

Recommendations of the Youth Symposium on HIV Prevention for girls and young women

Prevention Component 1: Participation and Rights

Specific Intents/ Goals	Solutions/Strategies	Expected Outcomes
To provide age-appropriate access to information and services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Train all teachers in SRH so that they will have the knowledge and skills to help youth ✓ Increase the number of peer resources and educators, especially those who are PLWAs ✓ Implement a standard public awareness campaign (like a World AIDS Day for schools) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Spread correct information ○ Reduced Stigma and discrimination ○ Increase in trained multi-sectoral service providers who can address the issues of HIV/AIDS as they affect youth, especially young women
To increase input from persons infected or affected by HIV in programme development and to normalize the participation of youth in programme and country development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Participation from vulnerable groups, like children and PLWAs ✓ Put positive messages in public venues: concerts, t-shirts, bus stops, arm bands, etc. ✓ Prescribed text/developed for curriculum discussing HIV/SRH ✓ Have a specially designated educator in schools to discuss SRH – these persons will organize festivals, skits, etc. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Government could endorse program/ support ▪ National AIDS Awareness Competition ▪ Advertise information on exercise books ▪ Media support and endorsements ✓ Visibly posted rights of children (e.g. murals) ✓ Malicious Intent/Disclosure laws posted (Non-disclosure laws for privileged persons (nurses, etc.)) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Informed youth who know the rights of persons living with HIV and who will help these persons maintain their rights in the future. ○ Informed and aware Jamaican public on the issues of HIV prevention and protecting girls and women
To increase knowledge and practice of HIV prevention among girls and young women in rural and urban Jamaica	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Make available knowledge more accessible ✓ Participation through grassroots efforts is fundamental for changing culture ✓ Address SRH issues at a younger age as children are being exposed at very young ages. We need a way to reach them in child-specific ways (concerts, etc.) ✓ Diversify modes, methods, and content of messages to children. It will need to take a different form from our parents'--birds and the bees'-- messages to us. We need to use different mediums, e.g. cartoons, marches, pamphlets with children's rights (posted in schools). Parents know some information but are afraid to share it 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Public education campaign targeting young women and girls educating them about HIV as it affects women and girls ○ Educated and involved men working in programme development for HIV prevention in girls and young women. ○ Empowered women and girls
To organize youth to advocate to the Prime Minister, and the relevant government ministers, church leaders, DJs and other community leaders for the prevention of HIV for young women and girls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Have advertising everywhere as constant/consistent reminders (cartoons, ads, commercials, etc.) ✓ Be in contact with people who are members of the Prime Minister's network, because as a public we aren't connected to him ✓ Go back to our respective organizations and tell people and spread message upward ✓ Use popular tools to reduce HIV on a national level: media, Internet (chat rooms, forwards, blogs), churches, and voting ✓ Hold an HIV consortium for DJs to discuss their: influence on adolescent sexuality, influence on public 	

opinion, potential to 'preach positive messages'

- ✓ Develop and implement a training programme for ministers to help them manage and cope with HIV within their communities and congregation. Churches send messages that are confusing people and that contradict the facts. They say "sex before marriage is a sin, but we feel, we the youth, should be better prepared for the future in terms of managing our sexuality regardless."

To implement projects aimed at bringing together males and females for HIV prevention

- ✓ Involve more men, as they are less aware of the issues. We need to reach them in an attention grabbing way (music, etc.)
- ✓ Working on HIV prevention issues at church--trying to take it to the larger community, through the PTA, SDC, Red Cross, Police Youth Program, guidance counselors, and peer counselors
- ✓ Malicious Intent Laws-- self-disclosure in relationships (need more prevention laws)
- ✓ Target boys in schools
- ✓ Develop positive lyrics to be recorded and played on the radios
- ✓ Train artists to have rap sessions at schools alongside peer educators
- ✓ Target non-traditional areas such as: sporting events, to provide SRH information and services

Prevention Component 2: Availability of Services

Specific Intents/ Goals	Solutions/Strategies	Expected Outcomes
To empower women	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Life skills training: including condom negotiation ✓ Skills training for young women and girl in the proper use of contraceptives ✓ Training women on the issues of knowing and standing up for their sexual and reproductive health rights ✓ Train community women to promote services that will empower women and girls ✓ Develop programmes that will promote the acceptance of self and to promote self worth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Reduced incidence of HIV ○ Increased access to condoms ○ Women who know about the services available
To increase access to confidential services (counselling and information) in schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Work on de-stigmatizing traditional sites among students ✓ Offer/ provide confidential services to students 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Change in behaviour towards the protection of girls from abuse ○ Increase in the number of males working to prevent HIV among girls and women ○ Men having a healthier respect for women
To thoroughly train all health care workers in customer services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Implement and enforce laws against discrimination ✓ Establish a system where complaints can be lodged, logged and dealt with as well as penalizing service providers for not adhering to the established protocol for service provision 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Removal of perceived barriers among youth to accessing clinical services
To address irregularities among the different government agencies where it concerns adolescent sexuality management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Get the different entities to agree on making the age of consent, age of marriage, and age to vote one single age in consideration for the age for the provision of all clinical services to adolescents 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ More health care providers not indulging in discrimination

Prevention Component 3: Legal and Policy Provision

Specific Intents/ Goals	Solutions/Strategies	Expected Outcomes
To ensure that healthcare is delivered non-prejudicially and is universally accessible	✓ Public education on the rights of the clients. This should be coupled with a mandatory display of said rights in health care settings. In addition a monitoring/complaint systems needs to be in place so that those who are not receiving appropriate care or are being discriminated against have recourse available	○ Persons receive treatment regardless of social status, age or sexuality. Therefore limiting potential long term complications of untreated illnesses, STIs, or unplanned pregnancies
To provide public education about the legality of abortion and risks associated with illegal abortions. This is due to the many misconceptions that exist about abortion and its legality in Jamaica	✓ Public education to discuss the legality of abortion in Jamaica. Also to promote contraceptive usage	○ Persons will be aware Abortion is illegal in Jamaica. If contraceptive use increases the need for Abortion will subsequently decrease
To increase awareness of the risks associated with buggery	✓ Educate the public about the risks that are associated with alternative sexual practices such as STIs. Also educate the public about how buggery laws affect heterosexual couples	○ Persons will protect themselves from STIs appropriately
To educate persons about the various contexts within which rape can occur, especially within the context of marriage	✓ Self-esteem and relationships education should be included in a comprehensive sexuality curriculum throughout school	○ This would enhance women’s sense of self worth and thus increase empowerment resulting in decrease of marital rape.
To reduce experiences of HIV/AIDS stigma and discrimination	✓ Integrate HIV/AIDS services with other health care services	○ This would ensure persons with HIV/AIDS are given fair medical treatment and also fair treatment professionally
To make legislation more accessible to the public. People need to be aware of the laws that exist, especially those working in the area of sexual and reproductive health	✓ Place all the sexual and reproductive health legislation in one location. Educate health workers on the laws that exist	○ More uniform knowledge dissemination on laws as well as acting on said laws

Prevention Component 4: Accessibility of Services

Specific Intents/ Goals	Solutions/Strategies	Expected Outcomes
To end overcrowding in clinics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Increase in the number of mobile clinics ✓ Implement an appointment system in clinics ✓ Increase in number of volunteers and health aids ✓ Conduct VCT in the communities ✓ Reorganize physical space to maximize space and comfort for the clients 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Reduce/eliminate overcrowding to maintain integrity in providing confidential services and quality of care
To maintain a high level of confidentiality across the health services sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ On-going training and sensitization of staff ✓ Continuous evaluation of services and health care workers ✓ Encourage and train clients and staff about the process for documenting and reporting breaches in confidentiality ✓ Sensitize clients and staff about their rights by using signs ✓ Put in place penalties for staff members that are found guilty of breaching confidentiality ✓ Create a body to investigate reports discrimination and stigma ✓ Implement a referral system for clients who feel they are being discriminated against or treated unfairly, if they desire to change the service provider 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Foster an environment that is confidential and reduce the levels of stigma and discrimination
To increase personal awareness and acceptance of responsibility for accessing services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Empowering youth to be self aware and informed of their rights and responsibility to self 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Persons, particularly adolescents will see the need to practice healthy lifestyles as well as accept responsibilities for their actions
To reduce the distance travelled to access SRH services, especially in rural areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Increase mobile clinics ✓ Do more work within the communities (at community level) ✓ Closer collaboration between groups that could provide services on a community level 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Increased access to services and information in communities
To increase the number of support groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Speak to women about their own discriminatory practices ✓ Organize support groups for persons who are Seropositive ✓ Organize support groups for persons who are negative but have struggles protecting themselves 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Reduction in discrimination
To address discrimination by service providers towards married and unmarried clients	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Work with pharmacists to highlight the problem and train them with skills for recognizing and creating rights- and youth-friendly spaces and attitudes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Youth friendly pharmacists who can function as resource persons for ASRH in the communities
To increase parental involvement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Implement parent education programmes ✓ Health and education information through PTAs ✓ Collaboration with the SDC to mobilize parents at the community level 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Youth comfortable talking to their parents about their sexuality and parents comfortable with their own sexuality as well as their children's