

How to Sell Health to the Public — The Role of Media

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The role of media in public health

Weapons of mass destruction of diseases.

"When it comes to AIDS, journalists can have more of an impact than doctors."

—— Peter Piot, the executive director of UNAIDS

How to get a good AIDS program into public eyes?

We need an effective media strategy

- Design a media campaign to enhance the effectiveness of our AIDS program
- Generate intensive media coverage of our messages



What is media?

- Books
- Magazines
- Newspapers
- Radio
- TV

- Internet: websites, emails, chatrooms, blog, MSN, QQ, tudou
- Mobile phones: messages, QQ, MSN, blog, newspapers, TV

The role of media in public health

- Educating
- Influencing
- Entertaining
- Stimulating public discussion and debate

Select media channels and activities for multiple exposure to message How to build a program that takes advantage of these media channels?

Our case in promoting HIV/AIDS prevention program in China

Step 1: Identify the problem:

Step 2: Identify the audience

- Journalists
- Media leaders
- Government leaders
- General public

Step 3: identify the focus of the communication

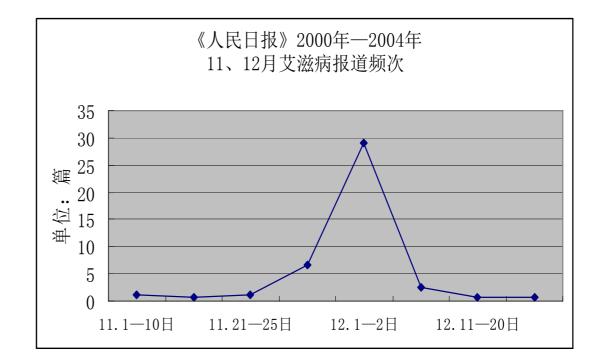
- Knowledge
- Attitude
- Benefits
- Social norms
- Skills
- Media ethics

Problems in China's AIDS Reporting

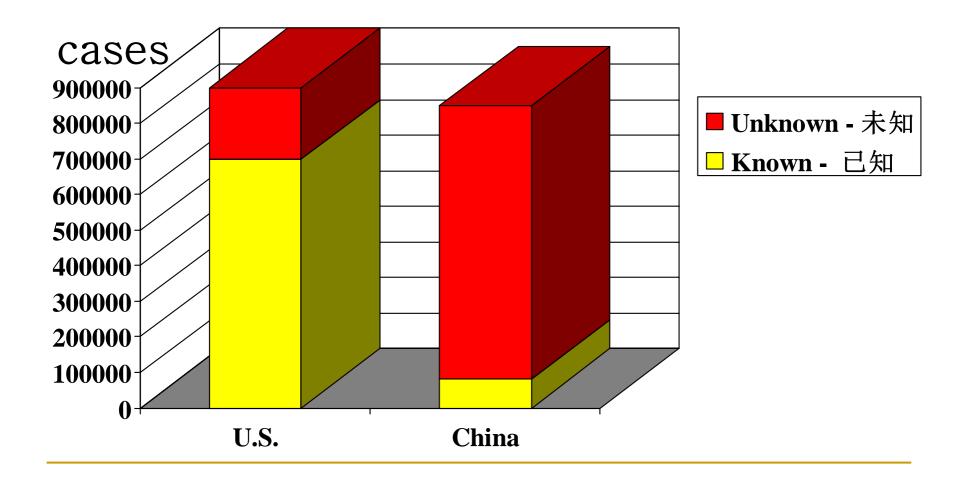
StigmaUneven

Ethics

sensational



Estimated HIV Cases – Known & Unknown 预测艾滋病病例—已知的与未知的





Stigma!

Step 4: Build partnership to maximize the effectiveness of our program

 To find partners who can enhance the impact, reach and credibility of our program and messages.

Our partners

- Individuals
- Government
- International organizations
- Business
- NGO
- Academic and medical institutions
- Media

Media

 Of all of our partners, the media is extremely influential in promoting our program and messages.

Step 5: Design message

The message should be able to motivate people to change attitude and behaviors.
 (e.g. New Beijing, Great Olympics)

Step 6: Identify channels and activity

 After selecting a channel, we need to find an angle to make the story appealing to our audience and media.

Case study:

- Message: positive attitude toward AIDS patients;
- Activity: news event Bill Clinton speaks about AIDS at Tsinghua;
- Objective: Flood the media with our message
- Goal: influence social norms



















Three weeks after Tsinghua meeting 年2003:

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Chinese Leaders Break AIDS Taboo

Premier's Appearance With Patients Signals End to Silence About Epidemic

By Philip P. Pan Washington Post Foreign Service Tuesday, December 2, 2003; Page A14

BEIJING, Dec. 1 -- Premier Wen Jiabao appeared on Chinese state television Monday night and comforted AIDS patients with pats on the arm and an appeal for his nation to treat them with "care and love," becoming the first senior Chinese leader to address the country's fast-spreading AIDS epidemic in public.



Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao, right, shakes hands with an AIDS patient in the Ditan Hospital in Beijing. (Hu Haixin - Xinhua via AP)

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The media picture of 2004



The media picture of 2005





The media pictures of 2006?

AIDS orphans meeting with Premier





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