





















What creative therapy can tell us for HIV prevention

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Data collection during.... creative therapy?

UNAIDS: "know your epidemic, know your response"

- Epidemiology
- Life stories of people living with HIV

Unique lessons for HIV prevention

- Primary prevention
- Promotion of HIV testing
- Positive prevention

Participant observation, a qualitative research methodology

Data collection:

Participate and observe during the body mapping sessions

- Notes of observations
- Notes of group discussions
- Notes of informal conversations
- Pictures
- Drawings

Analysis

- N-VIVO 8
- Coded following a data driven codebook
- Inductive analysis

The artists (participants)

- Born in Sub-Sahara Africa and currently living in Belgium
 - 6 East Africa
 - 4 West Africa
- 5 men and 5 women
- Migrated to Belgrium between 11 years and less than a year ago

Primary HIV-prevention

- 8 infected in home country
 - · One possibly in Belgium
 - One possibly in other African country than country of birth

2 non-sexual transmision



"The red of my figure stands for life. As long as you have blood, you can life. When she gave birth to her second child, she lost a lot of blood. They had to give her a transfusion otherwise she would have been death. That is how she became infected"

Place of HIV-diagnosis

3 where diagnosed in their home country

"He had heard things about HTV on the radio. He recognized his own symptoms and asked the doctor to do an HTV test. At that time they didn't do a lab test in his country, because it just confirmed you would die and couldn't do anything about it."

Diagnosed in Belgium

- Asylum centre, ITM
- Medical indications for HIV-testing
- Insecure legal status

"When he arrived in Belgium, lived for a 1,5 year on the street. A friend, whom he met in the station, invited him to leave in his house. When he became sick, the friend gave him his documents to go to the Tropical Institute. He had TB and the doctor asked him to do an HIV test."

Positive Living

Context: Migrants living with HIV

Legal uncertainty

"He used to be follow-up by ITM. Now he is being follow-up by UZGhent because he moved to Arendonck, the asylumcentre"

Psychologicial: stress, constant worries

"These days, you hear a lot of stories". If they can prove you can get medication in your country, they take your orange card."

Medical treatment

"She only has medication left for one month (...) She asks me if it is normal that they deny you medication, that the OCMW doesn't want to pay it. The medication she has left is the medication she received in the Asylum Centre. She is figuring out what to do next"

Housing insecurity

Asylum centre > Social housing > Independent

"Before she used to live in the asylum centre but they moved her to a little villages where she moved in a house with other women"

Homeless: 4 have been or are currently homeless

Dependent of the goodwill of friends > Fear that HIV might affect their survival strategy



"She doesn't have a house anymore, she is living everywhere, with compatriots in Brussels. These people don't know her situation, she has to hide her medication, if they find the medication she will be death."

Psychological effects

"The back around his figure if for shelter, he used to live on the street"

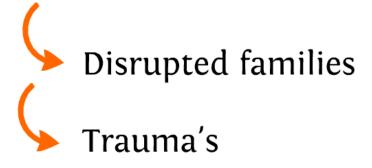
Migration history

War, political problems, (gender) violence, human trafficking, ...

"He didn't see his daughter for 6 years, she is 10 now. (..) A friend is taking care of his daughter. He never discussed this with the friend because he had to flee when he noticed they were taking out political enemies at night, undercover"



"Shows a village with a mother and children. The mother cries for herself and all other women. The children are the children whom are lost. One of the girls has been circumcised"



Coping with HIV

Personal representation of life with HIV

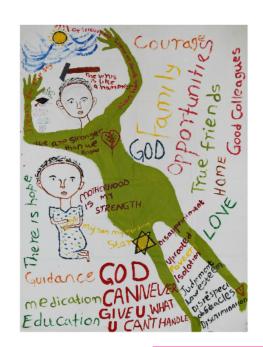


Medical development

"The virus attacks her immune system by the blood that is distributed in her body. She know this because she studied medicine. The virus attacked first the systems that were already weakened, she first got asthma and diabetic, afterwards also gynecological problems. Before she took the medication, the virus was everywhere. Now with the medication, the virus is still there but it is hiding."

Personality development

HIV uprooted her from her comfort zone but HIV brought up her leadership skills. (...) She is now the strongest women she knows.



Coping with HIV: resources

Medication and medical support

"In the beginning it was not easy but then he met the HIV-SAM prevention workers and the Muungano group. He heared the many stories and said yes, I am going to live"

Hope of a medical bracktrue



Family

Children

"Her strength is her motherhood, if you want to climb you need a strong belt. Her strong belt is her child. I have responsibility, somebody who thinks you are the world to him."

Resources

Belief in their personal strength

"His strengths in his hart and brain. The brain detects and the hart complements. (...) To many people little things happen and they commit suicide. But for him, many bad things happened and he is still going, being strong

Religion

"With all what we are carrying, the bible is our strength. We need to pray."

"He draw himself in nature because nature means hope. In nature you can go back to your normal state. His believes and the once of his ancestors are in nature. He hopes he will go back to his previous "state" by nature and his belief"

Existential beliefs

"She feels everybody has to die from something. She knows people who died of cancer, car crashes and they didn't have the virus. She has the virus but is still there. Everybody has to die of something but is is not HIV that kills"

Resources

Hope for a righter Future



"His 2 year plan? He wants to get a job, get the Belgian citizenship and a wife to marry. In his drawing his wife is 3 months pregnant."

She draw the three children that she has still in her belly, the children of her future, her hope.

