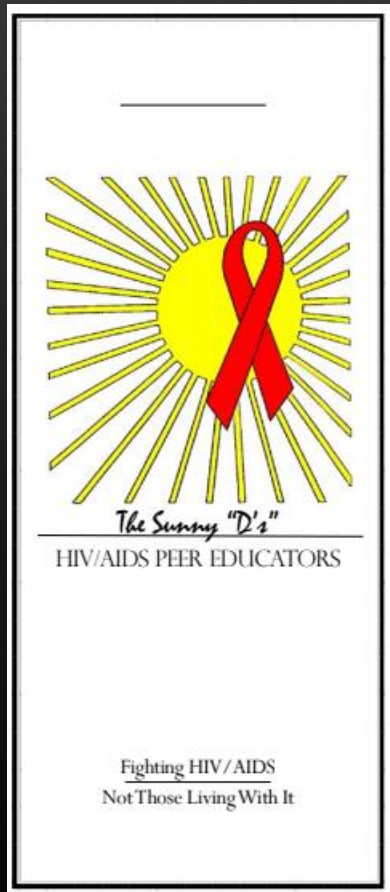




Peer Education

Teaching about HIV/AIDS



Objectives

- Explain the Benefits to Peer Education Programs
- Describe the Steps Taken to Development and Maintain a Peer Education Program
- Explain the Role of the Program Advisor and the Peer Educators
- Highlight the Impact of a Peer Education Program



Developing a Peer Education Program

- Identify the group's purpose
- Identify your target audience
- Create partnerships
- Identify trainings
- Find financial support
- Commitment level of members and advisor



Maintaining a Peer Education Program

- Recruiting members
- Tryouts
- Training – American Red Cross Basic HIV/AIDS Program
 - 3 days learning HIV/AIDS fact
 - How to present the facts, remaining nonjudgment and culturally sensitive
 - Required parent acknowledgement form
- Regular meetings
 - Sunny “D’s” bi-weekly
 - PHIVE-Os every week
- Keep the group evolving, student lead, and encourage new ideas & events

Role of the Peer Education Program Advisor

- Train and support peer educators.
- Handle any challenges (group dynamics, members remain credible, any community push back, etc.)
- Go to all classroom and community presentations (all over Nebraska)
- Ensure the information shared was factual, nonjudgmental and culturally sensitive.
- Personally stay informed
- Find funding sources



Role of the Peer Education Program Advisor – continued

- Work with educators and administration (understand their boundaries)
- Develop and maintain partnerships
 - Red Cross
 - Nebraska Department of Education
 - Camp Kindle
 - Red Ribbon Community
 - Nebraska AIDS Project
- Demonstrate commitment and passion
- Show the peer educators they were a part of the HIV/AIDS community

Role of the Peer Educators

- Provide HIV/STI prevention education in the classroom and during community events
- Increase awareness of HIV/STIs to decrease infection rates and increase overall sexual wellbeing
- Be good role models for their peers and beyond



Benefits to Peer Education Programs

- **Relatability:** Peers can connect with each other on a personal level, making the information more accessible and relatable.



Comments from Evaluations

I found it interesting that there were teens, not adults, teaching us stuff. Kind of prefer it that way. – Female student

Amazing presentations. Learned so much from all three of them. They were extremely educated on the topic. Very engaging and not boring at all. Great job! – Female student

It was more effective with students teaching. If an adult was it'd feel odd. – Male student

I thought it was cool how they want to spread helpful information to their peers. – Male student

Having the Sunny “D’s” come into my classroom is the best thing I offer my students – High School Health Teacher

Evaluation Results

98%

of participants thought
the topic was educational.

95%

of participants would
have the speakers return.

99%

of participants thought
having youth present the
information was an
effective teaching method.

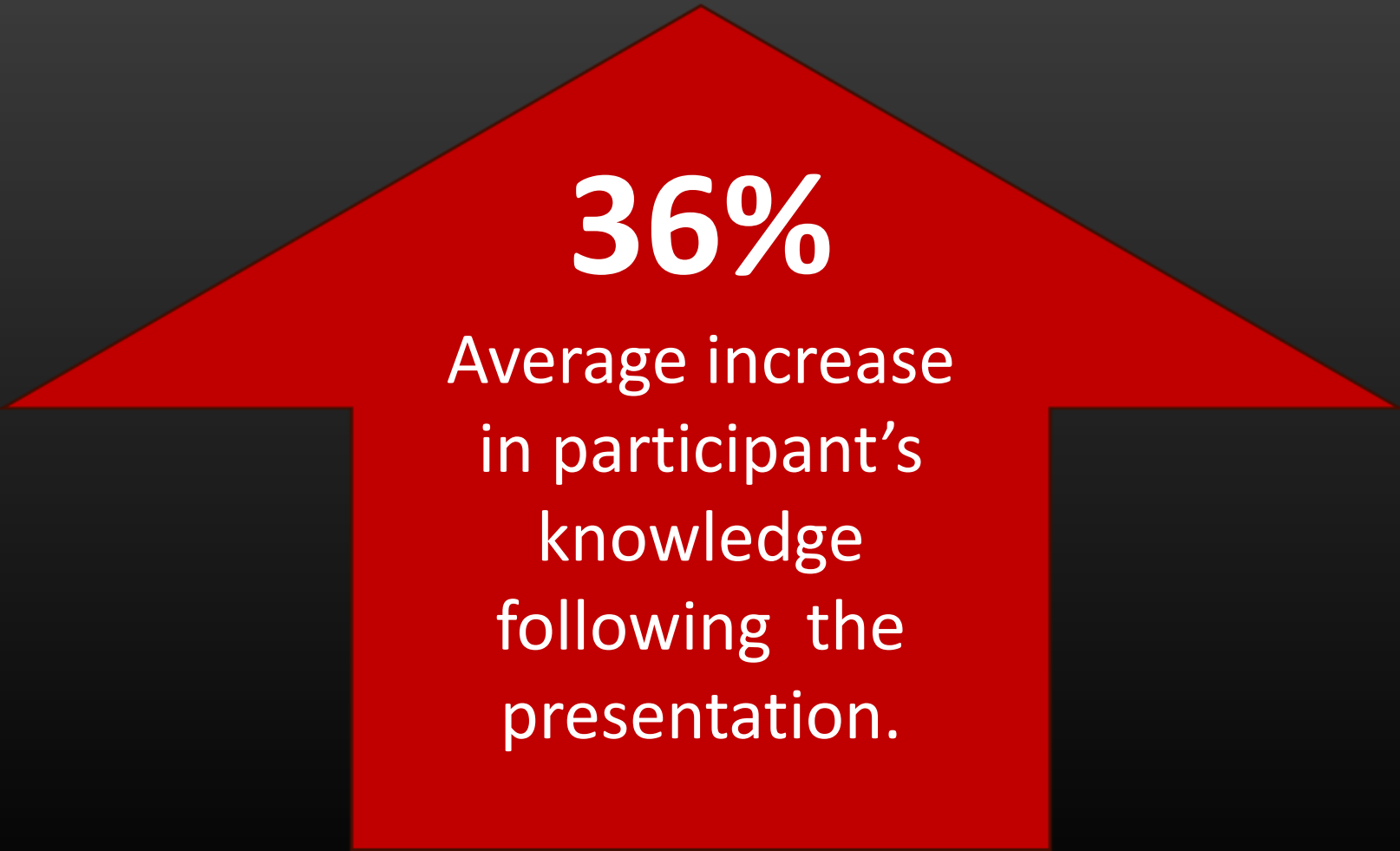
95%

of participants thought
the speakers presented
the material effectively.

98%

of participants believe
they now have the
knowledge and skills they
need to avoid HIV.

Evaluation Results



36%

Average increase
in participant's
knowledge
following the
presentation.

Various Highlights

- Sexual Responsibility Week at Hastings College (for Valentine's Day)
 - Grocery Bingo
 - Sexperts Panel
 - Created "Love Safely" packets for student on campus
- Hastings High School
 - Be a "SMARTY", Love Safely
- Presented all across the state and beyond
 - Camp Kindle
 - National and local conferences
- Learn from Evaluations
 - Modify presentations or not
- Celebrate each other



AIDS Walk and Trick or Treat for NAP



Hastings College students walk past Parkview Cemetery Sunday afternoon during the Nebraska AIDS Project AIDS Walk. The walk raised money and awareness about the disease.

LAURA BEAHM/Tribune

AIDS Walk exercise in education

SHAY BUREK

sburek@hastingstribune.com

With temperatures near 70 and the sun shining brightly Sunday, dozens of Hastings College students emerged from their dorms and apartments to enjoy an afternoon walk.

In all, more than 160 students, faculty, staff, alumni and community members participated in the AIDS Walk at Hastings College, which raised about \$2,000 for the Nebraska AIDS Project.

Erin Cantrell, case manager for the Nebraska AIDS Project in Kearney, said events like Sunday's AIDS Walk are designed specifically to educate the public and create awareness about HIV and AIDS.

"The biggest issue we still deal with HIV is the stigma," she said. "A lot of people are still afraid of HIV or they don't understand how it's transmitted or that you cannot get it

through casual contact, so we like to do the education."

HC freshman Kelley Junker, youth organizer of the event, said she has grown up being involved with the Nebraska AIDS Project and knows the importance of events like the walk.

"I think it's important to raise awareness for the cause because everyone is scared of it. There's nothing to be scared about," she said. "You just need to take the right precautions."

While the purpose of the walk was to focus on HIV and AIDS, many HC students were using the event to earn volunteer points for their sororities, fraternities and other organizations.

Junior Chelby Schlichtman said she joined the event both this year and last year to earn community service points for her sorority, Alpha Phi.

Sophomore Sara Goings was

in the same boat. "I came cause of Alpha Phi, too, and I'm also doing it for a floor event for my dorm," she said.

After several days of unseasonably cold weather, Goings said she also was thrilled to be able to enjoy some warm weather outside for a change.

"It's a good day to do it," she said. "And it's a good homework break, clear your mind before you go start doing work."

HC alum Tiffany Sheffield made the drive to Hastings from Lincoln with her husband and child to attend Sunday's walk.

As a student at HC, Sheffield had been a member of PHIVE-O, the Peer HIV Education Organization on campus. PHIVE-O co-sponsors and helps organize the AIDS Walk.

After her years of personal involvement, Sheffield said she

Please see AIDS/page A3

AIDS: Walk educates

Continued from page A1
was pleased to come back and support the event.

"We live in Lincoln and these past few years we haven't had an AIDS walk. And since this one was in Hastings at Hastings College, we thought we'd come back and support it," Sheffield said.

Cantrell said the Nebraska AIDS Project office in Kearney

200 people in central Nebraska who are infected with HIV.

Cantrell said it's just as important now as it was 25 years ago to educate people about HIV and AIDS.

"One of the biggest things is sometimes we forget about HIV," she said. "The epidemic has now been going on for 30 years and people still don't talk about it."



- Bake Sale for NAP

World AIDS Day Events



- Speakers at Hastings College at noon
- Candlelight vigil in the Chapel in the evening
- Yard signs with HIV facts on Hastings College Campus



REACH OUT (Responding to & Educating Adolescents Concerning Healthy Options Using Theater)

Nebraska AIDS Project and
Nebraska Department of Education
Program

Six stories of individuals living with
HIV, based on lives of clients of
NAP

Started using program in 1999

Abstinence based

Very effective in sharing the
personal side of HIV

Photo from Sandy Creek High
School lock in at 1:00am



Awards Received



Sunny “D’s” - 2012 Governor’s Points of Light Award



PHIVE-O’s and Sunny “D’s” - Central Plains Red Cross Supporting Academics

PHIVE-O’s National BACCHUS Awards

- Outstanding Peer Education Program
- Outstanding Organization /Program

Impact of Peer Education Programs

- In summary, peer education is a powerful tool for promoting health and education within communities, leveraging the strengths of shared experiences and mutual support to foster positive change.
- The greatest impact of peer education occurs:
 - first within the peer educators themselves,
 - then their immediate circle,
 - followed by their outer circle,
 - and finally, the audience members.



Impactful Highlights

PHIVE-O presentations part of HC curriculum for freshman and all new students

Sunny “D’s” recognized as an extra curricula program at HHS

Over **300** students participated in one or both of the programs (Sunny “D’s” feeder program for PHIVE-O)

400 students reach in an academic year

Condoms are now in the dorms on HC campus

Gave members a compass

Members developed skills for life

Gave LGBTQ+ youth a safe place

Really Really

Happy

FIGHTING HIV/AIDS
NOT PEOPLE WITH IT
Sunny "D's" HIV/AIDS Peer Education