



# Wabanaki Generations – Addressing HIV/AIDS in tribal communities in Maine

A project of GENERATIONS: Strengthening  
Women and Families Affected by HIV/AIDS

- Wabanaki Mental Health Association
- Maine Migrant Health Program
- Maine Community AIDS Partnership





# Background

- HIV in tribal communities **is** still a hidden problem surrounded by lack of knowledge and stigma
- Focus on women taps into matriarchal culture in Wabanaki tribes





# Collaborative Description

## Three agencies

- 8 days of training for outreach workers
- Management team: email and phone calls as needed (at least monthly)
- “All hands” meetings bi-monthly, alternating conference calls /in person
- Monthly outreach worker contact sheets
- **We are a team**





# Project Overview

- Capacity building with tribes in Maine
- Focus on women and families
- Goals
  - reduce stigma
  - bring topic into consciousness
- Awareness of risks & protective behaviors





“ I have a gift for you.”





# Methods: Outreach

Outreach –

bring messages to audience

- One on One
- Small groups
- Health Fairs
- Large Gatherings





# “We are the program”



Investing in the wisdom, training, capacity and empowerment of key individuals is the cornerstone of both the intervention and the transformation.





# Outreach Strategies

## Strategies

- Education and information
- Testimonials and storytelling
- Counseling and testing
- Referrals







# Outreach Sites

Laundromats	Grocery Stores	Raker Center
Campfires	Blueberry Barrens	Health Fairs
Camps	Gatherings	Social Networks
Senior Centers	Boys & Girls Clubs	People's Homes
Community Kitchen	Methadone Clinics	Schools





# Evaluation

## Process Measures

- Number of events, contacts
- Number of tests, referrals
- Feedback from Champions and community leaders
- Instances of community initiated contact





# Contacts

Outreach Contacts: 752

- 1x1 = 232
- 17 Groups = 220
- 8 Gatherings = 300

HIV CTR = 160 women





# Findings

- Eventually, we were welcomed
- Indigenous and ingenious outreach generated large volume of testing
- Stigma has gone down
- Issue awareness has increased
- Collective acceptance in community





# Lessons Learned

- Invest in training and team building
- Hiring / Staffing decisions are key
  - HIV+ women willing to speak
  - Traditional healers for outreach and education encounters
- Part time / Full time doesn't matter because eventually they're always working because they become community resources





# Reflections

- Migrant camps
- Agency collaboration
- New horizons





# Thank You

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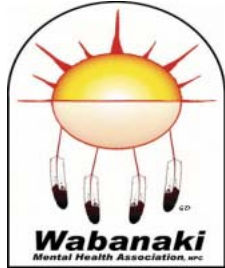
NATIONAL AIDS FUND  
*A National Catalyst for Local Action*

*Johnson & Johnson*



# Wool-lun-kay-uzz

Take good care of yourself



Wabanaki Mental Health

207-990-0605

[www.wabanaki.org](http://www.wabanaki.org)

Maine Migrant Health

207-622-9252

[www.mainemigrant.org](http://www.mainemigrant.org)

MCAP

207-622-7566 x225

[www.maineaids.org](http://www.maineaids.org)

