

# Skillz Tournaments: A Novel Approach to Increase Voluntary Counseling and Testing (VCT) Access and Uptake among Youth. Port Elizabeth, South Africa May-August 2009.

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# Outline

- Grassroot Soccer Inc.
- Background
- Methodology
- Results
- Recommendations



# Grassroot Soccer, Inc.

- Mission: Using the power of soccer in the fight against HIV and AIDS, Grassroot Soccer provides youth worldwide with the knowledge, life skills and support to live healthier lives.
- Skillz curriculum focuses on building basic life skills that help boys and girls adopt healthy behaviors and live risk-free.
- Registered 501(c)3 charitable organization in 2002.



# SKILLZ Curriculum

- Skillz consists of three main types of interventions:
  1. In-school and after-school Skillz curriculum delivery
  2. Street Skillz (street soccer leagues that involve delivery of the Skillz curriculum)
  3. Skillz Tournaments (Voluntary Counseling and Testing tournaments linked to Skillz activities, HIV testing, and local treatment services)



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# SKILLZ Tournament Model

**HIV  
COUNSELING  
& TESTING**

**HIV  
PREVENTION  
EDUCATION**

**SKILLZ**  
**tournament**  
*put your skillz to the test*

**LINKAGE TO  
TREATMENT &  
CARE**

**SOCCER  
TOURNAMENT**



# Skillz Tournaments

Since 2007, Skillz tournaments have been held in four countries, with more than 4,100 individuals testing for HIV.



# WHO 2009 VCT Progress Report

- Availability and uptake of VCT continues to increase
  - Health facilities offering VCT increased by 35% from 2007 to 2008
- Population-based surveys conducted 2005-2008
  - Median percentage of respondents aged 15-49 years living with HIV who reported having ever received an HIV test and test results prior to the survey increased from about 15% (2005-2006, 12 countries) to 39% (2007-2008, 7 countries).
- Despite the expansion of services, knowledge of HIV status remains low.

# Port Elizabeth, South Africa

- Held on Youth Day, June 16 2009.
- 12 schools from Zwide and New Brighton were invited.
- ~500 members of the community attended the event.
- Staffed by 20 nurses and 27 counselors from the Department of Health, New Start and TransNet.

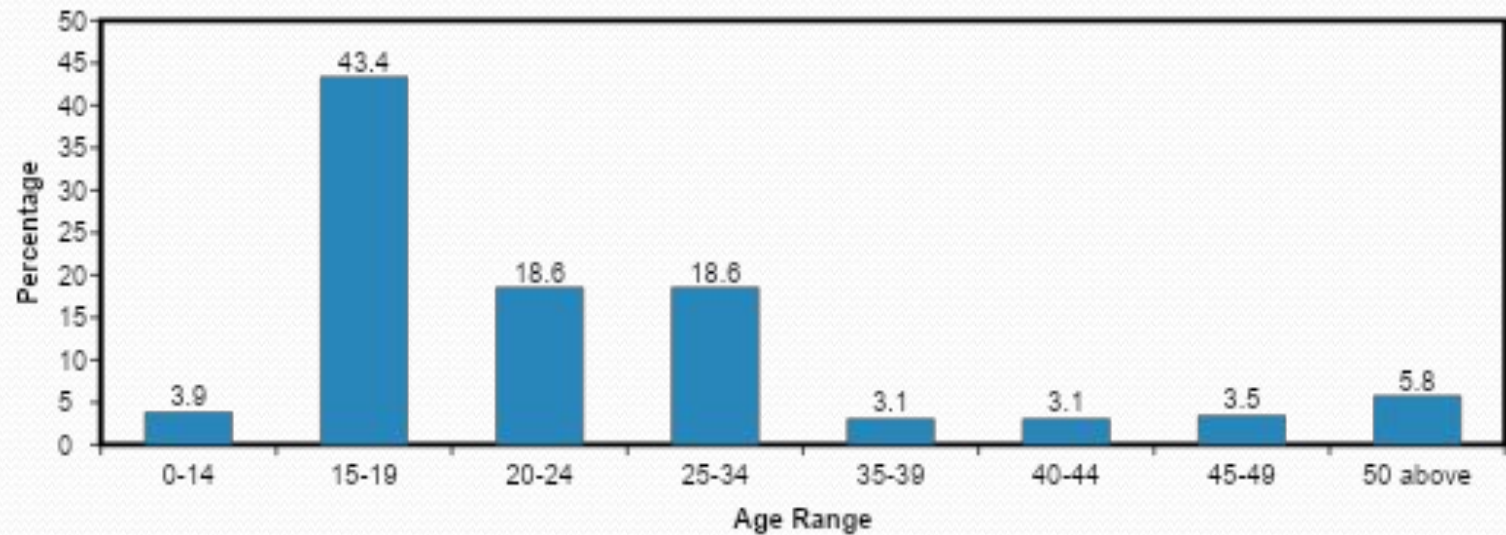


# Cumulative Statistics

- 303 individuals counseled
- 258 individuals tested (85% VCT uptake)
- VCT uptake was similar for both males (50.4%) and females (49.6%)
- 7% HIV prevalence (N=18)

# VCT Uptake

% VCT Uptake By Age Range



# Methodology

- **VCT Partners: Department Of Health and New Start**
  - Key Informant Interviews
- **Skillz participants**
  - Structured Interviews
  - Focus Group Discussion
- ***Community Members***
  - *Client Intake Forms*
  - *Observation and Informal Interviews*



# Department Of Health

- “The approximate waiting time to go through the VCT process was 5-10 minutes. Referrals to local clinics were made based according to need.”
- “Overall, the event went very well. A lot of people in the community wanted to know their status. T-shirts were a good motivation to get tested. This event should be done at least once a year.”

*-Head Nurse, Eastern Cape DOH*





# New Start

- **Skill tournaments are relevant to the youth.**
  - “They (youth) want excitement and action, so the event works well. It is a comfortable environment for them.”
  - “They enjoy the game (soccer) and get to know their status.”

*-New Start Site Manager: East London*





# New Start

- Skill tournaments are relevant to the youth.
  - “Skillz tournaments definitely reduces stigma and discrimination. VCT is made accessible to where it is needed. It takes away stigma. Accessibility and seeing peers go through the testing process. ”

*-New Start Site Manager: East London*



# Skillz Participants

- Structured Interviews collected the following:
  - Demographic
  - HIV knowledge/stigma
  - SKILLZ tournament
- N=20

# Demographics

- 12-16 age range (mean age= 14yrs)
- 70% (N=14) males and 30% (N=6) females were interviewed.
- 50% (N=10) of interviewed participants were in grade 7.
- The majority of the participants lived in single parent households (with mother) or members of their extended family, for instance, aunt or grandmother.

# HIV Knowledge and Stigma

|                                                                                                   | Agree | Disagree | Not Sure |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|----------|----------|
| A person with HIV can look and feel healthy                                                       | 85%   | 10%      | 5%       |
| There are medicines available to help people live longer                                          | 100%  | -        | -        |
| If my relative became sick with HIV, I will be willing to take care of him or her in my own house | 100%  | -        | -        |
| Teachers with HIV should not be allowed to teach in school                                        | 25%   | 75%      | -        |
| I think this event helps reduce HIV stigma in the community                                       | 70%   | 15%      | 15%      |

# Reason for Participating

In order of preference:

1. Soccer
2. Information on HIV/AIDS
3. VCT
4. Prizes



# Participant Experience

- 100% felt supported by their Skillz coach.
- 95% felt comfortable talking to their Skillz coach about HIV.
- 85% of the participants that were interviewed had never gone for VCT.
- 50% interviewees tested for HIV
- Reasons for HIV testing were: 85% wanted to know their status, 5% felt sick (TB) and 10% N/A.

# Intent to test in the future

- 55% planned to test in three months
- 25% in six months
- 20% sometime in the future (beyond six months).

# Event Highlights

- Highlights noted during the day were: 55% soccer, 25% Skillz activities, 5% negative test result, 5% to be with friends and make friends, 5% watch soccer.
- 100% of the children would tell their family about the Skillz tournament.
- One participant said and they would share their HIV negative result with their family. Being HIV negative was their highlight.



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Football for an HIV Free Generation (F4)

