

An Easy Read Approach to HIV Resource Accessibility

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Background/Purpose:

Educational resources around HIV prevention and related legal rights are often inaccessible to many people with disabilities (PWD). Accessibility can be negatively influenced when resources use formats, wording, and implied meaning that require high language comprehension and reading levels. Inaccessible resources may then prevent PWD from accessing information that empowers them to have more control over their sexual health and wellbeing. The purpose of this presentation is to highlight a case example where information around HIV prevention within a larger resource was designed to be more accessible to PWD.

Approach:

An easy read approach involves presenting information using a layout and wording designed for individuals who have low or negatively impacted language comprehension and reading levels. Accompanying images are typically used to reinforce meaning. This presentation will highlight the benefits and difficulties of using an easy read approach when developing the HIV section of the upcoming resource called Sexuality, Relationships and Your Rights (SRAYR). This involved an extended feedback and revision process with stakeholders in the HIV and sexual health spaces.

Outcomes/Impact:

Anticipated benefits of an easy read approach are that the essentials of complex information will be made more accessible to PWD and those supporting them. However, to be overviewed is how developing the HIV section of SRAYR presented difficulties. Namely, those around translating complex prevention and promotion messages into a condensed form while still retaining essential meaning.

Innovation and Significance:

Using an easy read approach is important when considering HIV prevention and sexual health promotion. Using this approach for resource creation will potentially offer significant contributions towards improving resource accessibility for PWD and other individuals. This includes making resources more accessible to young people and people who speak English as a second language.

Disclosure of Interest Statement:

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