

BRAZILIAN YOUTH IN ACTION FOR CONTROL OF TB & HIV



TB is an important public health problem in Brazil, which ranks 14th on the list of the 22 high-burden TB countries in the world. Prevalence is highest in Rio de Janeiro State, where 85% of all TB cases are reported in and around the cities.

From May to October 2009 TB CAP supported a project in Nova Iguaçu Municipality, one of the poorer municipalities in the Greater Rio de Janeiro Metropolitan Region with a high prevalence of TB. The project was run by the NGO Transformarte.

Transformarte

Transformarte works to transform the life of young people through art. Most of their projects concentrate on the favela (slum areas) around Rio de Janeiro. Their mission is to develop artistic activities that promote citizenship, health, and the protection of the family, children and adolescents. Hip-hop is a popular cultural manifestation among low-income Brazilian youth and has been used successfully by Transformarte to attract young people and the community to convey public health messages.

TB CAP and Transformarte

With TB CAP support, Transformarte used hip-hop as a form of community mobilization to increase TB and HIV testing, care seeking, and treatment compliance. Hip-hop, comprised of break dancing, DJ-ing and graffiti writing, is utilized to inform and educate young people about TB and HIV in after-school programs. In

organized community events, the young people, in turn, inform and educate the community-at-large about TB and HIV.

Method

This project took place in four schools and 68 students participated. First the students' knowledge on TB and HIV was tested in a questionnaire. Afterwards each school held three one-hour workshops. In the first part of each workshop, Transformarte youth educators used group dynamic techniques to inform the students about TB and HIV as public health problems and the issues of stigma and discrimination related to these diseases. Ex-patients assisted the educators and shared their experiences with the students. The students were

The initiative has reached an estimated 1960 people, informing them and their communities about TB and HIV.

students in dance (choreography), music (lyrics) and graffiti (painting) to inform, educate and communicate about TB and HIV.

Results

Each of the four schools successfully conducted community hip-hop events where the young people performed for their communities. The hip-hop groups performed dances to lyrics they had made about TB and HIV while surrounded by graffiti murals with messages about TB. In addition, 900 leaflets on TB and HIV co-infection including information on nearby health centers were distributed. Each school also has an end-of-project community event scheduled.

It is estimated that to date, this student initiative has reached a total of 1960 people. It is hoped that by informing and educating these communities about TB and HIV, testing, care seeking, treatment compliance and completion will increase.

A young participants' expectations of this project: "Learn something that can help the people where I live and that can help me to grow up in life."

of each workshop focused on hip-hop where instructors engaged the

IN SUMMARY

- 98% of the students had heard of TB.
- 86% knew there is treatment for TB.
- However, 16% believed TB can be transmitted via cups and utensils.
- 900 leaflets on TB & HIV co-infections were distributed.
- Estimated 1960 people were reached informing them and their communities about TB and HIV.

