Evaluating the effectiveness of Peer Education Program at Rhodes University: What works and what doesn’t

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Introduction

- Peer Education is viewed as an effective behavioural change strategy, and it draws on several well-known behavioural theories.
- Peer education for HIV prevention has been widely implemented in many developing countries including South Africa.
- The effectiveness of this intervention has not been systematically evaluated.
- This study therefore aimed to evaluate the effectiveness and challenges of peer education program among Rhodes University students.
Background of Peer Education programme at RU

- Baseline data was collected using the report of the study of HIV prevalence and related factors at Rhodes University by HEAIDS 2008/09.

- The overall prevalence of HIV among students and staff at Rhodes University is 1.5%. HIV prevalence among students is 0.2% while no academic staff was found to be HIV-positive in the sample.

- The prevalence of HIV among administrative and service staff is higher at 6.7% and 12.9% respectively.

- The HEIs report show that Rhodes is one of the universities with low to almost negligible HIV infection among academic staff and students.
HEAIDS Recommendations

- News that Rhodes has one of the lowest HIV prevalence rates may lead to the Rhodes students and academics losing their HIV-prevention motivation.

- Efforts of those such as SHARC (Student HIV/AIDS Resistance Campaign) who worked tirelessly to prevent the spread of HIV among students must be officially recognised.

- Student peer-education and condom distribution should be systematised and supported.

- There is value in introducing a peer-education programme, a pivotal intervention on other campuses, for workplace education.
Recruitment and Selection of Peer Educators
Training
THE IMMUNE SYSTEM

- Lymph nodes and spleen
- Thymus produces
- White Blood Cells
The Sex Talkers
The Condom kings/Queens
The Stigma Busters
The Influencers
How to keep Peer Educators motivated?

Constitutional Court
Union Buildings
University of Pretoria
## Results

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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
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<th>PCC</th>
<th>Pregnancy</th>
<th>Condom</th>
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Results

- Peer education interventions were significantly associated with increased in condom distribution/use.
- Reduced in numbers of students that received post coital contraception and unplanned pregnancies.
- Peer education programs had a non-significant effect on STI infection.
Conclusions

- Meta-analysis indicates that peer education programs at Rhodes University is moderately effective at the following:
  - (1) improving condom distribution/use,
  - (2) reducing the number of students that received post coital contraception,
  - (3) reducing the teenage pregnancy (unplanned pregnancies,
- But show no significant impact on STI infections.
Thank you!!!!

- HEAIDS
- Prof David Dickinson
- RU
- UCT
- CPUT
- UOFS
- SU
- UP
- WITS
- Justice Cameroon of the Constitutional Court SA