

Understanding the HIV Risk and Protective Behaviors of Young Business Process Outsourcing Center Employees in the Philippines

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Project Description

This project focuses on the HIV prevention needs of young adults employed in business process outsourcing (BPO) centers in the Philippines. The BPO industry is projected to create 303,000 new jobs by 2010, with the total BPO workforce reaching 1.1 million in the Philippines.

The overall goal of the proposed project is to utilize qualitative research methods to gain a better understanding of the complexity of sexual risk and protective behaviors of these young adults.

Since no specific HIV workplace interventions are currently implemented in the Philippines, the proposed research will help describe how to best address the unique health needs of young BPO employees.

Significance

In order to prevent increases of HIV among young Filipinos and promote healthy sexual behaviors, a concerted effort to understand specific barriers and facilitators to HIV risk is warranted. Young adults, in particular, are vulnerable to HIV infection as indicated by HIV and AIDS Philippine Registry findings where approximately 405 out of 3,305 reported HIV cases were among 15 to 24 year olds and the overall number of identified HIV cases has doubled in the past year. BPO centers, which employ a significantly high number of young Filipino employees, create an environment that likely influences youth culture and behaviors, including the patterns of sexual partnerships and social relationships that create barriers and facilitators to HIV risk.

The business sector and the BPO industry, in particular, attract many young Filipino men and women and can play a uniquely significant role in shaping their sexual attitudes and behaviors. Although this sector cannot solely end the spread of HIV/AIDS, businesses are well positioned to contribute resources and skills, help influence employee attitudes and sexual behaviors, and provide clinical services for HIV treatment and care.

Project Recruitment Dates: April 2009 - August 2009

Project End Date: December 2009