

## Helping Children Be Their Best: Soul Buddyz Clubs A Child Focused Best Practice Intervention

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## Soul Buddyz Club

- \* Started 10 years ago
- \* School based
- \* Principals and Educators
- \* Child centred
- \* Currently 6000 reaching about 150 000 children – in this year
- \* HIV prevention programme




## HEALTH PROMOTION MODEL

- \* Healthy public policy
- \* Reorienting services (schools)
- \* Community action
- \* Personal skills
- \* Healthy environments




## Model

- \* 8-14 yr olds
- \* Trained facilitators
- \* Materials (unit guides, zones and posters)
- \* Graded according to participation
- \* AFC – matched funds for community/ school projects
- \* District, Provincial National Congresses




## Principles

- \* Child participation
- \* Collective agency
- \* Community action




## Numerous case studies



## National Communication Survey

- \* Sample of over 10 000 adults (16-55)
- \* 2% had previously belonged to a Soul Buddyz Club
- \* About 280 000
- \* Propensity score matching used
- \* Safer sexual scale: safest =no sex to most unsafe= multiple partners and unprotected




## Probability of belonging to a Soul Buddyz Club

- \* Higher among females
- \* Higher with more years of schooling
- \* Higher in informal settlements
- \* As this is retrospective it may imply that Soul Buddyz Club a factor in keeping children in school




## Safer sex

Group	Percentage
Soul Buddyz Club	53
Never belonged	48



## Conclusion

- \* The Soul Buddyz Club have made a difference in thousands of children's and educators lives, changing how children think of themselves, enabling them to act on their knowledge of safer sexual behaviours and supporting children in dire circumstances through difficult times. This study illustrates just one area of change.



## Thanks