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HIV-Related Pulic Health Initiative Best Practices in Select International Cities

Madisen Vukich
Illinois Wesleyan University

James Sikora, Faculty Advisor
Illinois Wesleyan University

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Oral Presentation O4.1

HIV-RELATED PUBLIC HEALTH INITIATIVE BEST PRACTICES IN SELECT INTERNATIONAL CITIES

Madisen Vukich and James Sikora*

Sociology and Anthropology Department, Illinois Wesleyan University

HIV continues to be a major health burden across the globe, despite a growing number of public health programs meant to combat the disease. This study utilizes open-ended interviews with staff and administrators from public health programs and hospitals in Hanoi, Vietnam; Johannesburg, South Africa; Buenos Aires, Argentina; and cities throughout central Illinois in order to examine best practices of HIV-related public health initiatives. Health care workers described the general health profile of their local areas, as well as specific ways in which their organization addresses HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment. They also aim to expand an awareness of the population's status through testing, and educate on how HIV can be a manageable disease when medically treated. In all cases, stigma against the disease is the main limiting factor preventing people from accessing care and information about HIV, and so identifying best practices to help patients navigate this stigma can provide guidelines for a higher efficiency of care.