



# Reducing HIV Stigma through Public Health-Led School Education in Naivasha, Kenya

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## Purpose

To bolster scientifically-based HIV education within the Sub-county Public Health's middle school HIV curriculum in Naivasha, Kenya.

## Background

- The community needs assessment for Naivasha, Kenya targeted HIV as a major burden of disease associated with high incidence due to social stigma associated with a positive diagnosis.
- In Nakuru county, "adolescents aged 10-19 years and young people aged 15-24 years contributed to 25% and 47% of all new HIV infections" (Kenya HIV county profiles 2016).
- The Sub County Public Health Deputy and Sub County Health Promotion officer expressed the need for revamped curriculum for middle schoolers which reinforced the science behind HIV spread, management, and prevention.

## Acknowledgments

A big thank you is due to the Naivasha Sub County Public Health Office and the Naivasha Sub County District Hospital Ministry of Health. Specifically Henry Wamai and Ester Kungu, without whom this project would not have been possible. Also, appreciation for the UW School of Medicine-particularly Susan Graham and Kendria Dickson-for all their work and time spent setting up these opportunities and facilitating logistics and project development/completion. Thank you to the Global Health Immersion Program for this opportunity to experience health work abroad and offering an exemplary experience.

**Works Cited:** "Kenya HIV County Profiles". Kenya Ministry of Health. Maisha National AIDS Contract Council. Web. 2016.

## Methods

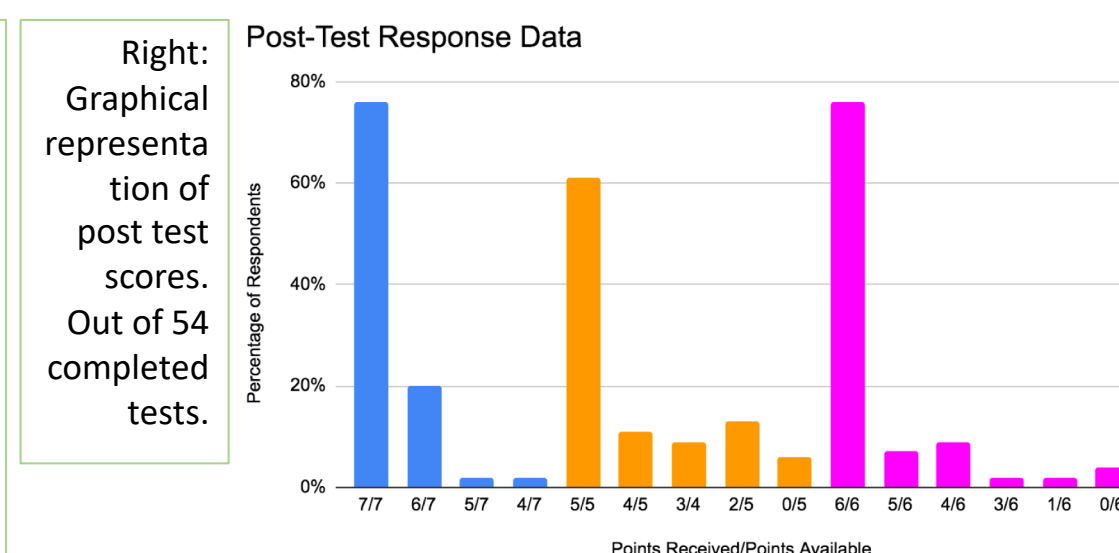
- Five formal interviews conducted with Public Health Officers, Ministry of Health Officers, and local physicians.
- 10-15 non-formal interviews conducted with local residents, hospital staff, and Public Health interns over a two week course as background for the needs assessment.
- Needs assessment findings were reflected/confirmed in literature and policies regarding HIV in Nakuru County (i.e. Naivasha).
- Used needs assessment data to revisit and revamp current HIV curriculum taught by the Public Health Office to school aged children in Naivasha, Kenya.

## Results

- The curriculum was tested at Maruda Primary School for 150 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade students, at the Sub-county District Hospital to 26 Medical Officers/hospital staff, and to 54 Nairobi residents in conjunction with the Public Health Office.
- 60 post tests were distributed to middle school students to assess retention of material. Adjustments were made to curriculum after to improve curriculum retention.
- Posters and revised HIV curriculum PowerPoints were distributed to the Public Health Office, the Ministry of Health, and to the Hospital HIV clinic for further use.



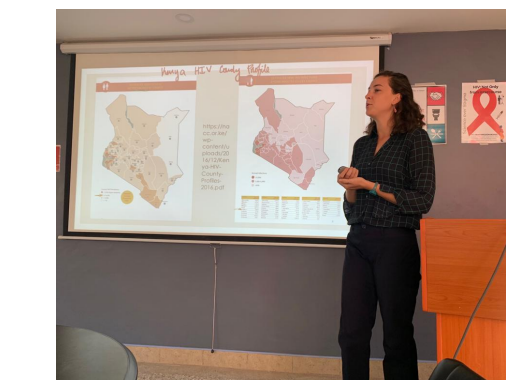
Left: Alexis and Sub County Public Health Deputy holding distributable posters designed by Alexis.



Question 1  
Question 2  
Question 3

## Conclusion

- This project accomplished the goal of revamping Naivasha HIV curriculum in collaboration with the Public Health Office for Primary and Secondary school adolescents that disbands stigmas and misconceptions associated with HIV in Kenya.
- Posters were distributed to the Public Health Offices and to the hospital HIV unit to continue promoting "science over stigma" mentality.
- Public Health Office and Ministry of Health will use these resources in conjunction with previous HIV curriculum moving forward to offer a more comprehensive HIV education to school aged children.



Left: Giving a Continuing Medical Education lecture at the District Hospital.

Right: Class photo of students lectured to at Meruda Primary School.



## Posters

