



Reaching Out:

Preventing HIV/AIDS in our community

This painting, which was done in 1989 by Community Health Outreach Worker Craig Lasha, depicts the first NIDA-supported AIDS outreach research project. This investigator-initiated (R01) project began in 1985 in San Francisco as the Youth Environment Study.

The scene depicted in the painting, of San Francisco's Tenderloin District, shows both the hope and the challenge involved in the first drug abuse/AIDS outreach research efforts. The outreach workers depicted are actual persons. The people whom they serve are composites.

The HIV/AIDS-related outreach model included training and using community-based (indigenous) health outreach workers to establish contact and trust with active drug users who would not or could not take advantage of drug treatment.

The painting was provided courtesy of Dr. Peter Hartssock, Community Research Branch, National Institute on Drug Abuse. ■

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