

**How Vulnerable Are We to HIV/AIDS**  
***Introduction to Seminar PIH 217d***

Daniel Tarantola, Sofia Gruskin, John Chittick, Jonathan Mann  
Friday, 5 April to Friday 24 May, 1996;  
8:30H to 10:20H AM

**Objectives of the seminar:**

Using HIV/AIDS as an entry point into the complex linkages between health and society, the seminar will encourage participants to develop a practical approach to health strategy development that takes into account societal determinants of health. The objective of this seminar is to develop a method and approaches for assessing vulnerability to HIV/AIDS and to suggest approaches to its reduction.

**The recognition of factors that influence people's vulnerability to HIV/AIDS is intended to lead to:**

- (1) a better understanding of the HIV/AIDS pandemic and of its societal roots;
- (2) a clearer perception of the role played by the HIV/AIDS pandemic in revealing personal and collective vulnerability factors which apply to HIV/AIDS as well as to other health issues; and
- (3) a definition of prevention, care and support strategies which, aiming both at lowering individual risk and changing the societal context, reach beyond existing HIV/AIDS strategies.

The concept of vulnerability was presented in Chapter 14 of the first volume of AIDS in the World (provided as reading material).

The seminar focuses on a particularly vulnerable population:

**Young People.**

**Seminar structure:**

The seminar is structured as follows:

**Session 1** (April 5): Vulnerability assessment: concept and methods (Daniel Tarantola)

**Session 2** (April 12): Current strategies for HIV/AIDS prevention, care and support (Daniel Tarantola)

**Session 3** (April 19): Education and Vulnerability to HIV/AIDS (John Chittick).

**Session 4** (April 26): Sexuality, human rights and young people's vulnerability to HIV/AIDS (Sofia Gruskin).

**Session 5** (May 3): Development of objectives, guidelines and list of themes and questions for interviews with young people (John Chittick).

**May 4-9:** Interviews with young people.

**Session 6** (May 10): Collective feedback on interviews and finalization of topics for presentations.

**Session 7** (May 17): Presentations (1)

**Session 8** (May 24): Presentations (2). All papers due by this date.

**Grading:**

The final grade is composed of two elements:

(1) Seminar participation and preparation, including readings, interviews and discussion (40 percent of the grade)

(2) a 12-15 page paper in which they will establish and discuss linkages between selected risk factors related to HIV/AIDS, risk behaviors and selected societal determinants. Papers will include a description and brief analysis of ongoing actions to reduce risk and vulnerability among young people and suggest approaches to reduce further risk and vulnerability. (60 percent of the grade)

**Contact Address and numbers:**

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