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Background

As of Jan 2010, almost 530,000 people have been officially registered as living with HIV in the Russian Federation. The estimated number of street youth in Russia is one million, with 10,000 in St. Petersburg. According to a 2006 study*, many street youth exhibit risky behaviors:

- 84.7% have a history of substance use, including alcohol
 - 32.9% are active IDUs, and 33.3% have shared needles
 - 95.9% are sexually active, 79.6% use condoms inconsistently, 60.9% have multiple partners, and 9.7% exchanged sex for goods
- As a result, 37.4% of street youth 15-19 years of age are HIV-positive.

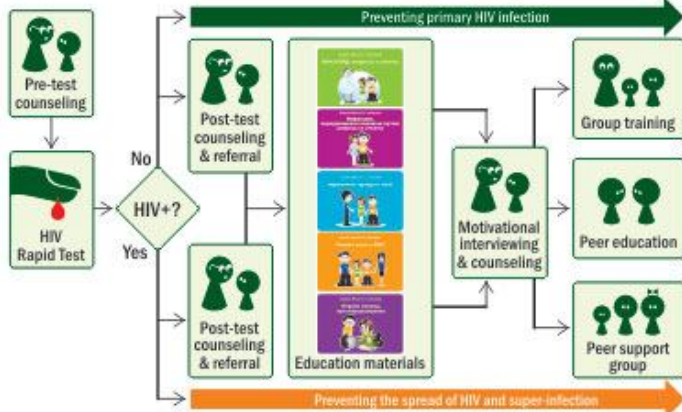
* AIDS 2007, 21:2333-2340

Intervention

Since 2006, HealthRight and its local partners have developed and implemented an HIV prevention case management model for street youth. It includes:

- Mobile HIV counseling and testing
- Educational brochures adapted to the needs and cognitive level of street youth
- Behavior change communication intervention (STEPS)
- Individual and group counseling
- Peer education and support groups

HIV Prevention Case Management



STEPS Curriculum

- Introduction
- Reproductive system
- Hygiene, STIs
- HIV
- AIDS
- Violence
- Alcohol abuse
- Drug abuse
- Pregnancy, child birth and abortion
- Contraception

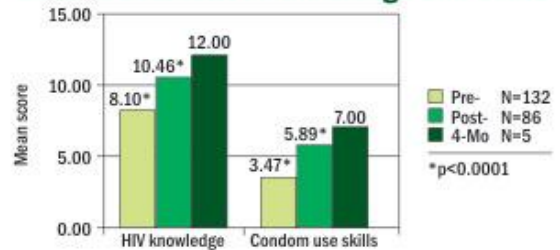


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STEPS Evaluation, 2008

- Pre- and post-training knowledge, attitudes and practices survey
- Session observation
- Client focus groups
- Four-month follow-up KAP survey
- 132 participants surveyed

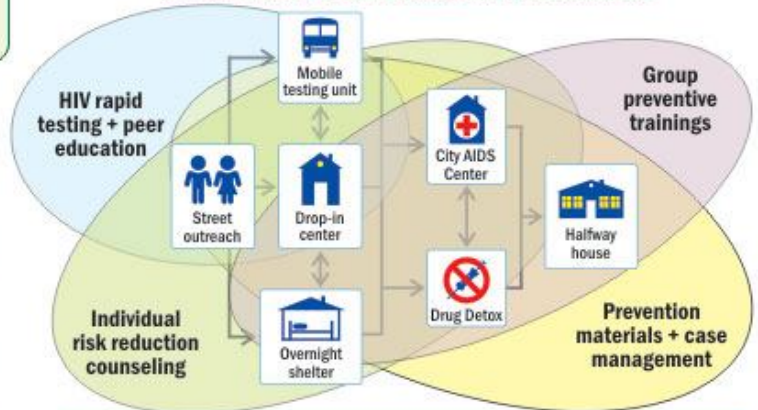
STEPS Evaluation: Knowledge and Skills



STEPS Evaluation: Attitudes

I will try what my friends tell me to	p=.003
I can be friends with HIV+ person	p<.0001
I am confident I know how to use a condom	p<.0001
Using condom is too much trouble	p=.016
HIV+ people are guilty for getting HIV	p=.339
I can't get HIV	p=.41
I would use condoms	p=.348
IV drugs are cool	p=.304

Continuum of Care and HIV Prevention



Results (2006-2010)

- 660 youth served on the streets
- 1,625 served through drop-in centers and halfway houses
- 408 tested for HIV, 122 (29.9%) tested positive
- 90 (73.8%) registered at AIDS Center
- 498 participated in STEPS training
- Model adopted by government services in St. Petersburg and replicated in Ukraine

Challenges

- Lack of residential long-term drug rehab services for minors
- Lack of government services for youth over 18 years of age
- Harm reduction services for IDUs not completely legal in Russia

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