ABSTRACT

The American Red Cross HIV/AIDS Prevention & Education program currently has twenty five certified volunteer instructors in Alaska; twelve of which are actively engaged with high risk populations. This project looked at barriers to volunteer activity and gathered input from literature, questionnaires, and informant interviews. Though questionnaire response of 35.5% limits generalizability, data from completed questionnaires suggest that extraneous time commitments have prevented volunteers from teaching. Interviews conducted with instructors and providers suggested that work related time constraints were limiting involvement. Recommendations in the final evaluation report include development of a volunteer database, more teaching opportunities, enhancement of recruitment strategies and materials, additional post-training follow up, development of community partnerships and workplace volunteer policies, and establishing an evaluation system. Red Cross staff and others who utilize volunteers to carry out the mission of their organizations may use this evaluation project to better understand programmatic changes, which will increase volunteer involvement.