Evaluation of an HIV/AIDS peer education programme in a South African workplace

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Authors:
Sloan, N. M.
Myers, J. E.

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This paper describes an evaluation of a workplace HIV/AIDS peer-educational program. A cross-sectional study of 900 employees was conducted in 2001 across three areas in South Africa and measured the impact of a peer-education program on knowledge, attitudes towards people living with HIV/AIDS, perceptions of risk and condom use. Peer-education had no impact on any outcome. Some 59% of subjects had good knowledge, 62% positive attitude towards people living with HIV/AIDS, 34% reported frequently using condoms, 73% perceived themselves at low risk for infection. Peer education was ineffective and had an opportunity cost, as other more costly programs often include provision of antiretrovirals.

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