



SHARP News



SHARP Peer Educator On Board

The NEHC SHARP staff now includes an HIV-positive active duty Sailor **Peer Educator** to assist commands in the Hampton Roads Virginia area with their sexual health education events.

Why Use a Peer Educator?

A Sailor teaching fellow Sailors, and disclosing his HIV infection status, may have greater influence on those in the audience who place themselves at risk. Participants may be more likely to hear and personalize prevention messages if they believe the messenger is similar to them and faces the same concerns and pressures. Facilitated group discussions offer the opportunity for the Peer Educator to build consensus on appropriate personal conduct, improve understanding on which choices are safer, and convey to everyone the benefits of incorporating safe behavior choices into their lifestyles if they are placing themselves at risk.

Preventive Medicine and Health Promotion professionals may partner with our Peer Educator in their disease prevention work.

Non-medical commands may invite our Peer Educator to speak as part of their GMT, NMT, or safety stand-downs.

Our SHARP Peer Educator is also available to travel to your locale (outside Hampton Roads, Virginia) if you can provide travel funding.

For more information, e-mail SHARP at sharp@nehc.mar.med.navy.mil

Sexual Health and Responsibility Program (SHARP)

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