

Program Highlights

Kentucky

Partnering to Reach African American and Latino Youth with HIV Prevention Education

The Kentucky Department of Education partnered with the North Central and the Northwest Area Health Education Centers (AHEC) to provide HIV prevention education for African American and Hispanic youth. The Northwest AHEC provided training to community educators on two HIV prevention curricula that have been shown to reduce sexual risk behaviors among African American youth: Making A Difference and Making Proud Choices. The purposes of both curricula are to help adolescents build skills and have positive attitudes about abstinence and contraception. In one year, the trained community educators conducted 52 sessions in community centers, churches, and schools reaching 571 youth aged 9–18 years. Of the youth reached, 75% were African American and 15% were Hispanic.

The North Central AHEC initiated activities to support the Latino Youth HIV/AIDS Prevention Program. The program uses trained lay health promoters (*promotores*) to provide specialized HIV prevention education to Latino students and their parents. A total of 36 *promotores* received training on basic HIV/AIDS information, effective teaching methods, and age-appropriate teaching strategies. As a result the *promotores* conducted HIV/AIDS educational programs in 16 schools and community centers for 142 students aged 12–18 years and more than 36 parents. The *promotores* also offered individual teaching and counseling for Latino youth, reaching 1,077 students aged 12–18 years.