



SHARP News

American Red Cross Trains HIV Instructors

In SHARP News #5 you read about the requirement to attain technical knowledge about HIV transmission and prevention to qualify as a Navy HIV Instructor and the option of achieving this through the **American Red Cross**.

Visit the Red Cross homepage at <http://www.redcross.org/hss/HIVAIDS/index.html> to view the variety of courses and products they offer.

Prerequisites for instructors include two courses:

- **Instructor Candidate Training** which is a 6-hour course typically required to be a Red Cross instructor in any specialty. The "Educator's Format" may be available in a 2-hour session.
- **HIV Starter Facts and Facts Practice** focuses on using the HIV/AIDS Facts reference guide, which the student keeps. Starter Facts provides candidates with "basic" and "detailed" answers to essential questions about HIV/AIDS. Facts Practice allows candidates to demonstrate their ability to respond to questions and comments from an audience.

The "**Basic HIV/AIDS Program**" helps people take steps to prevent the spread of HIV. Navy instructors must be trained to the Fundamentals level as a minimum. Usually, all training to this level is conducted during the same week. Cost and availability vary somewhat by location and the course materials purchased.

- **Fundamentals** provides the opportunity to openly discuss the facts about HIV and AIDS and personalize the facts so they become more meaningful.
- **Prevention Skills** helps HIV Instructors teach people how to develop and practice skills that they can use in real life situations to protect themselves and others from HIV.

Prevention Skills is a new course, and you may encounter some difficulty in locating certified Instructor-Trainers. Your local chapter, state coordinator, and SHARP staff can assist you in arranging this training.

In order to maintain a cadre of trained instructors, the Navy needs Instructors to achieve Instructor-Trainer (IT) certification. Red Cross Instructors must complete both the Fundamentals and Prevention Skills modules before they can complete the IT certification process. Current IT's who have not taken the new Prevention Skills module must do so prior to March 31, 2000 in order to retain their IT certification.

Contact your local Red Cross HIV/AIDS Training Coordinator or SHARP Area Coordinator for training opportunities in your area.

"Chart a Safe Course"