

Imploding Oblivion: El Punto en la Montaña

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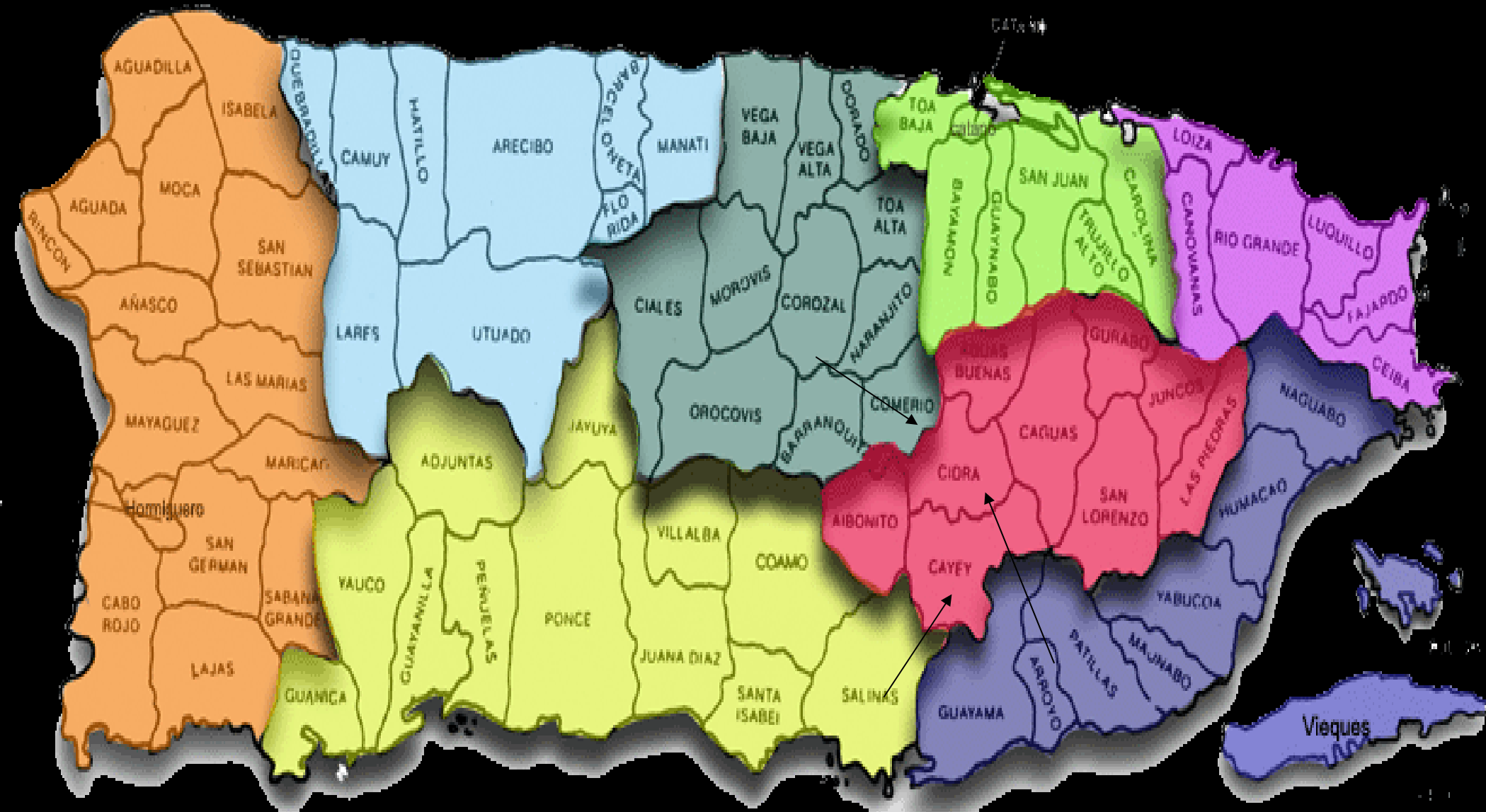
- Puerto Rico has an HIV death rate higher than *any* U.S. state or territory,* a rate nearly 4 times the national rate;
- Puerto Rico ranked 4th in AIDS case rates among all states and territories in 2007*, and Puerto Ricans living in the United States have the second highest case rate of all minority groups (24.6 people per 100,000 population).
- In 2007, the number of new reported HIV infections (1,450) rivaled the infection rates of much more populous states like New Jersey and North Carolina, states with 2 and 3* times the number of residents.
- Puerto Rico has the largest proportion (49%)* of its cumulative AIDS cases attributed to injection drug use among all U.S. states and territories, and the fourth largest proportion among U.S. states and territories.



Our Target Rural Mountainsides of PR



Cayey, Cidra, Comerío



El Punto en la Montaña

Is the only SEP that operates in rural mountainside of Puerto Rico



THE LIMITS OF TYRANTS ARE PRESCRIBED BY THE
ENDURANCE OF THOSE WHOM THEY OPPRESS

Services

Orientation/Education around:

- Rehabilitation Program
Methadone & Buprenorphine
- Amendment to Paraphernalia Law
- Prevention and Harm Reduction
HIV & Hepatitis C
- Food
- Donations
- SYRINGE EXCHANGE





QUEREMOS
Un mundo en el que
caben muchos mundos
ALTO A LA GUERRA
PAZ Y DIGNIDAD

Our Approach

PAR

Street Pedagogy
Harm Reduction

Freire & Fals Borda

Strategies

Empathy with
participants

House visits

On-going
movement (by
car) looking for
our participants



**QUEREMOS
UN MUNDO
DONDE
QUEPAN
MUCHOS
MUNDOS**

El Punto SEP Data



From 2008 to 2010 El Punto has enrolled over 530 participants in 3 Rural Municipalities.

EPM DATA

In 2008 El Punto en la Montaña (EPM) picked up a total of 10,436 syringes and handed out 19,288 for a return rate of 52%

In 2009 El Punto picked up a total of 20,805 and distributed 45,114 for a return rate of 46.

Finally, as of November 2010, a total of 24,483 were disposed and 41,361 were distributed for a return rate of 59%.

In total, over the years between 2008-2010, El Punto has distributed 105,763 syringes while over 55,724 have been disposed of safely. We have an averaged return rate of 52%.



EPM

Demographics

Age Range:

18-24:	6%
25-34:	30%
35-49:	55%
50+:	9%

Gender:

Male:	91%
Female:	9%

Housing status:

Homeless:	33%
Rental:	8%
Housing Projects:	56%
Other:	3%



Of the newly enrolled participants, 98 % stated not ever receiving services from any other SEP other



92% have NEVER heard of SEP prior to enrollment in El Punto en la Montaña.



EPM Data

62% reported both, “panhandling” as the main income source as well as using “shooting galleries” as the primary venues for injecting drugs.

60% reports injecting from 3 to 5 times a day

32% reports injection frequency of 5 to 10 times a day.

A distressing 46% reports using needles someone else have already used

51% reported passing on their used needles to other IDUs.

Barriers

Extremely limited budget

Limited hours of operation

Limited staffing

Limited harm reduction (life saving) supplies

Encountering medical needs we can not solve

Lack of governmental support (Federal and National)

Extreme poverty



Barriers Cont.

Users' unawareness
of the change in
the Paraphernalia
Law

Refusal to carry
needles on them

Disbelief of legality

Constant Police
presence and
occupations



Achievements

Program is embraced by drug-users
and relatives

Increase of active and enrolled
participants

Participants motivate fellow peers to
enroll in SEP

More communication between staff
and participants increasing
education

Get to know of new places where to
expand





The Future of EPM

El Punto is in the process of
getting 501c(3) status

Constantly looking for
different funding sources

We are going to expand
services to a 4th
Municipality of Aguas
Buenas

Organizing EPM Festival
(oureach, fundraising)

Special Thanks

CitiWide Harm Reduction

Amor que Sana

National AIDS Fund

MAC AIDS Fund

TIDES Foundation

North American Syringe Exchange Network NASEN

