

A Community-Based Approach to Addressing Determinants of Health in HIV/AIDS in Aboriginal Communities

Randy Jackson
Canadian Aboriginal AIDS Network

Interagency Coalition on AIDS and Development
Annual General Meeting
Ottawa, September 29, 2006



Presentation Overview

- Background
- Conceptual framework;
- Examples of how/where/when its used;
- Added Value;
- Limitations/challenges;
- Interconnectedness; and
- Useful references.



***The master's tools will never dismantle the
master's house. – Audre Lorde***

Background

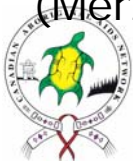
- ❑ The burden of HIV in Aboriginal communities is a continuing concern;
- ❑ For all new infections in Canada in 2005, 9.0% occurred in Aboriginal communities (this is a rate 3 times higher than among non-Aboriginal people); and
- ❑ Colonialism and the Residential school experience.



Conceptual Framework

- ❑ Holistic Community Focus (self-determination);
- ❑ Meaningful Community Participation;
- ❑ Partnerships;
- ❑ Substantial resource requirements;
- ❑ Long term investment;
- ❑ Multifaceted interventions; and
- ❑ Community-wide outcomes.

(Merzel and D'Afflitti, 2003; Labonte, R., 2003; Nilsen, P., 2006; and Stratton et al., 2006)



Value of Community-Based Approaches

- Meaningful community engagement developing multifaceted service components or other interventions that increase the likelihood of effectiveness; and
- Potential for resulting interventions that target changes at the level of the individual as well as at the level of the community and wider social environment.
(Nilsen, 2006; Stratton et al, 2006)



Limitations of a Community-Based Approach

- ❑ Defining community in the context of silos e.g. funding;
- ❑ For larger communities – community participation may be difficult to achieve;
- ❑ Financial resources.

(Nilsen, 2006; Stratton et al, 2006)



Interconnectedness

- Community involvement; and
- Down-up solutions.



Useful References

- ❑ Labonte, R., (2003). *How our Programs Affect Population Health Determinants: A Workbook for Better Planning and Accountability*. Saskatchewan: Health Canada.
- ❑ Merzel, Cheryl and Joanna D'Afflitti (2003). "Reconsidering Community-Based Health Promotion: Promise, Performance and Potential." *American Journal of Public Health*. Vol. 93 (No. 4): 557-574.
- ❑ Nilsen, P. (2006). "The Theory of Community-based Health and Safety Program: A Critical Examination." *Journal of Health and Safety*. Vol. 12: pgs. 140-145.
- ❑ Rhodes, Tim and Richard Hartnoll (eds.). *AIDS, Drugs and Prevention: Perspectives on Individual and Community Action*. 1996. Routledge: New York.
- ❑ Stratton, Trevor, Randy Jackson and Kevin Barlow (2006). *Making it Our Way: A Community Mobilization Tool Kit*. Ottawa, Ontario: Canadian Aboriginal AIDS Network.

