

Nursing assistance in the sexual transmitted diseases and AIDS program of São Paulo city (STD/AIDS PROGRAM-SP)

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Issues: São Paulo is an huge city responsible for almost a quarter of the cases of AIDS in Brazil. Actually the city has 64.000 cases of AIDS and 12.000 people under antiretroviral (ARV) therapy. The STD/Aids Program-SP has 24 health units specialized in the prevention and assistance of STD/Aids and has around 1300 professionals working in this net. An important part of this work force is represented by nursing, we have almost 400 professionals, and they are responsible for nursing assistance, that is an important aspect of the health assistance. According to the nursing legislation in Brazil, all health units must have at least one nurse in each shift and only nurses could achieve the nursing assistance.

Description: During July of 2007, a member of the coordination of the STD/Aids Program-SP visited all the 24 facilities in order to supervise the nursing assistance. A formulary was filled in with the characterization of the work force in nursing and the nursing assistance.

Lessons learned: All the 24 STD/Aids units had a nurse responsible for the nursing area and the nursing team. All these facilities, even the smallest ones, have a nursing team and they did the nursing assistance.

Next steps: We came to the conclusion that the STD/Aids Program of São Paulo city is observing the nursing legislation and is offering nursing assistance to the clients, this fact, certainly is contributing to increase the quality of life of people living with STD and Aids. Nursing assistance in STD/Aids Program of São Paulo city must be argued, between the nursing technical group, to render uniform behavior and increase the potency of this assistance tool.

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