforts to target and reach young men who have sex with men to reduce their risk behaviors.
<i>Project AIM</i>	This project strives to delay young African-American adolescents' initiation of sexual intercourse and to encourage sexual delay among 11- to 14-year-old African-American adolescents, as well as understand the factors associated with the initiation of sexual intercourse.
<i>Family Adolescent Risk Behavior and Communication Studies</i>	This study examines the impact of selected individual, family, peer, and environmental factors on the enactment of HIV risk and risk-reduction behaviors among adolescents 14 to 16 years of age. The goals are to better understand what factors, or combination of factors, are most relevant for enactment of HIV risk-reduction behaviors, and to understand the role of individual and social behavior in disease prevention.
<i>The Young African-American Men's Study</i>	This study describes the social and sexual networks of young African-American men who have sex with other men and identifies social and culturally relevant interventions.

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Youth Related Activities at the Division of HIV AIDS Prevention

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Research (continued)

Collaborative Injecting Drug Users Study II

This study will measure the HIV seroconversion rates in street-recruited, out-of-treatment young or recently initiated injecting drug users in order to determine incidence, identify risk factors, evaluate needle exchange programs, determine social network interaction, and determine how violent behaviors play a role in HIV infection.

Programs

Prevention Marketing Initiative

This program targets young people in collaboration with local community-based organizations and includes: systematic application of social marketing principles to program planning and implementation, identification and analysis of components most likely to produce behavior change, and sustainable community mobilization.

Preventing HIV infection in Youth in High-Risk Situations

This study targets young men of various race and ethnic backgrounds who have sex with other men. The study is planned in collaboration with local community-based organizations experienced in providing services to these populations.

HIV Prevention Cooperative Agreements

The HIV prevention cooperative agreements represent the DHAP-IRS' largest commitment in personnel and funding. Funds are allocated to 50 states, 6 cities, 7 territories, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. These funds support the provision of services to high-risk populations in major areas, such as HIV-antibody counseling, testing, referral and partner notification; health education and risk-reduction activities; public information; technical assistance; community planning; and others.

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Youth Related Activities at the Division of HIV AIDS Prevention

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Programs

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Nongovernmental (NGO) HIV Prevention Partnerships

DHAP has collaborative arrangements with a number of national, regional, and community-based groups representing and serving young people. These collaborative arrangements allow CDC to leverage its prevention investment through existing and credible networks and channels as well as meet the demands and needs of our NGO partners serving young people.

Support

CDC National AIDS Hotline 1-800-342-AIDS

The Hotline answers many calls from young people and also provides a national call-in program for classroom teachers interested in having an HIV prevention hotline specialist answer questions from their students. All hotline operators receive special training on how to address the needs of young people.

CDC National AIDS Clearinghouse 1-800-458-5231

The Clearinghouse is accessible to young people through a toll-free number as well as on-line through the Internet. This program provides materials on HIV/AIDS and reference specialists who can assist young people in answering research questions or locating up-to-date HIV information.

National Communication

The most recent series of Public Service Announcements is the "Respect Yourself, Protect Yourself" series targeting young people aged 25 and under. As of March 1997, 8 million dollars worth of air time has been donated.

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Journal^{OF} *Adolescent Health*

*"Special Projects of National Significance Program:
Ten Models of Adolescent HIV Care"*

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