

NIMH COLLABORATIVE HIV/STD PREVENTION TRIAL IN PERU

PIs: Susan M. Kegeles PhD (UCSF), Thomas J. Coates PhD (UCLA)

CO-PI: Carlos Caceres

PROJECT STAFF: Jeff Klausner, Consultant, Andre Maiorana, Project Director. Research Team in Peru at Universidad Peruana: Cayetano Heredia.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The NIMH Collaborative HIV/STD Prevention Trial is a randomized study designed to test a community-level popular opinion leader (CPOL) preventive intervention in five international sites. UCSF collaborates with UCLA and Cayetano Heredia University in Lima to test the intervention in Peru. UCSF, UCLA and the Universidad Peruana Cayetano Heredia (UPCH) are collaborating to test this intervention among men and women in lower income neighborhoods. The study is being conducted in Lima, Trujillo and Chiclayo, three coastal cities in Peru.

The aims of the study are:

- Assess prevalence and incidence of HIV and STDs and risk behaviors in the target populations aged 18-40 in 20 low-income neighborhoods.
- Design and implement a community-level prevention intervention in 10 of those neighborhoods by training and monitoring CPOLS for a period of two years to promote HIV and STDs risk reduction. The intervention consisted of training and motivating CPOLs for three marginal population segments to disseminate prevention messages among their peers.
- Assess the impact of the intervention in intervention neighborhoods compared to control sites.

We have completed collection of behavioral and biological data for the baseline and two annual follow up assessments. The intervention also has been completed.

SIGNIFICANCE

Community-level interventions, in contrast with individual interventions, focus on affecting the entire community in order to promote change in norms and risk. This study is testing the CPOL model in different countries, adapting and tailoring the intervention to cultural contexts and with populations different from which the model was originally designed for in the US.

INTERESTING FINDINGS

We conducted a process evaluation (PE) after 1 year of implementation of the 2-year community intervention in Lima, Peru. PE data included: observations, qualitative interviews with CPOLS, conversations and messages delivered by CPOLs, training facilitators' perceptions about implementation, and a survey of CPOLs. The PE helped to document and enhance the intervention. CPOLs were motivated to talk to their peers. CPOLs perceived that their participation had an effect on their own risk behaviors and saw their role as beneficial to their community. (excerpted from *"Implementation and evaluation of an HIV/STD intervention in Peru."* *Eval Program Plann.* 2007 Feb)

PROJECT END DATE: August 2007