

Abstract: Evolutionary biologist Paul Ewald inspired our group to join in the fight against HIV/AIDS. Kenya was selected as our focus because it has a large population suffering from AIDS and receives only small amounts of relief effort. Our team would travel to Kenya along with an adviser to setup an awareness program and train volunteers to combat HIV/AIDS.

Biological Introduction:

Transmission routes of HIV

- Sexual contact with an infected person
- Infected blood transfusions
- Shared needles/ accidental needle injury
- Mother to child (pregnancy)

The Evolution of HIV

- HIV can be guided to non-virulence by limiting the availability of transmission routes
 - Lack of transmission routes will favor nonvirulent strains that allow for host mobility

HIV/AIDS in Kenya

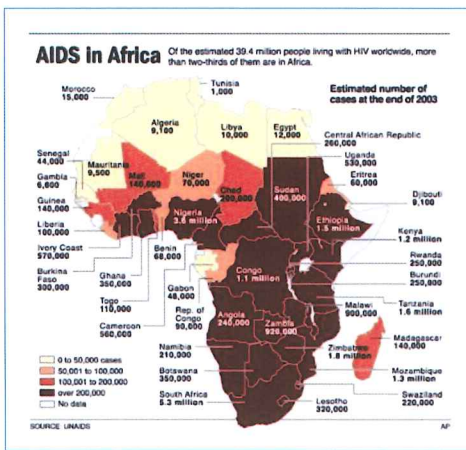
- Listed among the top 20 nations in need of AIDS related therapy
- Over 6.7% of the population are infected with HIV
- About 2/3 of HIV patients are women



SOVE

STUDENTS FOR AWARENESS OF VIRAL EVOLUTION

Need: To reduce the mortality and prevalence of HIV/AIDS in Kenya.
Approach: To guide the evolution of HIV/AIDS to a nonpathogenic disease, by reducing the availability of transmission routes of the virus, through an awareness education program.



What is S.A.V.E.?

S.A.V.E is an afterschool program that not only educates students about HIV/AIDS but gets the students involved in completing a variety of projects within their own community.

S.A.V.E is run by educated student volunteers who team up with faculty members of Braeburn Mombasa International School

How can S.A.V.E reduce the mortality rate of HIV/AIDS in Kenya?

The Students who choose to become members of S.A.V.E will be:

- Educated about how to prevent HIV/AIDS transmission
- Given the opportunity to work on projects
- Delivering educational presentations to schools, hospitals and other organizations within their own community

Some examples of possible S.A.V.E projects could include:

- Traveling from school to school in Kenya and speaking to other students about HIV/AIDS prevention.
- Traveling to various hospitals to help promote good hospital hygiene.
- Conducting fundraisers to raise money for HIV/AIDS research
- Sex Education and condom distribution at schools



Support

Organizations for Support

- International Aids Society
- African Council of Aids Service Organization
- Network of African People Living with HIV/AIDS
- Society for Aids in Africa
- AIDS Worcester

Donations

- Keep a Child Alive (Alicia Keys Foundation)
- The Global Fund to Fight Aids
- (RED)TM

Fundraising

Getting Involved at WPI

- A walk for AIDS
- Battle of the Bands
- Dodge ball tournament
- Sell AIDS ribbons
- Sell S.A.V.E. bracelets
- Midnight Bake Sale



Foundation



Conclusion

Reasons For an Awareness Program

- High cost of drugs
- Difficulty of drug distribution
- Low rates of Compliance

What Makes S. A. V. E. Different

- Incorporates Kenyan culture into education
- Helps Kenyans help themselves
- Uses a variety of different approaches to combat disease

Hope for the Future

- Raise awareness
- Increase range of impact
- Become self-sustaining

WPI 2008-09-24 11:56 AM EDT
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