

REACHING THOSE MOST AT RISK:

Project Street Beat

In the fight to prevent HIV infection and provide care to those infected with HIV/AIDS, how do you reach those most at risk, often those who are least likely to enter the traditional health care system? At Planned Parenthood, we go to them. Project Street Beat is Planned Parenthood of New York City's unique HIV prevention and access-to-care program that serves women, men, and teens who live and work on New York City's streets. Traveling to neighborhoods in our minivans and mobile medical unit, our street-staff connect with the people who are at highest risk for HIV/AIDS. Since 1988, Project Street Beat has provided education, medical services, and case management to nearly 100,000 people at risk for or infected with HIV/AIDS in the Bronx, Brooklyn, Queens and north Manhattan.

Our clients include intravenous drug users, other substance users, commercial sex workers and other women at risk, homeless people, and at-risk youth. After our outreach workers build trust with a client, we can provide other types of assistance including regular medical attention, individual- and group-level risk-reduction counseling, and case management services. We work both day and night shifts, hitting the places where people meet and hang out. In this way, Project Street Beat helps clients move from day-to-day survival into a safer, healthier lifestyle.

Programs and Services

Project Street Beat's mobile medical unit is a 31-foot customized vehicle staffed by a medical provider and outreach workers. This team can offer:

- Basic survival services—such as food, clean clothes, and condoms
- HIV/AIDS testing, education, counseling, and prevention interventions
- Counseling to reduce clients' risk of harm
- Testing and treatment for sexually transmitted diseases
- Hepatitis C testing and referrals
- Pregnancy testing, prenatal counseling, and referrals for services
- Contraception
- Primary health care



Support Groups

Weekly discussion groups are available to all Project Street Beat clients. The support groups are organized by age and around common needs. We conduct youth support groups, HIV+ support groups, and substance use support groups.

Some of these groups meet in our neighborhood offices, and Project Street Beat also runs support groups at community organizations and in correctional facilities.

Group-Level Intervention

These sessions help clients to change their HIV risk behaviors. The programs are tailored to reach the populations we serve. Project Street Beat offers:

- Safety Counts—an intervention tailored to intravenous drug users and other substance users; and
- Sista to Sista—an intervention tailored to African-American women.

For more information about Project Street Beat, visit www.ppnyc.org or call us at (212) 965-4850.