

Comprised of dozens of diverse organizations, the Caucus for Evidence-Based Prevention will monitor the use of evidence in HIV prevention programs and policies at the IAC, report on HIV prevention-related conference proceedings to a wide audience, and alert the community when ideology, prejudice, or opinion interfere with evidence-based approaches to reducing the further spread of HIV/AIDS.

Creating a forum for progress

Presentations to Watch for Monday:

Taking Stock: Current Changes in the Global Response
SR 1 — 8:45-10:45 am
<http://www.aids2006.org/PAG/PSession.aspx?SessionID=652>

What is Working (or not) for HIV Prevention Among MSM?
SR 11 — 10:45 -12:15 pm
<http://www.aids2006.org/PAG/PSession.aspx?SessionID=204>

Getting the Balance Right: Integrating HIV Prevention & Treatment Programming
SR 4 — 10:45 - 12:15 pm
<http://www.aids2006.org/PAG/PSession.aspx?SessionID=183>

Hot Topics in Human Rights and HIV/AIDS
SR 3 — 10:45 - 12:15 pm
<http://www.aids2006.org/PAG/PSession.aspx?SessionID=146>

Prevention Works: What's the Evidence?
SR 5 14:15 - 15:45 pm
<http://www.aids2006.org/PAG/PSession.aspx?SessionID=235>

Caucus for Evidence-Based Prevention

Founded by SIECUS, PAI, and amfAR

AUGUST 8, 2006 Issue 1

Welcome to the Caucus for Evidence-Based Prevention

As the global public health community turns its eyes to Toronto for the XVI International AIDS Conference, we are delighted to share this first issue of the Caucus for Evidence-Based Prevention's newsletter, which will be published daily throughout the duration of the conference. The Caucus will monitor evidence presented at the IAC that could affect HIV prevention programs and policies, report on HIV prevention-related conference proceedings to a wide audience, and alert the community when ideology, prejudice, or politics interfere with evidence-based approaches to reducing the further spread of HIV/AIDS. Above all, we will highlight the importance of global HIV prevention based on sound scientific evidence and examples of such programming and policy.

Caucus members will meet daily to debrief on the day before, strategize on the day's agenda and share our collective thoughts to enable us to make this newsletter valuable to members and others who support its goals. You can look to the daily Caucus newsletter and to additional resources available through the Caucus website, <http://caucus.hiv-prevention.org>, to clarify presentations on prevention as well as to counter ideological positions with summaries of evidence-based prevention written by Caucus members.

We hope that you find the Caucus for Evidence-Based Prevention a useful resource as you navigate your way through the largest International HIV/AIDS conference ever—whether you are in Toronto or not! We know how important it is to concentrate on the information you need as researchers, policymakers, and advocates who support evidence-based HIV prevention programming and policy. At the back of this newsletter

you will find contact information for general inquiries. We invite you to send comments and feedback to us at any time throughout this unique process. It is not too late to turn the tide of the AIDS pandemic and with your help and commitment, we are taking a step in the right direction.

William Smith, *Vice President of Public Policy, the Sexuality Information and Education Council of the U.S. (SIECUS)*

Terri Bartlett, *Vice President of Public Policy and Strategic Initiatives, Population Action International (PAI)*

Judy Auerbach, *Vice President of Public Policy & Program Development, amfAR, the Foundation for AIDS Research for AIDS*

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Presentations to Watch about Youth:

Youth Working Together Across Borders: Reflection and Action
Global Village Session Hall 2
Monday 10:45 – 12:15
<http://www.aids2006.org/PAG/PSession.aspx?SessionID=945>

Young Adults Living with HIV (Relationships and Sex) Skills Building Room 6
Monday 10:45 – 12:15
<http://www.aids2006.org/PAG/PSession.aspx?SessionID=344>

More Than Just ABC's Global Village Youth Pavilion
Monday 10:45 – 11:30
<http://www.aids2006.org/PAG/PSession.aspx?SessionID=946>

What's Sex Got To Do With It?
Session Room 10
Monday 16:15 – 17:45
<http://www.aids2006.org/PAG/PSession.aspx?SessionID=287>

Healthy Sexuality for Street-Involved Youth
Global Village Youth Pavilion
Tuesday 15:45 – 16:15
<http://www.aids2006.org/PAG/PSession.aspx?SessionID=1014>

Youth Living with HIV/AIDS Forum
Global Village Session Hall 2
Tuesday 16:15 - 17:45
<http://www.aids2006.org/PAG/PSession.aspx?SessionID=1015>

Young People and Sexuality: The Unspoken & the Taboo
Session Room 10
Wednesday 10:45 - 12:15
<http://www.aids2006.org/PAG/PSession.aspx?SessionID=201>

Youth Culture and HIV Prevention Education
Global Village Youth Pavilion
Wednesday 16:15-17:45
<http://www.aids2006.org/PAG/PSession.aspx?SessionID=1067>

Understanding Adolescent Sexuality & Sexual Health Promotion
Session Room 1, Level 800
Thursday 10:45-12:15
<http://www.aids2006.org/PAG/PSession.aspx?SessionID=130>

Young Advocates Demand Meaningful Participation at Toronto Conference By Meheret Melles and Colin Gilmartin

Young people are disproportionately affected by HIV/AIDS. According to recent estimates by UNAIDS, people under the age of 25 account for 50% of new HIV infections, while in 2005, there were 2.8 million AIDS deaths worldwide. Less than half of young people worldwide are fully educated about HIV transmission and prevention. Despite these alarming statistics, we are often excluded from the process of creating policies and strategies that can help prevent the spread of HIV.

Today's adult leaders, politicians, researchers, and government officials consistently make decisions that affect the youth population – yet they fail to include youth in the decision-making process. To meet the needs of young people, all areas of HIV prevention policy and programming should involve youth decision-makers. Many young people worldwide have the will and energy to join in the fight against HIV/AIDS, but decision makers continue to exclude us.

The youth presence at this year's XVI International AIDS Conference (IAC) in Toronto, Canada promises to change all that. Since the 2002 International AIDS Conference in Barcelona, more and more young people have joined the ranks of global HIV/AIDS activists. One thousand youth are expected to attend this year's IAC, and we are demanding much more than recognition of our presence. We insist on being included as equal partners in making decisions about HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment, care, and support.

Leading this advocacy effort toward youth empowerment is the Toronto YouthForce (TYF), a group of individuals and organizations from across the globe who seek to increase the involvement, visibility, and command of the youth attendees throughout the conference. From August 10th – 12th, Toronto YouthForce will be holding a Pre-Conference for 250 youth from over 36 different countries, to help participants become well-versed in current HIV/AIDS issues and build advocacy and communi-

cation skills. The Pre-Conference will enable youth attendees not only to participate successfully in the Conference, but also to work more effectively for change in their home countries.

To brainstorm advocacy messages and strategies for promoting HIV prevention during the Conference, the YouthForce's Advocacy TaskForce organized an e-consultation from April 3 – 21st 2006. In the e-consultation, youth emphasized the need for evidence-based HIV prevention, which includes comprehensive sexuality education. "Comprehensive sexual health education is crucial in preventing HIV infection," one respondent indicated, "and I think it is severely irresponsible of the government to restrict the information given to youth which could allow them to take care of their own health and well being." The report recommended that discussions of sex and sexuality be open, mutually respectful, and free of stigma and judgment. Furthermore, participants agreed that many health services do not

target young people or provide all the necessary options for them to make accurate and informed decisions about their sexual health.

Participants insisted that governments and civil society should acknowledge that youth are more vulnerable to HIV infection and then help create avenues for young peoples' involvement at all stages of creating prevention interventions, including policy development. Youth have the right, deserve the respect, and own the responsibility to be on the front line of decision-making for policies on HIV and AIDS. As one respondent put it, "[the] involvement of youth can and will reduce new HIV infections and will achieve a further significant reduction in youth vulnerability."

Meheret Melles is a member of the International Youth Leadership Council, a project of Advocates for Youth. Colin Gilmartin is an intern with amfAR, The Foundation for AIDS Research.

"I think it is severely irresponsible of the government to restrict the information given to youth which could allow them to take care of their own health and well being."

What is the “Evidence” in Evidence-Based HIV Prevention?

By Monica Ruiz, Ph.D., MPH and Judy Auerbach, Ph.D.

Over the past 20 years, research and practice have demonstrated the effectiveness of a range of biomedical, behavioral, and social interventions for preventing the transmission and acquisition of HIV. In order to have the greatest impact on the global AIDS epidemic, it is essential to further adopt and scale-up proven interventions, as well as continue to develop and evaluate the evidence for new prevention methods with significant potential.

The meaning and importance of “evidence”

“Evidence” refers to the data provided from rigorously designed, tested, and evaluated research studies and programs that demonstrate that particular interventions can produce significant reductions in poor outcomes or associated risk factors or, conversely, can produce significant increases in health-promoting outcomes. This is particularly relevant in the case of HIV prevention, where the “positive effects” of an effective intervention translate into fewer people becoming infected, getting sick, and dying from AIDS.

Assessing evidence to know what works

There are a few things to keep in mind when assessing evidence to know what works. When referring to the conditions under which evidence is obtained, the terms “efficacy” and “effectiveness” are important. Efficacy refers to the intervention’s impact under experimental conditions (i.e., a controlled research study) whereas effectiveness refers to the intervention’s impact under “real world” (i.e., more normal) conditions. Replicability—repeating the study and finding similar results—is important because having more supportive data contributes to the strength of evidence. Contextual variables (e.g., populations most affected, sexual norms) are important in determining which prevention approaches work well in different places.

“Evidence-based” versus “evidence-informed”

“Evidence-based” and “evidence-informed” have been used somewhat interchangeably in considerations of public policy formulation. While “evidence-based” reflects direct application of scientific evidence to program implementation or policy, “evidence-informed” reflects the need to allow for other factors (including those that may facilitate HIV risk) to influence policy decisions. The public health community uses the term “evidence-based” to emphasize the application of high-quality, rigorously produced data—rather than opinion—to HIV prevention programming and policymaking.

Scaling-up evidence-based HIV prevention efforts

Given the magnitude of the HIV/AIDS pandemic, the absence of a cure for HIV, and insufficient resources to ensure widespread treatment for those infected, the global community cannot afford to stray from proven effective prevention strategies that have the greatest potential for reducing the spread of HIV. The evidence-base for HIV prevention

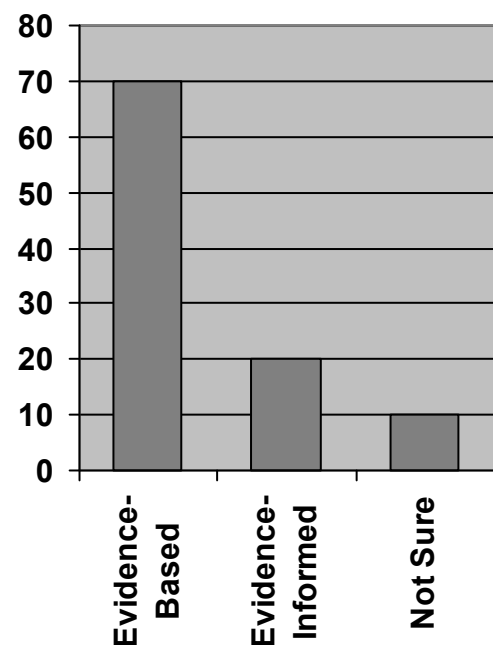
continues to improve as new behavioral, biomedical, and social prevention strategies are developed and tested. Promoting evidence-based prevention strategies supports the fight to end the HIV/AIDS pandemic and serves to ensure the maintenance of sound public health standards and the respect for the human rights of all men, women, and children at risk of or living with HIV infection.

To read the full article, please visit <http://caucus.hiv-prevention.org>.

Americans Support Evidence-Based HIV/AIDS Prevention Policy

The American public overwhelmingly believe that data from designed, tested, and evaluated research studies and programs are a much better basis for developing HIV prevention policies than crafting policies that are informed by scientific evidence, but based mainly on personal opinion and ideological beliefs.

Percentage of Americans Supporting Evidence-Based HIV Policy



amfAR, The Foundation for AIDS Research (a member of the Caucus for Evidence-Based Prevention) commissioned this Zogby poll on July 21, 2006. The results are based on telephone interviews with 1,200 randomly selected adult Americans nationwide with a margin of sampling error is +/- 2.9 percentage points.

**Creating a forum
for progress**

Caucus Members

- [Academy for Educational Development](#)
- [Adventist Development and Relief Agency](#)
- [Advocates for Youth](#)
- [AIDS Action](#)
- [AIDS Alliance for Children, Youth, and Families](#)
- [AIDS Project Los Angeles](#)
- [AIDS Foundation of Chicago](#)
- [The AIDS Institute](#)
- [AIDS Vaccine Advocacy Coalition](#)
- [Alliance for Microbicide Development](#)
- [American Academy of HIV Medicine](#)
- [American Jewish World Service](#)
- [amfAR, the Foundation for AIDS Research](#)
- [CARE USA](#)
- [Catholics for a Free Choice](#)
- [Center for Health and Gender Equity](#)
- [\(CHANGE\)](#)
- [Community Education Group](#)
- [Community HIV/AIDS Mobilization Project \(CHAMP\)](#)
- [CONRAD](#)
- [Constella Group](#)
- [Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation](#)
- [EngenderHealth](#)
- [Family Care International](#)
- [Family Health International](#)
- [The Female Health Foundation](#)
- [Gay Men's Health Crisis](#)
- [Global AIDS Alliance](#)
- [Global Campaign for Microbicides](#)
- [Global Health Council](#)
- [Global Health Strategies](#)
- [Global Youth Coalition on HIV/AIDS](#)
- [Guttmacher Institute](#)
- [Harm Reduction Coalition](#)
- [HIV Medicine Association](#)
- [International AIDS Vaccine Initiative](#)
- [International Planned Parenthood Federation/ Western Hemisphere Region](#)
- [International Women's Health Coalition](#)
- [Ipas](#)
- [Management Sciences for Health](#)
- [National Association of People With AIDS](#)
- [National Minority AIDS Council](#)
- [Planned Parenthood-Golden Gate](#)
- [Planned Parenthood Federation of America](#)
- [Population Action International](#)
- [Population Council](#)
- [Population Services International](#)
- [San Francisco AIDS Foundation](#)
- [SIECUS, the Sexuality Information and Education Council of the United States](#)
- [The Well Project](#)
- [Treatment Action Group](#)

Who's Who at IAC 2006: Stephen Lewis

Stephen Lewis is author of the national bestseller *Race Against Time*, Chair of the Stephen Lewis Foundation, and U.N. Special Envoy for HIV/AIDS in Africa. In this role, he draws attention to HIV/AIDS to convince leaders and the public that they have a responsibility to respond to AIDS.

Lewis has frequently spoken on the feminization of AIDS and the unique vulnerabilities women and young girls face throughout the world. He will be a notable presence at IAC, participating as a keynote speaker or panelist in several key events and sessions which discuss groups disproportionately affected by HIV/AIDS.

Satellite Session: Is US AIDS

Policy Undermining the HIV Response? Sunday, August 13: 2:45-4:45pm. Back Venue: SR 11

Satellite Session: After all the talk about young people during the past 20 years, why so little action? HIV Prevention for Youth. Tuesday, August 15: 6:00-7:00pm. SR 2 (<http://www.aids2006.org/PAG/PSession.aspx?SessionID=799>)

Scaling up to Achieve Universal Access. Wednesday, August 16: 6:00 – 8:00pm. SR 11 (<http://www.aids2006.org/PAG/PSession.aspx?SessionID=874>)

Understanding and Reaching Marginalized Groups Thursday, August 17: 4:15-5:45pm. SR 6 (<http://www.aids2006.org/PAG/PSession.aspx?SessionID=200>)



Stephen Lewis, UN Special Envoy for HIV/AIDS in Africa
Photo: Nicole Toutounii, UNICEF

Keynote at Closing Ceremony of the XVI International AIDS Conference. Friday, August 18: 11:30am- 1:00pm. SR 1, Level 800, MTCC. (<http://www.aids2006.org/PAG/PSession.aspx?SessionID=914>)

Spotlight on Members of the Caucus for Evidence-Based Prevention:

◆ For more information about research and evaluation, please visit the **new Guttmacher Institute publication "Interpreting Research Studies,"** located at www.guttmacher.org/pubs/2006/07/27/IB_Interpreting.pdf.



◆ To track daily IAC happenings reported by a wide range of advocates and experts, please visit **the Time to Deliver blog** sponsored by Caucus members Community HIV/AIDS Mobilization Project (CHAMP) and Harm Reduction Coalition at www.timetodeliver.org.

◆ Several leading microbicide experts will unveil the Microbicide Development Strategy (MDS) on Thursday, August 17, 2006 at the XVI International AIDS Conference in Toronto, Canada. The report is a shared framework for accelerating development of an effective microbicide. It is the product of consultative meetings and working group discussions engaging more than 100 experts in the microbicide, HIV/AIDS, and reproductive health fields over the past year. For more information about this report, please visit www.microbicide.org.

◆ **Women's & Girls' Rally & March: Time to Deliver — AIDS Action Now for Women and Girls.** The rally features speeches by Stephen Lewis, UN Special Envoy for HIV/AIDS in Africa, and Dr. Helene Gayle, President of the International AIDS Society. It begins at 7:00 AM on Monday at the Metro Hall Square. March begins at 7:50 AM, and finishes at conference site just before opening plenary. For more information, please visit Caucus for Evidence-Based Prevention website at <http://caucus.hiv-prevention.org>. (See map at right.)



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