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# Introduction

The growing number of programs engaging men in reproductive health reflects exciting changes in the field. Men are central to sexual and reproductive health and the surge in programs reflects an appreciation of how working with them contributes to their health and the health of their partners and children, and, potentially, to broader equity objectives.

# Why Spend Limited Resources on Men?

Decades of research on reproductive and child health show that everyone can benefit when men are thoughtfully engaged. Programs may address men's own needs, providing them with information, skills, and services that improve their health. The information and skills can help men be more respectful, communicative, and supportive in their sexual partnerships. Women themselves often ask that reproductive health programs work with men.

Some programs work to develop men's capacity as fathers, providing them with the knowledge, skills, and confidence to be more involved with their children. International data on men's use of physical violence against women suggest that working with men could both reduce this violence and improve sexual and reproductive health outcomes. An overarching benefit of all of these activities, when they are conducted with sensitivity to social inequities, is that they can contribute to gender equity and to broader development objectives.

And why might men want to take more of an active role in sexual and reproductive health? Somewhat surprisingly, there are many reasons. Men want information and usually have little access to it. They recognize the risks that their behavior and lack of information pose to their own health. They are concerned with the health of their partners. They wish for improved relationships with their children. And many of them recognize the importance of human rights, including women's rights.

# How Best to Work With Men: Making Sense of Available Resources

Distinguishing among the number and diversity of programs, research, and tools is daunting. Which provide the best examples? What criteria can we use to select the most interesting models? It is hard to know where to begin.

This brochure lays out key resources for working with men, organized to make them easy to access and apply to current work. It provides a framework for distinguishing among varied programs, and illustrates the range with strong examples. This is by no means an exhaustive list of the resources on men and reproductive health. It is an attempt to systematize what is available, and to explain some of the huge variability in existing materials. The brochure provides guidance for how male engagement can be a lens through which communities question norms about masculinity and programs integrate approaches to gender equity. The categories into which the materials are organized are not mutually exclusive, and some publications appear more than once. This has been done so that whatever users' primary interests are, they can find the most helpful and relevant resources for their work.

Disclaimer. This brochure was prepared by the Population Reference Bureau for the Interagency Gender Working Group (IGWG), with funding provided by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) under the BRIDGE project (GPO-A-00-00004-00). This document presents the work of many authors and organizations as they relate to the constructive engagement of men and boys. The contents of the brochure and the links herein do not necessarily reflect the views of the Interagency Gender Working Group, USAID, or the Population Reference Bureau or its sponsors.



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This review scanned a wide range of publications, websites, curricular materials and other tools, as well as organizational resources. Selection criteria included:

- · Fresh and promising approaches
- · Interesting and well-done evaluations
- Range of geographical areas and reproductive health topics
- Ready availability through hyperlinks
- Timeliness (mostly material since 2000)

# **Organization of This Brochure**

The numerous resources on engaging men in sexual and reproductive health reflect several different approaches to this work. A first group of programs addresses *men as clients*, focusing on their own reproductive health needs. A second set includes *men as partners*, promoting men's central roles in supporting women's health. A third set views *men as agents of social change*. This last group of programs may engage in a variety of reproductive health activities, but also promotes gender equity, both as an end in itself as well as a means of improving everybody's health. Again, these approaches are not necessarily mutually exclusive yet most programs fall into at least one of these categories.

This brochure provides key resources — program reviews, case studies, evaluations, policy examples, and tools — for each of five substantive areas: family planning/contraception; maternal and neonatal health and fatherhood; male identities and roles; STI and HIV/AIDS prevention, diagnosis, and treatment; and gender-based violence. Because programs rarely address only one area of work with men, the resources appear in multiple locations.

# Resources on Approaches to Engaging Men

These resources are useful for illustrating and explaining these approaches further.

#### Men as Clients:

- The Alan Guttmacher Institute. In Their Own Right. Addressing the Sexual and Reproductive Health Needs of Men Worldwide (2003).
- EngenderHealth. Involving Men as Partners in Reproductive Health: Lessons Learned from Turkey (June 1999).
- EngenderHealth and the International Planned Parenthood Federation Western Hemisphere Region. Five Case Studies for the Symposium on Male Participation in Sexual and Reproductive Health: New Paradigms (October 1998).

- International Union for the Scientific Study in Population (IUSSP), XXIV Congress. Putting Men in the Picture: Problems of Male Reproductive Health in Southeast Asia (August 2001).
- Johns Hopkins University Center for Communications Program (JHUCCP). Involving Men in Family Planning: The Zimbabwe Male Motivation and Family Planning Method Expansion Project (January 1996).
- JHUCCP, Population Reports. Men's Surveys: New Findings (Spring 2004).
- JHUCCP, Population Reports. New Perspectives on Men's Participation (October 1998).
- JHUCCP, PRISM Project's Male Motivation Campaign. Impact of a Male Motivation Campaign on Family Planning Ideation and Practice in Guinea (April 2002).

#### Men as Partners:

- EngenderHealth. Working with Men/Men as Partners in Reproductive Health (accessed online June 15, 2006).
- JHUCCP, Population Reports. New Perspectives on Men's Participation (October 1998).



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# Methodology, continued

- JHUCCP and the Jordanian National Population Committee. Men in Jordan Get Involved in "Together for a Happy Family" (January 2003).
- Pathfinder. Community Mobilization and Male Involvement Initiatives in Nigeria (accessed online June 15, 2006).
- The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). It Takes 2. Partnering With Men in Reproductive and Sexual Health (2003).

# Men as Agents of Positive Change:

- The Bradford Centre for International Development. Men, Masculinities and Gender Relations in Development: Seminars 1998-2000.
- EngenderHealth and IPPF/WHR. Five Case Studies for the Symposium on Male Participation in Sexual and Reproductive Health: New Paradigms (October 1998).
- IGWG. Implementation Guide on Reaching Men to Improve Reproductive and Sexual Health for All (September 2004).
- IGWG. Involving Men in Sexual and Reproductive Health: An Orientation Guide (September 2000).
- IGWG. The 'So What?' Report: A Look at Whether Integrating a Gender Focus Into Programs Makes a Difference to Outcomes (March 2004).

- IGWG. Three Case Studies: Involving Men to Address Gender Inequities (July 2003).
- Oxfam. Gender is Everyone's Business: Programming with Men to Achieve Gender Equality (June 2002).
- Oxfam. Mainstreaming Men into Gender and Development (November 2000).
- UN and the ILO, for the Expert Group Meeting on the Role of Men and Boys in Achieving Gender Equality. Evolving the Gender Agenda – Men, Gender and Development Organisations (October 2003).
- UN Population Fund (UNFPA). Partnering: A New Approach to Sexual and Reproductive Health (Dec. 2000).
- UNFPA. State of World Population 2005, "Partnering with Boys and Men," Chapter 6.
- The World Bank. Young Men and the Construction of Masculinity in Sub-Saharan Africa: Implications for HIV/AIDS, Conflict and Violence (June 2005).

# Tools for Engaging Men in Sexual and Reproductive Health

Work with men has been conducted in all substantive areas of reproductive health. Here are some tools that provide an overview of how to engage men in sexual and reproductive health overall:

- The Center for Health Training. Blueprint for Male Involvement (1998).
- EngenderHealth. Men as Partners. A Program for Supplementing the Training of Life Skills Educators (2001); and Men's Reproductive Health Curriculum
- EngenderHealth and IPPF/WHR. Symposium on Male Participation in Sexual and Reproductive Health, Oaxaca, Mexico (October 10-14, 1998). For case studies from the Oaxaca conference, see www.engenderhealth.org/ia/wwm/emcases.html
- IGWG. Involving Men in Sexual and Reproductive Health: An Orientation Guide (2000).
- IGWG. Reaching Men to Improve Reproductive Health for All: An Implementation Guide (2004).
- Japanese Organization for International Cooperation in Family Planning (JOICFP).
   A Guidebook for Operationalizing Male Participation and Other Gender Issues in Community-Based Sexual and Reproductive Health Programs (December 2000).
- The Urban Institute. Involving Males in Preventing Teen Pregnancy. A Guide for Program Planners (Dec. 1997).



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# Family Planning/Contraception and Other Reproductive Health Services

Family planning programs have perhaps evolved the most, from historically focusing exclusively on women to now involving men as agents of change. Following the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo, many programs viewed men as obstacles to family planning and involved them simply as allies in the goal of increasing contraceptive prevalence among women. Gradually, programs emerged that factored in men's own reproductive health needs, making services more attractive to men, improving men's access to services and information, and increasing providers' comfort in working with men.

Programs have also come to recognize the crucial role that men play in women's successful contraceptive use, and have responded by providing better couple counseling, promoting partner communication, and improving men's knowledge of the range of available contraceptives and their potential side effects. Male engagement in family planning has most recently come to mean more than achieving fertility goals and providing clinicbased services for men: engaging men can improve reproductive health and rights for men, women, and the entire family. As a result of this expanded view of male engagement, programs now vary greatly in the approaches they take to working with men.

# **Program Examples:**

- · Population Council. Getting Men Involved in Family Planning. Experiences from an Innovative Program (April 1998).
- Population Council. Men as Supportive Partners in Reproductive Health. Moving from Rhetoric to Reality (2000).

#### Men in Agrarian Settings:

- Population Council, Institute for Reproductive Health at Georgetown University, and Research Institute for Mindanao Culture at Xavier University. Enhancing NGO-LGU Collaboration in Family Planning: Using Community Workers to Reach Men in an Agrarian Setting (Dec. 2001).
- Reproductive Health Outlook (RHO). Men in Reproductive Health (accessed online June 15, 2005).

# Men as Clients and Community Leaders:

- JHUCCP, PRISM Project Male Motivation Campaign. Impact of a Male Motivation Campaign on Family Planning Ideation and Practice in Guinea (April 2002).
- JHUCCP and the Jordanian National Population Committee. Men in Jordan Get Involved in "Together for a Happy Family" (January 2003).

#### Men as Clients and Partners:

- EngenderHealth. Involving Men as Partners in Reproductive Health: Lessons Learned from Turkey (June 1999).
- Engenderhealth. A Successful National Program for Expanding Vasectomy Services: The Experience of the Instituto Mexicano del Seguro Social (May 1995).
- EngenderHealth. Vasectomy in Kenya: The First Steps (Sept. 1993).
- EngenderHealth, ACQUIRE Project. "Get a Permanent Smile": Increasing Awareness of, Access to, and Utilization of Vasectomy Services in Ghana (Dec. 2005).
- EngenderHealth and IPPF/WHR. Five Case Studies for the Symposium on Male Participation in Sexual and Reproductive Health: New Paradigms (October 1998).
- FHI, EngenderHealth, and the ACQUIRE Project. Expert Consultation on Vasectomy (Dec. 2003).
- FHI, YouthNet. Reaching Out-of-School Youth with Reproductive Health and HIV/AIDS Information and Services (2004).
- JHUCCP. *Involving Men in Family Planning:* The Zimbabwe Male Motivation and Family Planning Method Expansion Project, 1993-1994 (January 1996).



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# Family Planning/Contraception and Other Reproductive Health Services, continued

- Planned Parenthood. All About Vasectomy (April 2005).
- Population Council. Bangladesh: Offering Reproductive Health Services for Men Improves Clinic Utilization. OR Summary No. 47 (Aug. 2004)
- Population Council. Integration of Reproductive Health Services for Men in Health and Family Welfare Centers in Bangladesh. Final Report (Sept. 2004).
- Reproductive Health Outlook (RHO). Men and Reproductive Health Program Examples.
- University Center for International Studies (UCIS), University of North Carolina. Vasectomy and National Family Planning Programs in Asia and Latin America (accessed online June 15, 2006).
- University of California San Francisco. Family Pact Program: Fact Sheet on Male Services (accessed online June 15, 2006).

# **Programmatic Tools:**

# Men as Agents of Positive Change

 IGWG. Implementation Guide on Reaching Men to Improve Reproductive and Sexual Health for All (2004).

#### Men as Clients

- EngenderHealth. No-Scalpel Vasectomy: An Illustrated Guide for Surgeons, Third Edition (2003).
- The Japanese Organization for International Cooperation in Family Planning. A Guidebook for Operationalizing Male Participation and Other Gender Issues in Community-Based Sexual and Reproductive Health Programs (2000).
- JSI Research and Training Institute. Putting
   Males Into the Family Planning Picture.
   A Guide to Help Improve Family Planning
   Services for Males (accessed online June 15, 2006).

- The Alan Guttmacher Institute. In Their
   Own Right. Addressing the Sexual and
   Reproductive Health Needs of Men Worldwide
   (2003).
- The Alan Guttmacher Institute. International Family Planning Perspectives. "Operations Research on Promoting Vasectomy in Three Latin American Countries," (March 1996).

- EngenderHealth. Contraceptive Sterilization: Global Issues and Trends (2002).
- EngenderHealth. Resources on Vasectomy (accessed on June 15, 2006).
- FHI, Network. Men and Reproductive Health. (Spring 1998, vol. 18, no. 3).
- Hawkes, S. Sexual Health Exchange 1998, no. 3, "Providing Sexual Health Services for Men in Bangladesh."
- JHUCCP, Population Reports. Men's Surveys: New Findings (Spring 2004).
- Population Council. Using Men as Community-Based Distributors of Condoms (January 2002).
- University Center for International Studies (UCIS), University of North Carolina. Vasectomy and National Family Planning Programs in Asia and Latin America (accessed online June 15, 2006).



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# Maternal and Neonatal Health and Fatherhood

Maternal health is an area in which men can potentially play an important role. Reducing maternal morbidity and mortality necessarily relies on the collaboration of other members of a woman's household, in addition to health workers and the woman herself. Providing fathers and other family members more information about the health risks involved in the whole process, and clarifying for them the important roles they could fill in identifying and responding to problems, programs can find constructive ways of recruiting men to support women's reproductive health and to learn more about their own. Men can see to women's nutritional needs during pregnancy, support women in seeking out prenatal care, and recognize the symptoms of complications.

Programs can respect and affirm responsible roles men may play already in their families. Varied evidence suggests that men who are more involved in the health of their families themselves enjoy better health and closer relationships with their family members. One profound effect of encouraging men to be more involved in the nurturing of their children may be to reduce male violence by building greater closeness between boys and men and by increasing respect for the work child-rearing requires.

# **Program Examples:**

- Caribbean Fathers, Incorporated. For information on Fathers, Inc., see the Communication Initiative at www.comminit.com/experiences/pdskdv12003/experiences-1039.html. Or Barry Chevannes' keynote address at the 2003 IGWG Male Involvement Conference at www.jhuccp.org/igwg/keynotes/BarryChevannes.pdf
- Cohen, R., et al. "A Description of A Male-Focused Breastfeeding Promotion Corporate Lactation Program" in Journal of Human Lactation (2002).
- EngenderHealth. The New Gender Platforms and Fatherhood (2004).
- Fathers Direct, a National (UK) Information
  Centre on Fatherhood (accessed online June 15,
  2006).
- International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF). Fulfilling Fatherhood: Experiences from HIV Positive Fathers (Nov. 2005).

- Population Council. "Effects of Husband Involvement on Postabortion Patients" Recovery and Use of Contraception in Egypt," in Postabortion Care: Lessons from Operations Research, pp. 16-27 (1999).
- Population Council. India: Men's Involvement in Partner's Pregnancy Yields Health Benefits (June 2004).
- Population Council. Men as Supportive Partners in Reproductive Health. Moving from Rhetoric to Reality (2004).
- Population Council. South Africa: Antenatal Couples Counseling Is Feasible But Challenging (Feb. 2006).
- United Nations. Fatherhood in Adolescence: The Construction of Political Agenda (Oct. 2003).
- UNICEF. Iniciativa Papa: Improving the Lives of Children, One Father at a Time (2001).
- UNICEF. Role of Men in the Lives of Children.
   A Study of How Improving Knowledge
   About Men in Families Helps Strengthen
   Programming for Children and Women (Dec. 1997).



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### Maternal and Neonatal Health and Fatherhood, continued

# **Programmatic Tools:**

- CEDPA. Choose a Future! Issues and Options for Adolescent Boys (Nov. 1998).
- IGWG. Conference on Reaching Men to Improve Reproductive Health for All. Resource Guide (2003).
- IGWG. Workshop: Engaging Men and Boys in RH/Maternal Health/HIV (2005).
- Linkages Project. Ethiopia: Counseling Cards for Fathers to Encourage Support for Breastfeeding (accessed online June 15, 2006).
- National Fatherhood Initiative. Fatherhood Curricula and Training Institutes (accessed online June 15, 2006).
- Safe Passages to Adulthood. Working with Young Men to Promote Sexual and Reproductive Health (Jan. 2002).

- Consultative Group on Early Childhood Care and Development. Gender Relations and Conflicts in Fathering (1995).
- Jamaica Adolescent Reproductive Health Activity (Youth.now). Adolescent Male Survivability in Jamaica (Dec. 2002).
- Oxfam. Fatherwork in the Caribbean: Examples of Support for Men's Work in Relation to Family Life (Sept. 2004).
- Population Council. Involving Men in Maternity Care: Health Service Delivery Issues (2005).
- Population Council. Involving Men in Maternity Care in India (April 2004).
- Population Council. Involving Men in Maternity Care: South Africa (Oct. 2004).
- WHO/UNFPA/Population Council Technical Consultation. The Roles, Responsibilities, and Realities of Married Adolescent Males and Adolescent Fathers: A Brief Literature Review (Dec. 2003).



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# Male Identities and Roles

Different groups of men face divergent health needs and challenges, and many programs around the world have focused on some of the specific groups. The resources in this section are divided into three sections: 1) young men and socialization, 2) men at work and in uniform, and 3) men who have sex with men.

# Young Men and Socialization

The socialization of boys and men into masculinities that can negatively affect their health and that of their partners has increasingly drawn the focus of the reproductive health field. Men's roles as students, workers, spouses, fathers, and so on, have varying implications for their health and that of those around them. The new appreciation of masculine socialization and its effects on health and well being has led to the development of very interesting work with young men.

# **Program Examples:**

- Alan Guttmacher Institute. Man2Man: A Promising Approach to Addressing the Sexual and Reproductive Health Needs of Young Men (Sept./Oct. 2003).
- Barker, G. "Engaging Boys and Young Men in Promoting Gender Equality: Reflections on Masculinities in Sub-Saharan African and Program Responses" (2005).
- CEDPA. The Better Life Options Program for Adolescent Boys in India (Jan. 2002).

- FHI, YouthNet. Boys and Changing Gender Roles: Emerging Program Approaches (Aug. 2005).
- FHI, YouthNet. Reaching Out-of-School Youth With Reproductive Health and HIV/AIDS Information and Services (2004).
- PAHO. Addressing Gender Issues Through Soccer (2005).
- Panos Institute and UNAIDS. Young Men and HIV: Culture, Poverty and Sexual Risk (2001).
- Population Council. **Engaging Adolescent Boys** and Young Men in Promoting Sexual and Reproductive Health: Lessons, Research, and **Programmatic Challenges** (March 2003)
- Population Council. My Father Didn't Think This Way, Nigerian Boys Contemplate Gender **Equality** (2003).
- Safe Passages to Adulthood. Working With Young Men to Promote Sexual and Reproductive Health (2002).
- Sahayog. Working with Young Men: Experiences from India (accessed online June 15, 2006).
- United Nations. Addressing the Sexual Culture of Heterosexual Men: Key Strategies in Involving Men and Boys in HIV/AIDS Prevention (Oct. 2003).
- United Nations. Fatherhood in Adolescence: The Construction of Political Agenda.

- The Urban Institute. Young Men's Sexual and Reproductive Health: Toward A National Strategy (Dec. 2000).
- Verma, R. et al. "Promoting Gender Equity Among Young Men: Positive Experiences of the Yari-Dosti Project in India," in Sexual Health Exchange 2: 5-6 (2005).
- World Bank. Young Men and the Construction of Masculinity in Sub-Saharan Africa: Implications for HIV/AIDS, Conflict and Violence (2005).
- World Health Organizations (WHO). Boys in the **Picture** (accessed online June 15, 2006).
- WHO. Working With Adolescent Boys: Programme Experiences (2000).

### Men at Work and in Uniform

Work settings provide important opportunities to reach men with information and services. Men's identities as workers can also contribute to specific risks. Military training and sports play important roles in socializing boys and men by, among other things, suppressing individuality and personality, promoting a dominance-oriented idea of masculinity. encouraging aggression, and distorting the importance of competition. Thus, working with men of the police and military in promoting awareness and skills-building can be especially fruitful.



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#### Male Identities and Roles, continued

#### Overview of Issues:

 UN and the ILO, for the Expert Group Meeting on the Role of Men and Boys in Achieving Gender Equality. The Role of Men and Boys in the Fight Against HIV/AIDS in the World of Work (Oct. 2003).

# **Program Examples:**

## Men in the military

- Pathfinder. Engaging Army and Police
   Officers: Ikeja and Kaduna (accessed online
   June 15, 2006).
- UNFPA. Enlisting the Armed Forces to Protect Reproductive Health and Rights: Lessons Learned From Nine Countries (Aug. 2003).

# Men in agrarian settings

 Population Council, Institute for Reproductive Health at Georgetown University, the Research Institute for Mindanao Culture at Xavier University, and KAANIB Foundation. Enhancing NGO-LGU Collaboration in Family Planning: Using Community Workers to Reach Men in an Agrarian Setting (Dec. 2001).

#### Men at the office

 EngenderHealth and the International Planned Parenthood Federation Western Hemisphere Region (IPPF/WHR). Five Case Studies for the Symposium on Male Participation in Sexual and Reproductive Health: New Paradigms (Oaxaca, Mexico; Oct. 1998).

#### Truck drivers

- Population Council. Health on the Road: Designing HIV/AIDS Programs for Truck Drivers (June 2004).
- Population Council. Men as Supportive Partners in Reproductive Health. Moving from Rhetoric to Reality (2004).

### Miners and other migrant workers

- Population Council. Expanding Workplace HIV/AIDS Prevention Programs for a Highly Mobile Population in Ho Chi Minh City (Nov. 2003).
- Population Council. Reducing the Transmission of HIV and Sexually Transmitted Infections in a Mining Community: Findings From the Carletonville Mothusimpilo Intervention Project: 1998 to 2001 (Sept. 2005).
- Population Council. A Targeted Intervention
   Falls Short: Study in South African Mining
   Community Highlights Importance of
   Understanding Sexual Networks (Dec. 2005).

#### Men Who Have Sex with Men

# **Program Examples:**

 FHI. HIV/AIDS Interventions With Men Who Have Sex With Men (MSM)(accessed online June 15, 2006).

- Futures Group, POLICY Project. Men Who
   Have Sex with Men in Cambodia: HIV/AIDS
   Vulnerability, Stigma, and Discrimination (Jan. 2004).
- International HIV/AIDS Alliance. Between Men
   – HIV/STI Prevention for Men Who Have Sex
  With Men (Jan. 2003).
- Naz Foundation (India) Trust. An Introduction to Promoting Sexual Health for Men Who Have Sex with Men and Gay Men – A Training Manual (2001).
- Population Council. Meeting the Sexual Health Needs of Men Who Have Sex With Men in Senegal (Nov. 2001).
- Population Council. Understanding the HIV/STI Risks and Prevention Needs of Men Who Have Sex With Men in Nairobi, Kenya (Sept. 2005).
- Safe Passages to Adulthood. HIV/AIDS
   Prevention and Care among Especially
   Vulnerable Young People: A Framework for Action (April 2004).
- UNAIDS. AIDS and Men Who Have Sex With Men (July 1998).
- UNAIDS. Men Who Have Sex with Men (accessed online June 15, 2006).



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## Male Identities and Roles, continued

# **Programmatic Tools:**

- Alan Guttmacher Institute. Man2Man: A
   Promising Approach to Addressing the
   Sexual and Reproductive Health Needs of
   Young Men (Sept./Oct. 2003).
- CEDPA. The Better Life Options Program for Adolescent Boys in India (Jan. 2002).
- IGWG. Conference on Reaching Men to Improve Reproductive Health for All (Sept. 2003)
- Naz Foundation International. Actions for Life: Looking at Developing Sexual Health Services for Males Who Have Sex With Males (Feb. 1999).
- Naz Foundation International. Developing Community-Based Organisations Addressing HIV, Sexual Health, Welfare and Human Rights Issues for Males Who Have Sex With Males, Their Partners and Families (2005).
- Naz Foundation International. Male Sexual Behaviors and STD/HIV Prevention: A Training Manual for Peer Educators (1998).
  - Community Mobilizing
  - Developing Community-Based Sexual Health Services for Males Who Have Sex With Males in South Asia
  - MSM and Rights-Based Approach

- Sahayog. Working with Men on Gender, Sexuality, Violence and Health: Trainers' Manual (April 2005).
- The Urban Institute. Young Men's Sexual and Reproductive Health: Toward a National Strategy (Dec. 2000).

- Alan Guttmacher Institute. In Their Own Right: Addressing the Sexual and Reproductive Health Needs of American Men (2002)
- Family Health International. Sexual Behaviors, STIs and HIV Among Men Who Have Sex With Men in Phnom Penh, Cambodia (2000).
- Oxford Journals. Evaluating Men's Involvement as a Strategy in Sexual and Reproductive Health Promotion (2004).
- WHO. What About Boys? A Literature Review on the Health and Development of Adolescent Boys (2000).



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# STI and HIV/AIDS Prevention, Diagnosis, and Treatment

Men can also play an important role in HIV prevention, treatment, and care. Societal expectations of men's sexual behavior, including early sexual initiation, multiple sexual partners, risky behavior, and aggression in sexual relationships, puts both men and their partners at risk of HIV. The acceptance of a large age gap between men and their female partners provides additional risks of HIV infection to girls and women. Further, men and boys are expected to be knowledgeable about sex, which limits their willingness and ability to access information on HIV prevention. Programs that address these societal norms and expectations can help men take steps to protect themselves and their partners and support them to engage in healthy sexual behavior.

Counseling, testing, and treatment programs can reach out to men to ensure they are being tested and receiving appropriate services. These programs can also work to ensure that men are involved in PMTCT services, and that men are supportive of their partners upon disclosure of serostatus and in accessing and adhering to treatment. Finally, HIV/AIDS programs can engage male partners and other men in the community to share in caretaking responsibilities, thereby easing the burden of caring for people infected and affected by AIDS that disproportionately falls on women and girls.

#### Overview of the Issues:

- FHI, YouthNet. HIV-Infected Youth (Jan. 2005).
- Panos Institute and UNAIDS. Young Men and HIV: Culture, Poverty and Sexual Risk (2001).
- UN and the ILO, for the Expert Group Meeting on the Role of Men and Boys in Achieving Gender Equality. The Role of Men and Boys in the Fight Against HIV/AIDS in the World of Work (Oct. 2003).
  - Addressing the Sexual Cultures of Heterosexual Men: Key Strategies in Involving Men and Boys in HIV/AIDS Prevention.
  - HIV Prevention with Men: Toward Gender Equality and Social Justice.
  - Men and Boys Can Make a Difference in the Response to the HIV/AIDS Epidemic.
  - Men as Partners: Promoting Men's Involvement in Care and Support Activities for People Living with HIV/AIDS (Oct. 2003).
  - The Role of Men in the Fight Against HIV/ AIDS.
- UNAIDS. Men and AIDS A Gendered Approach (2000).
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# **Gender-Based Violence**

Gender-based violence, including female genital cutting, is increasingly viewed as a serious public health problem. Patterns of violence both reflect and reinforce the gender inequalities that undermine reproductive health and well being. Men have an important role to play in overcoming violence, both toward their own sexual partners and toward others in their communities. Only by changing norms around the acceptability of violence against women can the practice be eradicated.

State-of-the-art programs that work with men to address gender-based violence take a holistic approach, recognizing the importance of involving all members of the community. Programs target policymakers, religious and community leaders, parents, teachers, men, women, and adolescents with the aim of refuting gender-based violence as a social norm. These programs raise awareness about sexual coercion and psychological, physical, and sexual abuse. They train police, provide psychological care and legal referrals, and attempt to change behaviors by challenging existing stereotypical gender roles of manhood.

It is now increasingly common to address GBV in the context of reproductive health programs. This is because 1) reproductive health programs are often the first point of contact for women with the health system; 2) GBV has important direct effects on health; and 3) both violence and reproductive health are affected by the same gender inequities.

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# **Policy**

"Male involvement policy" is elusive, so it may be preferable to begin by articulating principles that acknowledge gender inequities and state the need to involve men in overcoming these inequities in order to improve health for all. A high level commitment of this kind—be it at the national or grass roots level—can be implemented across various sectors. Relatively little has been done through national policy to address the social relationships that limit health and support men's constructive engagement in sexual, reproductive, and family life.

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# Policy, continued

# **Organizations of Interest:**

- EngenderHealth
- · Family Violence Prevention Fund
- Fathers Direct, a National (UK) Information Center on Fatherhood
- · Instituto Promundo
- · Men Can Stop Rape
- Naz Foundation
- Instituto PAPAI
- Population Council
- Sahayog
- · White Ribbon Campaign
- YouthNet

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