

TEACHER BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND GUIDELINES HIV RISK RATE

Have colored index cards for each student. Count out for different colors of index cards, using: 35% pink, 40% white, 15% green, 10% peach, and 2% yellow. Mix up the cards and have the students pick one of the cards. On the white cards, write: "No matter what, do not give this card away and trade it with anyone else."

After the students have picked their cards, allow them a couple of minutes to trade or exchange colors with someone else if they would like.

Introduce the activity by explaining that because teenagers often have an attitude of invincibility, it can be difficult convincing them that their behaviors can place them at risk of contracting the HIV virus. This activity demonstrates that the virus is non-discriminatory.

Tell the students that the class is representative of the general population and this is what their "colors" mean: (have each color group stand as you reveal the code)

People with pink cards had unprotected sex with their contacts.
- They are prime candidates for contracting the HIV virus.

People with peach cards used condoms.
- They reduced their risk of infection by using condoms.

People with green cards shared needles with their contacts.
- They are also prime candidates for contracting the HIV virus.

People with white cards abstained from risky behavior.
- They have basically eliminated their risk of contracted HIV.

People with yellow cards already have the HIV virus.

Ask the students how it felt to approach the students with white cards and to identify what refusal skills were used. Then ask the students with white cards how it felt to refuse to trade (contact).

One major concept to emphasize is that everyone is at some element of risk of being infected with the HIV virus, but mostly it depends on what we do and the choices we make.