

THE NATIONAL HIV/AIDS STRATEGY AND THE MPOWERMENT PROJECT

WORKING TOGETHER TO ENHANCE EFFECTIVE HIV PREVENTION FOR GAY AND BISEXUAL MEN

The National HIV/AIDS Strategy (NHAS) is changing the landscape of HIV prevention in the U.S. in order to reduce the annual number of new infections by 25% by 2015. The NHAS is a call to action to better address HIV among gay/bisexual men (particularly among men of color), to concentrate on geographic areas consistent with the epidemic, and to expand HIV prevention with HIV-positive people. The NHAS includes HIV testing, condom availability, and HIV treatment as proven approaches to reduce the probability of HIV transmission. The NHAS identifies combining social, behavioral, and biomedical approaches as having the greatest impact on HIV prevention. It also recommends expanding access to HIV prevention services “with the greatest potential for population-level impact.” *After a careful analysis of the NHAS, we believe that the Mpowerment Project (MP) is fully consistent with the Strategy.*



MP is a combination approach to HIV prevention

CBOs implementing the MP combine social, behavioral, and biomedical HIV prevention in their programs. They accomplish this by addressing individual-level issues (e.g., clarifying misperceptions about safer sex, self-efficacy to use condoms), interpersonal-level issues (e.g., sexual communication with boyfriends), social-level issues (e.g., social norms), structural issues (e.g., providing a safe gathering space for men, condom access & distribution), and biomedical issues (mobilizing men to support each other about frequent

HIV testing, linkage to care). MP Coordinators offer HIV testing services to their members or refer young men to appropriate HIV testing programs. HIV positive members are linked to care and find a supportive and welcoming home in the MP. The MP's adaptability and methods make it a promising approach to use to disseminate information and to mobilize men to learn more about promising new HIV prevention strategies such as PrEP, or future vaccines or microbicides.



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THIS COMMUNITY-LEVEL INTERVENTION HAS GREAT POTENTIAL FOR POPULATION-LEVEL IMPACT

A 2004 analysis by the RAND Corporation found that the MP had the potential to cost-effectively prevent the largest number of new HIV infections compared to other approaches. The MP is one of only a handful of evidence-based, community-level interventions, and is the only one that develops and brings relevant safer sex and HIV testing messages to the next generation of gay men. It mobilizes populations of young gay/bisexual men to perpetuate and reinforce safer behavior.

MP MOBILIZES GAY/BISEXUAL MEN AND GAY/BISEXUAL MEN OF COLOR

AIDS has claimed the lives of more than 300,000 gay and bisexual men in the U.S. Gay and bisexual men account for 53 percent of the country's estimated 1.1 million people living with HIV and for 57% of all new HIV infections. One analysis predicts that a gay men who is 18 years old today faces a two in five chance of becoming infected with HIV by the time he is 40, and HIV cases among young gay men rose between 2001 and 2006. High rates of HIV among gay/bi men are found in cities and towns of all sizes.

The MP is one of only a few of evidence-based interventions for gay/bi men, and it has been implemented by CBOs serving young African American and/or Latino MSM in Atlanta, Chicago, Cleveland, Dallas, Detroit, Los Angeles, Miami, New York City, Oakland and San Diego—just to name a few. The MP creates healthy communities of young gay/bi men, and puts HIV prevention into the context of young men's lives. To address the HIV prevention needs of gay/bisexual men, the U.S. needs more MPs, not fewer of them.

IN LARGE AND SMALL CITIES



Genesis Project | Pocatello
Idaho genesisproj.com

youtube.com/genesisproj

* Latinos D | New York City NY

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MP REACHES BOTH HIV-POSITIVE AND HIV-NEGATIVE MEN

The MP was designed to be a community mobilizing project for all young men in a community - young HIV positive and HIV negative men together, as well as men who do not know their status. We encourage projects to create a safe place free of stigma and to develop anti HIV-stigma campaigns. Some Projects have created groups for HIV-positive members to come together to discuss issues important to them. Project Spaces also provide information on accessing comprehensive counseling or case management services to link young, HIV-positive men to care. Informal outreach, one of the MP's core elements, can be used to help encourage HIV positive members to access treatment and take their meds. Risk

reduction messages are aimed at both positive and negative men.

ENCOURAGING HIV TESTING WITHIN THE MPOWERMENT PROJECT

The MP encourages peers to talk to their friends about the importance of knowing your HIV status by getting tested regularly, and getting into treatment if HIV-positive. The Project Space also has referral information on HIV testing sites and services, and the staff of most MPs are trained to provide HIV testing and counseling for their MP participants.

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE MPOWERMENT PROJECT



Download the revised Mpowerment Manual - 2011 edition. It's free and full of new content from projects across the country. It discusses how MP can be used to motivate men to obtain testing.



Mpowerment.org features audioslide shows. These are brief 10 minute videos. We have videos specifically for Executive Directors, Funders, and Supervisors. Watch them and let us know what you think.

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