Information Sheets and Consent Forms

This document includes the Participant Information Sheet and consent questions for all activities in the informed consent forms for the study:

Evaluation of the *Music Television 'Shuga'* Peer Education program with young people in two settings of South Africa

A collaboration between Epicentre Health Research (South Africa) and London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (LSHTM)

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Information sheet and consent for volunteers aged 14-17 years in the online survey (ACTIVITY 1)

Date: October 2024

Title of this research study:

Evaluation of the MTV Shuga Peer Education programme with young people in PMB and Cape Town, South Africa

Hello! Thank you for visiting our project website to learn about this study. This website is data-free, so you won't use your mobile or home data.

We have a <u>video</u> that introduces the study, and important information is listed here. There is also a more detailed summary, if you wish to read more here *link* to the more detailed Participant Information Sheet>.

What is this study about?

This study wants to find out how the MTV Shuga Peer Education program helps young people. This will help to make the program and other similar ones better for young people in South Africa.

Who is doing this study?

We are researchers from a company called Epicentre in South Africa. We do not work for MTV Shuga, your school, or the government. Our job is to listen to you and learn from your experience.

If you have any questions before you agree to join the study, you can contact us on WhatsApp on 072 843 7564 or call us at 031 880 2150 or email info@epicentre.org.za. You can also reach us at our office at 2 Knelsby Avenue, Hillcrest, KwaZulu Natal, 3650.

Why were you invited to join?

You are invited because you are part of the MTV Shuga Peer Education program. We want to hear from young people like you in Pietermaritzburg and Cape Town.

What do you need to do?

The study has different activities to learn about your experience with the Peer Education program. Here are the activities:

- Online Survey 1: This is the first survey. It is online and data-free. It asks about what you expect from the Peer Education program. You can take it by yourself in a private place on your phone, computer, or tablet. It takes 20-30 minutes. If you need help, you can send a WhatsApp message to 072 843 7564 or call us (full contact details are below and on your invitation card). Try to answer honestly and completely.
- Online Survey 2: After the Peer Education program ends, we will invite you to a second survey (even if you did not finish the Peer Education sessions). It will ask about your experience in the program, like which sessions you joined.

- Online Survey 3: 4-6 weeks after the Peer Education program, we will invite you to a final survey. It will ask what you remember and how the program influenced your health and well-being.
- PhotoVoice Project: If you finish the first survey, you will be invited to join the "PhotoVoice" project on WhatsApp. You can share photos, videos, voice notes, graphics, and comments about your experience with the Peer Education program. These will be kept private, for the research team only.
- **Interviews**: We will randomly pick a few people for interviews. These interviews will be in person with a researcher, over 2 time points. You can choose the best time and place. The interviews will help us learn more about your experience with the Peer Education program.

What are the risks and benefits?

- Risks: The surveys will ask questions about you, your views, and your experience with TV and media. There will be questions about your health, like HIV testing, and other health services. Some questions might feel personal or make you uncomfortable. You can choose "I prefer not to answer" for any question. You can also stop at any time, without giving a reason. There are no physical risks involved in the study.
- Benefits: You will learn about youth services. We will share the study results with you. You
 can give your feedback on these results. This will help us to share lessons with MTV Staying
 Alive Foundation, the Government of South Africa, and youth organisations. Your answers
 can help improve programs like MTV Shuga and other health campaigns for young people in
 South Africa.

Who has approved this study?

The study and all documentation have been approved by research ethics committees in South Africa, by the University of Kwa-Zulu-Natal Humanities & Social Sciences Research Ethics Committee (HSSREC), and in the United Kingdom (the ethics board of the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine).

If you have questions about the study, you can access contact us through WhatsApp on 072 843 7564 or call us at 031 765 3266 (Pietermaritzburg) or 021 201 1658 (Cape Town).

If you would like to contact the study's lead Investigators, you may do so with the contact information below.

Cherie Cawood

South Africa Principal Investigator, and CEO Epicentre Health Research, Ltd

https://epicentre.org.za/

Address: 2 Builders Way, Hillcrest, Durban KZN Telephone: 031 765 3266 / 021 201 1658

Email: cheriec@epicentre.org.za

Isolde Birdthistle, PhD

Principal Investigator, and Associate Professor London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine

http://www.lshtm.ac.uk

Address: Keppel Street, London, WC1E 7HT, United

Kingdom

Telephone: +44 207 636 8636

Email: lsolde.Birdthistle@lshtm.ac.uk

If you have questions about your rights as someone taking part in a research study, or the conduct of this study, you can contact:

HUMANITIES & SOCIAL SCIENCES RESEARCH ETHICS ADMINISTRATION

Research Office, Westville Campus Govan Mbeki Building University of KwaZulu-Natal Private Bag X 54001, Durban, 4000 KwaZulu-Natal, SOUTH AFRICA

Tel: 27 31 2602486 / 4769 - Fax: 27 31 2604609

Email: BREC@ukzn.ac.za

Do I have to participate?

No, you do not have to participate. It is your choice, and no one can force you. The research team will not pressure you. If you decide not to join or want to stop after starting, that's okay. We will respect your decision. It will not affect your school, club, health services, or your chance to be part of the Peer Education program or other research in the future.

Will I be compensated?

Yes, we will offer you airtime credit worth [\$5] as a thank you for your time. You can get this after each survey and each interview. To send you the credit, we will need your phone number or email. We will keep this information private. It will only be used for this study and will be deleted when the study ends.

Confidentiality: Are my answers private?

Yes, your answers will stay private. We will not ask for your name, address, school, or workplace. You will use a special code to log in. Your answers will not be shared with the peer education program, your school, your family, or anyone outside the research team. Our team members have signed agreements to protect your data and keep the information safe. The research findings will be shared as summaries, so no one can identify who gave which answers.

How do I consent to participate?

Before you start the first survey, we will ask you to confirm that you agree to join the study. You will do this by answering a few questions on the study webpage. This shows that you understand the study and want to participate. The consent questions are also at the bottom of this document, so you can see them before you start.

Because you are 14-17 years old, your parent or guardian also needs to give their consent. They can do this by checking the boxes on the webpage. This will appear before you start. More information for parents/guardians is available on the webpage link to the guardian/parent information sheet>.

Consent/Assent

Title of study: Evaluation of the MTV Shuga Peer Education programme with young people in PMB and Cape Town, South Africa

Copy of the consent questions you will be asked to complete on the web-page, before starting the first online survey.

I have read the information concerning the programme" or viewed the information v	ne study "Evaluation of the MTV Shuga Peer Education ideo on the website.		
I understand the purpose and procedures	s of the study		
I declare that my participation in this stud without consequence.	dy is entirely voluntary and that I may withdraw at any time		
I have been given the opportunity to a contacting the study team by phone, text	ask questions through the WhatsApp chat feature or by or email.		
I have been informed that I will be offere survey.	ed compensation [\$5 airtime], for my participation in each		
•	s or queries related to the study I understand that I may th Research (cheriec@epicentre.org.za) or Isolde Birdthistle dedicine (lsolde.Birdthistle@lshtm.ac.uk)		
If I have any questions or concerns about my rights as a study participant, or if I am concerned about an aspect of the study or the researchers, I understand I may contact:			
HUMANITIES & SOCIAL SCIENCES RESEARCH ETHICS ADMINISTRATION Research Office, Westville Campus Govan Mbeki Building Private Bag X 54001 Durban 4000			
Please select the following answer	☐ No, these statements ☐ Yes, these statements are not true are true		

I hereby provide consent to the following activities by ticking the box below:

De	scription		
•	I agree to take part in the online surveys.	☐ No	☐ Yes
•	I agree to be invited to the Photovoice activity. If I choose to participate, I consent to the photos and videos I provide as part of the activity to be used for research purposes.	☐ No	☐ Yes
•	I agree to be contacted for the in-depth interviews.	☐ No	☐ Yes

Information sheet and consent for volunteers in the online survey (ACTIVITY 1)

Title of study: Evaluation of the MTV Shuga Peer Education programme with young people in PMB and Cape Town, South Africa

Date: October 2024

Greeting: Hello, thank you for linking to the project website to learn about this research study! We hope that you have had the opportunity to watch the information video <insert link>, which we will explain in more depth here so that you are well informed before you choose to participate. This website is data-free so your mobile or home data will not be charged.

We are from Epicentre Health Research. Our offices are at 2 Knelsby Avenue, Hillcrest, KwaZulu Natal, 3650. Telephone number 031 880 2150 and email address info@epicentre.org.za. The tile of our research is Evaluation of the MTV Shuga Peer Education programme with young people in PMB and Cape Town, South Africa. This study is funded by the MTV Staying Alive Foundation to explore whether and how the MTV Shuga Peer Education programme benefits young people's health and well-being. The aim of the study is to learn lessons to improve the MTV Shuga peer education and other peer education and media campaigns for young people.

You are invited to participate in this study because we would like to hear directly from young people participating in the *MTV Shuga* Peer Education programme. The study is expected to enrol all participants of the current peer education programme in Pietermaritzburg and Cape Town. It will involve the following procedures:

The study includes a variety of research methods to learn about your experience with the Peer Education programme. They are interactive in different ways, and include the following:

- 1. The first activity is an online survey, which is available to complete on the website now, without incurring data charges. This is a questionnaire designed to capture your expectations at the beginning of the Peer Education programme. We invite you to complete the survey by yourself in a private place. It is expected to take between 20-30 minutes. Should you need assistance with the questionnaire, you can ask questions via the WhatsApp chat feature, or by contacting the research team by phone. The more honestly and completely you can answer the questions, the more valuable the research will be.
 - When the Peer Education programme has concluded, we will invite you to complete a follow-up survey about your engagement with the programme (survey number 2). And 4-6 weeks after the Peer Education programme, we will invite you to complete a third and final online survey, to capture your reflections and the ways in which the programme influenced your health and well-being (survey number 3).
- 2. All participants who complete the online survey will be invited to participate in a Photovoice project, where you can share your own media (photos, videos, voice-notes, graphics), comments, and stories about the programme, with the research team via WhatsApp.
- 3. Finally, we will invite a smaller, random selection of study participants to participate in detailed interviews, to learn in more depth about your experience of the Peer Education programme. For that smaller group of participants, two interviews will be held in-person with a researcher. If you are contacted about this activity, you can choose the best time and place for these interviews.

The study is hosted by researchers at Epicentre, a South African health research company. We do not represent the Peer Education programme, or MTV Shuga, or your school, or the Government of South

Africa. We are independent researchers and our aim is to listen and learn to you, the participants of the Peer Education programme.

What are the risks and benefits of participating?

The study may involve the following minimal risks or discomforts. In the questionnaire, you will be asked some questions about yourself, your views and beliefs, your experience with TV and media, as well as your sexual health and experience with health services. This will include questions about accessing HIV testing, services and treatment. We will also ask you questions about your emotional wellbeing, body confidence, and if you have sought violence-related services, including sexual violence. Some of the questions may be sensitive (due to their personal nature) and could cause emotional discomfort. You can select the option 'I prefer not to answer' for any question that makes you uncomfortable. You can also stop participating at any time, without any consequence or having to give a reason. If the questions have raised issues that you would like to discuss further with a counsellor or support worker, we would be happy to help with this. For example, we will be able to recommend counselling or health services. There are no physical risks involved with participation.

We hope that the study will create the following benefits. All participants will be made aware of youth services, which will be listed on the study website. You will also be given the option to participate in the follow-on research activities for this study. That can include the in-depth interviews with a researcher. Also, the study findings will be shared with participants, along with opportunities to offer your ideas and feedback to interpret and reflect on the findings. This will help us to share lessons with Dlalanathi, Snapshot Mobile Cinema, MTV Staying Alive Foundation, the Government of South Africa, and research funders.

Your contributions to this study will help to identify important needs and solutions to promote the health and development of young people. For example, the findings can help to improve peer education and media campaigns and health services for adolescents and young adults across South Africa and more widely across Africa.

Who has approved this study?

The study and all documentation have been approved by research ethics committees in South Africa, by the University of Kwa-Zulu-Natal Humanities & Social Sciences Research Ethics Committee (HSSREC), and in the United Kingdom (the ethics board of the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine).

If you have questions about the study, you can access contact us through WhatsApp on 072 843 7564 or call us at 031 765 3266 (Pietermaritzburg) or 021 201 1658 (Cape Town).

If you would like to contact the study's Principal Investigators, you may do so with the contact information below.

Cherie Cawood

South Africa Principal Investigator, and CEO Epicentre Health Research, Ltd

https://epicentre.org.za/

Address: 2 Builders Way, Hillcrest, Durban KZN

Telephone: 031 765 3266 / 021 201 1658

Email: cheriec@epicentre.org.za

Isolde Birdthistle, PhD

Principal Investigator, and Associate Professor London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine http://www.lshtm.ac.uk

Address: Keppel Street, London, WC1E 7HT, United

Kingdom

Telephone: +44 207 636 8636

Email: lsolde.Birdthistle@lshtm.ac.uk

If you have questions about your rights as someone taking part in a research study, or the conduct of this study, you can contact: [Pending approval]

HUMANITIES & SOCIAL SCIENCES RESEARCH ETHICS ADMINISTRATION Research Office, Westville Campus Govan Mbeki Building University of KwaZulu-Natal Private Bag X 54001, Durban, 4000 KwaZulu-Natal, SOUTH AFRICA

Tel: 27 31 2602486 / 4769 - Fax: 27 31 2604609

Email: BREC@ukzn.ac.za

Do I have to participate?

No, the decision to participate is completely voluntary. It is your own decision to make, without any influence from the research team or others. If you choose not to participate, or to withdraw after starting, we will respect your decision and it will not affect anything related to your schooling or your access to health services, or the opportunity to participate in the Peer Education programme other research.

Will I be compensated?

As a token of appreciation and recognition of your time, you will be offered airtime credit to the value of [\$5], upon conclusion of each questionnaire and interview. You will need to provide your phone or email contact information to receive the credit. Your contact information will be used for this purpose of this study only; it will not be shared with third parties, and will be destroyed after use for this study.

Confidentiality: Are my answers private?

Yes, your data will be confidential. In the research activities, we will not ask for your name, or your address, school, institute, or workplace. The unique code that you used to login will serve as a substitute for your name. Also, you can choose a nick-name to be used for this research project. Your individual answers will not be shared with the peer education programme or your school or your family or anyone outside of the research team. The research team members have signed Confidentiality Agreements, committing them to protecting the data and not sharing your data with any information that may identify you. The research findings will be presented in summary formats, without the ability to identify individuals that participated.

Upon completing each online questionnaire, you will be asked if you wish to receive airtime credit as compensation for your time. To receive the credit, you will need to provide your phone number or an email address. We will not share this information with third parties and we will delete it after the study has concluded. See below for further information about compensation.

How do I consent to participate?

Before you proceed with the first online questionnaire, we will ask you to confirm your consent to participate, by answering a series of consent questions on the study web-page. This will confirm that you have considered the study information and chosen to participate voluntarily. A copy of the consent questions is listed at the bottom of this document.

If you are aged 14-17 years, your parent/guardian must also indicate their consent for you to participate. They can do this by answering the Guardian tick boxes on the consent web-page, before you begin.

Further information for parents/guardians is available on the web-page here <insert link>.

Consent/A	Assent
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Title of study: Evaluation of the MTV Shuga Peer Education programme with young people in PMB

and Cape Town, South Africa			
Copy of the consent questions you will be asked to complete on the web-page, before starting the first online questionnaire.			
I have read the information concerning the study "Evaluation of the MTV Shuga Peer Education programme" or viewed the information video on the website.			
I understand the purpose and procedures of the study			
I declare that my participation in this study is entirely voluntary and that I may withdraw at any time without consequence.			
I have been given the opportunity to ask questions through the WhatsApp chat feature or by contacting the study team by phone, text or email.			
I have been informed that I will be compensated [\$5 airtime], for my participation in this study.			
If I have any further questions/concerns or queries related to the study I understand that I may contact Cherie Cawood at Epicentre Health Research (cheriec@epicentre.org.za) or Isolde Birdthistle at London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (lsolde.Birdthistle@lshtm.ac.uk)			
If I have any questions or concerns about my rights as a study participant, or if I am concerned about an aspect of the study or the researchers, I understand I may contact:			
HUMANITIES & SOCIAL SCIENCES RESEARCH ETHICS ADMINISTRATION Research Office, Westville Campus Govan Mbeki Building Private Bag X 54001 Durban 4000			
Please select the following answer No, these statements are not true Yes, these statements are true			

I hereby provide consent to the following activities by ticking the box below:

De	scription		
•	I agree to take part in the online surveys.	☐ No	☐ Yes

•	I agree to be invited to the Photovoice activity. If I choose to participate, I consent to the photos and videos I provide as part of the activity to be used for research purposes.	☐ No	☐ Yes
•	I agree to be contacted for the in-depth interviews.	☐ No	☐ Yes

Information for parents/guardians of 14-17 year-old children invited to participate in the MTV Shuga Peer Education evaluation

Title of study: Evaluation of the MTV Shuga Peer Education programme with young people in PMB and Cape Town, South Africa

Dear parent or legal guardian,

We are inviting young people who are participating in the *MTV Shuga Peer Education* to participate in a research evaluation of the programme. The study is being conducted by health researchers and is independent of MTV, the government, schools and the organisations implementing the Peer Education in Pietermaritzburg and Cape Town.

You can find further information about the study on the study website in the form of:

- 1) an information video <insert link to online information video>, and
- 2) a detailed Information Sheet for young people <insert link to information sheet for volunteers, above>.

We encourage you to view and read this information and discuss it with your child.

The study will include young people aged 14-25 years. If your child is aged 14-17 years (a legal minor), we require that you provide guardian consent by answering the consent questions on the study webpage <insert web link> before your child participates. A copy of the consent questions is listed at the bottom of this document.

We hope that you will agree there are important benefits to this research, to improve Peer Education programmes, health services and media campaigns for young people. Thank you for your attention and supporting the participation of your child.

Sincerely,

Cherie Cawood and Isolde Birdthistle

If you have questions about the study, you can access contact us through WhatsApp on 072 843 7564 or call us at 031 765 3266 (Pietermaritzburg) or 021 201 1658 (Cape Town).

If you would like to contact the study's Principal Investigators, you may do so with the contact information below.

Cherie Cawood

South Africa Principal Investigator, and CEO Epicentre Health Research, Ltd

https://epicentre.org.za/

Address: 2 Builders Way, Hillcrest, Durban KZN

Telephone: 031 765 3266 / 021 201 1658

Isolde Birdthistle, PhD

Principal Investigator, and Associate Professor London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine http://www.lshtm.ac.uk

Address: Keppel Street, London, WC1E 7HT, United

Kingdom

Email: cheriec@epicentre.org.za
Telephone: +44 207 636 8636

Email: lsolde.Birdthistle@lshtm.ac.uk

If you and or your child have any questions or concerns about their rights as a study participant, or if you are concerned about an aspect of the study or the researchers then you may contact:

HUMANITIES & SOCIAL SCIENCES RESEARCH ETHICS ADMINISTRATION Research Office, Westville Campus Govan Mbeki Building University of KwaZulu-Natal Private Bag X 54001, Durban, 4000 KwaZulu-Natal, SOUTH AFRICA

Tel: 27 31 2602486 / 4769 - Fax: 27 31 2604609

Email: BREC@ukzn.ac.za

Consent for parents/guardians of volunteers aged 14-17 years

Below are the consent questions you will be asked to complete on t before your child/ward can participate in the study.	he study v	veb-pa <u>c</u>	ge <insert< th=""><th>link>,</th></insert<>	link>,
I have read the information concerning the study "Evaluation of the programme" or viewed the information video on the website.	e MTV Shu	ga Peer	^r Education	n
I understand the purpose and procedures of the study				
I declare that my child's participation in this study is entirely volur at any time without consequence.	itary and t	hat the	y may wit	hdraw
I have been given the opportunity to ask questions through the contacting the study team by phone, text or email.	ie WhatsA	opp cha	t feature	or by
I have been informed that my child will be compensated [\$5 airtistudy.	me], for th	neir par	ticipation	in this
If I have any further questions/concerns or queries related to the contact Cherie Cawood at Epicentre Health Research (cheriec@epicat.con at London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (lsolde.Birdthistle	centre.org	<u>.za)</u> or l		•
If I have any questions or concerns about my child's rights as a stude concerned about an aspect of the study or the researchers then I m			flam	
HUMANITIES & SOCIAL SCIENCES RESEARCH ETHICS ADMINISTRATION Research Office, Westville Campus Govan Mbeki Building Private Bag X 54001 Durban 4000	TION			
Please select the following answer No, these statement are not true		Yes, th	ese state	ments
I hereby provide consent for my child to participate in the following a	ctivities by	/ ticking	the box b	elow:
Description				
I agree that my child can take part in the online surveys.		No		Yes
• I agree that my child can be invited to the Photovoice activity. If my child chooses to participate, I consent to the photos and videos they provide as part of the activity to be used for research purposes only.		No		Yes
• I agree that my child can be contacted for the in-depth		No		Yes

interviews.

Additional information & consent for volunteers in the virtual Photovoice project [Activity 2]

*Please note that volunteers consented to be invited to the Photovoice activity prior to their participation in the online survey and that their photos and videos will be used for research purposes if they choose to participate. At the point of invitation, the following additional information and opt-out opportunity will be given.

INFORMATION & CONSENT FOR VOLUNTEERS IN THE VIRTUAL PHOTOVOICE PROJECT

Title of study: Evaluation of the MTV Shuga Peer Education programme with young people in PMB and Cape Town, South Africa

Message to be sent via WhatsApp to the contact number the participant provided in the online survey.

Hello, and thank you for completing the first online survey for the MTV Shuga Peer Education evaluation.

We would now like to invite you to participate in the Photovoice project. This is an opportunity for you to share your experiences of the Peer Education programme through your own media, stories, and comments to the research team via WhatsApp.

We will send you questions each week, and you are welcome to share your responses in the form of photos, videos, voice-notes, graphics, stickers or any type of expression you wish. To protect your privacy, your responses will only be visible to the administrator and other members of the research team.

If you prefer to opt-out of the Photovoice project at any time, please type Unsubscribe in reply and we will remove you from the Photovoice space. You will remain in the wider research study and we will stay in touch about upcoming activities.

Information Sheet to Participate in Research in-depth interviews (qualitative cohort) [Activity 3]

Title of study: Evaluation of the MTV Shuga Peer Education programme with young people in PMB and Cape Town, South Africa

Date: October 2024

Greeting: Hello,

My name is ______ I work for Epicentre, at address 2 Knelsby Avenue, Hillcrest, KwaZulu Natal, 3650. Telephone number 031 880 2150 and email address info@epicentre.org.za. I am part of the

The aim and purpose of this research is to understand how the Peer Education programme, which is part of the *MTV Shuga 'Down South Season 3' ('DS3') campaign*, influences the health and well-being of young people in PMB/ Cape Town.

research team evaluating the MTV Shuga Peer Education programme. The title of our research is Evaluation of the MTV Shuga Peer Education programme with young people in PMB and Cape Town,

Thank you for agreeing to join the study, and participating in the first online survey. You may remember from the online videos and study information that there are different activities in this evaluation. We are now inviting you to participate in more detailed interviews, to learn in more depth about your experience with the Peer Education programme.

In this part of the study, we expect to enroll 20 participants from Petermaritsburg and 20 from Cape Town who were enrolled in the Peer Education programme

[For interview one] Today, we want to learn about your hopes and expectations for the Peer Education programme, and more about young people's access to services and support for your health and wellbeing.

[For interview two] Today, we are interested in learning about your experiences with the Peer Education programme, what went well, and what could be improved. We want to understand how the Peer education programme has influenced your choices and feelings, especially around health, relationships and your well-being.

You have been chosen from all participants of the online survey, randomly selected on the basis of your age, gender, and whether you have had any prior experience with MTV Shuga. We aimed for a balance of males and females across the age span of 14-25 years (the age of Peer Education participants).

The study will involve the following procedures:

South Africa.

[For interview one] We invite you to participate in two in-depth interviews. Each interview will be inperson, facilitated by [the researcher's name] and will last up to 1.5 hours. I will take notes as we speak, and if you agree, the interview will be audio-recorded. I will ask you questions about your past experiences with MTV Shuga 'Down South' and other peer education campaigns. I will also ask

you to share your experiences with sexual health services, such as HIV testing, prevention and treatment, and other sources of support for your health and well-being. I will follow up with you for another interview approximately 4-6 weeks after the Peer Education has ended, to hear about your experiences with the Peer Education programme.

[For interview two] You are invited to participate in today's second interview about the MTV Shuga Peer Education programme. The interview will last about 1.5 hours. I will take notes as we speak, and if you agree, the interview will be audio-recorded. We will ask you about your experience with the MTV Shuga peer education programme, what you liked, and what could be improved. We also want to know about how it has influenced your ability to seek sexual health and well-being services.

What are the risks and benefits of participating?

The study may involve the following risks and/or discomforts. During the in-depth interviews you will be asked some personal questions about your views and beliefs, your experience with Peer Education, as well as your sexual health and relationship experiences. We will also ask you questions about your emotional wellbeing, body confidence and if you have sought HIV related services, violence related services, including sexual violence. Some questions may be sensitive (due to their personal nature) and could cause emotional discomfort. You can tell the interviewer you do not want to answer some questions. You can also stop participating at any time without any consequence or having to give a reason. If the questions have raised issues that you would like to discuss further with a counsellor or support worker, we would be happy to help with this. For example, we can recommend counselling or health services.

We hope that the study will create the following benefits. You will be given the option to be more involved in the research by helping the research team to interpret and reflect on summaries of the research findings and helping us to share lessons with MTV Staying Alive Foundation and the Government of South Africa. Your contributions to this study will help to identify important needs and solutions to promote the health and development of young people, for example, by improving peer education campaigns and health services for adolescents and young adults across South Africa and more widely across Africa.

Who has approved this study?

This study has been ethically reviewed and approved by the UKZN Humanities and Social Sciences Research Ethics Committee, and in the United Kingdom (the ethics board of the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine).

If you have questions about the interview or the study, you can take the opportunity to ask any questions before you proceed.

Also, at any time, you can contact:

Cherie Cawood	Isolde Birdthistle, PhD
South Africa Principal Investigator, and CEO	Principal Investigator, and Associate Professor
Epicentre Health Research, Ltd	London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine
https://epicentre.org.za/	http://www.lshtm.ac.uk
	Address: Keppel Street, London, WC1E 7HT, United
	Kingdom

Address: 2 Builders Way, Hillcrest, Durban KZN | Telephone: +44 207 636 8636

Email: cheriec@epicentre.org.za

In the event of any problems or concerns/questions you may contact the researcher at (provide contact details) or the UKZN Humanities & Social Sciences Research Ethics Committee, contact details as follows:

HUMANITIES & SOCIAL SCIENCES RESEARCH ETHICS ADMINISTRATION Research Office, Westville Campus Govan Mbeki Building University of KwaZulu-Natal Private Bag X 54001, Durban, 4000 KwaZulu-Natal, SOUTH AFRICA

Tel: 27 31 2602486 / 4769 - Fax: 27 31 2604609

Email: <u>HSSREC@ukzn.ac.za</u>

Do I have to participate?

No, you are not obliged to participate. The decision to participate is completely voluntary and your own decision to make, without any influence from the research team or your school/institute. If you choose not to participate, or to withdraw after starting, we will respect your decision and it will not affect anything related to your schooling or your access to health services, or the opportunity to participate in other research.

Will I be compensated?

As a token of appreciation and recognition of your time, you will receive a voucher [for airtime/food] in the value of [\$5].

Confidentiality: Are my answers private?

Yes, all of your answers will be treated confidentially. We will use the unique code that you were assigned for the online survey. It will continue to be used on all study documents instead of your name. Your answers will not be shared with your Peer Educators, anyone attending the sessions, your family or anyone outside the research team. The research team members have signed Confidentiality Agreements in which they commit to protecting the data securely and not sharing your data with any information that may identify you. The research findings will be presented as summaries without the ability to identify individuals. We would like to use anonymous quotes in the reporting of this study (with no names linked to quotes). You will have the option to agree or refuse to consent to this on the Consent Form.

Consent to participate in-person interviews ADULTS >18 YEARS (qualitative cohort)

Title of study : Evaluation of the MTV Shuga Peer Education programme with young people in PMB and Cape Town, South Africa				
Do you have any questions before you begin?	□ No	☐ Yes. ANSWER QUESTIONS		
Do you agree with the following statements?				
I have been informed about the study entitled Education programme with young people in PMB and Cape Townessearcher		_		
I have read the information concerning the in depth interviews for Peer Education programme.	or the Evaluation	of the MTV Shuga		
I understand the purpose and procedures of the study				
I declare that my participation in this study is entirely voluntary and that I may withdraw at any time without consequence.				
I have been given an opportunity to answer questions about the study and have had answers to my satisfaction				
I have been informed that I will be compensation [\$5], for my pa	articipation in this	study.		
If I have any further questions/concerns or queries related to the study I understand that I may contact Cherie Cawood at Epicentre Health Research (cheriec@epicentre.org.za) or Isolde Birdthistle at London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (Isolde.Birdthistle@Ishtm.ac.uk)				
If I have any questions or concerns about my rights as a study participant, or if I am concerned about an aspect of the study or the researchers, I understand I may contact:				
HUMANITIES & SOCIAL SCIENCES RESEARCH ETHICS ADMINISTRATION Research Office, Westville Campus Govan Mbeki Building Private Bag X 54001 Durban 4000				
Do you agree with the above statements	□ No	☐ Yes.		

I hereby provide respond to the following question and provide consent to:

Do you agree to take part in the study?				No. END	☐ Yes
Do you agree to be contacted after the study, to help in the interpretation of findings, or to share lessons with those who can improve young people's health? (in those activities, lessons will be kept general and no data will be linked directly to you or other individuals)				No	If yes, please provide contact information valid for the next 6 months
Do you agree for your intervinesearch purposes	ew to be audio	recorded for		No	☐ Yes
Do you agree for anonymous q reporting of this study? (with no		•		No. MAKE NOTE	☐ Yes
PARTICIPANT (18 YEARS AND (OLDER)				
Printed Name	Signature/Mark or Th	numbprint		Date and Time	
TRANSLATOR / OTHER PERSON	EXPLAINING INF	ORMED CONSI	ENT		(DESIGNATION):
Printed Name	Signature/Mark or Th	numbprint		Date and Time	
WITNESS (If applicable):=					
Printed Name	Signature/Mark or Th	numbprint		Date and Time	
TO BE COMPLETED BY INTERVIEWER Name of Interviewer (Print):					
Also, at any time, you can contac	t:				
Cherie Cawood South Africa Principal Investigator, and CEO Epicentre Health Research, Ltd https://epicentre.org.za/ Address: 2 Builders Way, Hillcrest, Durban KZN Telephone: 031 765 3266 / 021 201 1658 Email: cheriec@epicentre.org.za Isolde Birdthistle, PhD Principal Investigator, and Associate Professor London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine http://www.lshtm.ac.uk Address: Keppel Street, London, WC1E 7HT, Unite Kingdom Telephone: +44 207 636 8636 Email: Isolde.Birdthistle@lshtm.ac.uk			opical Medicine n, WC1E 7HT, United		

Parental Consent

Dear parent or legal guardian,

We are inviting young people who are participating in the MTV Shuga Peer Education to participate in an in-depth research interview so that we can learn more about the programme. The study is being conducted by health researchers and is independent of MTV, the government, schools and the organisations implementing the Peer Education in Pietermaritzburg and Cape Town.

We encourage you to view and read the information sheet and discuss it with your child.

The study will include young people aged 14-25 years. If your child is aged 14-17 years (a legal minor), we require that you provide guardian consent by answering the consent questions before your child participates. A copy of the consent questions is listed at the bottom of this document.

We hope that you will agree there are important benefits to this research, to improve Peer Education programmes, health services and media campaigns for young people. Thank you for your attention and supporting the participation of your child.

Sincerely,

Cherie Cawood and Isolde Birdthistle

If you have questions about the study, you can access contact us through WhatsApp on 072 843 7564 or call us at 031 765 3266 (Pietermaritzburg) or 021 201 1658 (Cape Town).

If you would like to contact the study's Principal Investigators, you may do so with the contact information below.

Cherie Cawood

South Africa Principal Investigator, and CEO Epicentre Health Research, Ltd

https://epicentre.org.za/

Address: 2 Builders Way, Hillcrest, Durban KZN

Telephone: 031 765 3266 / 021 201 1658

Email: cheriec@epicentre.org.za

Isolde Birdthistle, PhD

Principal Investigator, and Associate Professor London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine

http://www.lshtm.ac.uk

Address: Keppel Street, London, WC1E 7HT, United

Kingdom

Telephone: +44 207 636 8636

Email: Isolde.Birdthistle@Ishtm.ac.uk

If you and or your child have any questions or concerns about my rights as a study participant, or if you are concerned about an aspect of the study or the researchers then you may contact:

HUMANITIES & SOCIAL SCIENCES RESEARCH ETHICS ADMINISTRATION Research Office, Westville Campus Govan Mbeki Building University of KwaZulu-Natal Private Bag X 54001, Durban, 4000 KwaZulu-Natal, SOUTH AFRICA

Tel: 27 31 2602486 / 4769 - Fax: 27 31 2604609

Email: HSSREC@ukzn.ac.za

Parental /Guardian consent form for volunteers in the in-person interviews (qualitative cohort) – Less than 18 years of age

Title of study : Evaluation of the MTV Shuga Peer Education and Cape Town, South Africa	tion programme with	young people in PMB
Do you have any questions before you begin?	□ No	☐ Yes. ANSWER QUESTIONS
Do you agree with the following statements?		
I (parent or guardian's name) the parent or legal guardia the study entitled Evaluation of the "MTV Shuga Peer E Epicentre Health Research (Name).	•	
I understand the purpose and procedures of the study		
I declare that my child's participation in this study is en at any time without consequence.	tirely voluntary and t	hat they may withdraw
I have been given an opportunity to answer questions a satisfaction.	about the study and h	ave had answers to my
I have been informed that my child will be compensation	n [\$5], for their partic	ipation in this study.
If I have any further questions/concerns or queries recontact Cherie Cawood at Epicentre Health Research (classical London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (Isology)	heriec@epicentre.org	<u>.za)</u> or Isolde Birdthistle
If I have any questions or concerns about my child's right concerned about an aspect of the study or the research	, , , , ,	-
HUMANITIES & SOCIAL SCIENCES RESEARCH ETHICS AE Research Office, Westville Campus Govan Mbeki Building Private Bag X 54001 Durban	DMINISTRATION	

Do you agree with the above statements		l No)	☐ Yes
hereby provide respond to the follo	owing question and provide co	onse	nt to:	
Do you agree for your child to take part in the study?			No. END	☐ Yes
Do you agree for your child to be contacted after the study, to help in the interpretation of findings, or to share lessons with those who can improve young people's health? (in those activities, lessons will be kept general and no data will be linked directly to your child or other individuals)		٥	No	Yes If yes, please provide contact information valid for the next 6 months
Do you agree for your child's interview to be audio recorded for research purposes		٥	No	☐ Yes
Do you agree for anonymous quotes of your child to be used as part of the reporting of this study? (with no names linked to the quotes)		٥	No. MAKE NOTE	☐ Yes
PARTICIPANT ASSENT (<18 YEARS	5)			
	ignature/Mark or Thumbprint		Date and Time	
	-			
CONSENT FOR PARENTS/GUARDIA	AN			
Printed Name S	ignature/Mark or Thumbprint		Date and Time	
TRANSLATOR / OTHER PERSON EX	ANING INFORMED CONS	ENIT		(DESIGNATION):
	ignature/Mark or Thumbprint		Date and Time	(DESIGNATION).
WITNESS (If applicable):=				
	ignature/Mark or Thumbprint		Date and Time	
TO BE COMPLETED BY INTERVIEWE Name of Interviewer (Print): Signature of Interviewer:				
Date:				

Also, at any time, you can contact:

Cherie Cawood

South Africa Principal Investigator, and CEO Epicentre Health Research, Ltd

https://epicentre.org.za/

Address: 2 Builders Way, Hillcrest, Durban KZN

Telephone: 031 765 3266 / 021 201 1658

Email: cheriec@epicentre.org.za

Isolde Birdthistle, PhD

Principal Investigator, and Associate Professor London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine

http://www.lshtm.ac.uk

Address: Keppel Street, London, WC1E 7HT, United

Kingdom

Telephone: +44 207 636 8636

Email: IsoIde.Birdthistle@Ishtm.ac.uk

INFORMATION SHEET FOR VOLUNTEERS IN THE FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSIONS WITH PEER EDUCATORS [ACTIVITY 4]

Title of study: Evaluation of the MTV Shuga Peer Education programme with young people in PMB and Cape Town, South Africa

Date:
Greeting: Hello,
My name isI work for Epicentre, at address 2 Knelsby Avenue, Hillcrest, KwaZulu Natal, 3650. Telephone number 031 880 2150 and email address info@epicentre.org.za. The tile of our research is Evaluation of the MTV Shuga Peer Education programme with young people in PMB and Cape Town, South Africa.

Epicentre, is a South African health research company. I do not represent the organisation running the Peer Education programme (Dlalanathi or Snapshot Mobile Cinema), or MTV Shuga, or the Government of South Africa. The study is independent research led by health researchers in South Africa and the United Kingdom.

You are being invited to consider participating in a study that involves research evaluating the MTV Shuga Peer Education programme. The goal of the evaluation is to understand how the programme influences young people's health and well-being, so that lessons can be applied to this programme and others. We wish to invite you to participate in a focus group discussion with other Peer Educators to understand your perspectives about the Peer Education programme. You were chosen at random from a list of all Peer Educators provided to us by your organisation. We sought a balance of Peer Educators of different ages and genders.

The aim and purpose of this study is to understand how the Peer Education programme, which is part of the *MTV-Shuga 'Down South Season 3' ('DS3') campaign*, influences the health and wellbeing of young people in PMB/ Cape Town. We want to hear from Peer Educators so that we learn from your unique experiences as facilitators of the programme. The study is espected to enroll 10 peer educators for a focus group in both sites, Petermaritsbutg and Cape Town.

The study will involve the following procedure. We would like to invite you to participate in an <u>informal group discussion</u> with other Peer Educators. The discussion will be led by 2 researchers [names] and is expected to last 1.5-2 hours. One researcher will take notes, and if participants all agree, the discussion will be audio-recorded. We will ask you questions about your experiences facilitating Peer Education groups and how it has influenced you. You do not need to share personal information about yourself, and you can speak generally about your experiences and observations.

What are the risks and benefits of participating?

The study may involve the following risks and/or discomforts. During the <u>group discussion</u>, you can stay silent during any parts of the discussion that make you uncomfortable. If you feel any participants are not respecting the 'rules of respectful discussion' or behaving respectfully toward other participants, you can state openly with the group, or in private with the interviewer at any time. There is a risk that other participants may share details of this discussion with others. We will

emphasise the importance of respect and confidentiality by all, at the beginning and end of the discussion. You can stop participating at any time, without consequence or having to give a reason.

We hope that the study will create the following benefits. You will be given the option to be more involved in the research by helping the research team to interpret and reflect on summaries of the research findings and helping us to share lessons with MTV Staying Alive Foundation and the Government of South Africa. Your contributions to this study will help to identify important needs and solutions to promote the health and development of young people, for example, by improving peer education campaigns and health services for adolescents and young adults across South Africa and more widely across Africa.

Who has approved this study?

This study has been ethically reviewed and approved by the UKZN Humanities and Social Sciences Research Ethics Committee, and in the United Kingdom (the ethics board of the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine).

If you have questions about the interview or the study, you can take the opportunity to ask any questions before you proceed. You can ask these verbally to the research team, or if you prefer not to ask in front of the group, you can write down any questions and hand them to the research team.

In the event of any problems or concerns/questions you may contact the researcher at (provide contact details) or the UKZN Humanities & Social Sciences Research Ethics Committee, contact details as follows:

HUMANITIES & SOCIAL SCIENCES RESEARCH ETHICS ADMINISTRATION Research Office, Westville Campus Govan Mbeki Building University of KwaZulu-Natal Private Bag X 54001, Durban, 4000 KwaZulu-Natal, SOUTH AFRICA

Tel: 27 31 2602486 / 4769 - Fax: 27 31 2604609

Email: BREC@ukzn.ac.za

Do I have to participate?

No, you are not obliged to participate. The decision to participate is completely voluntary and your own decision to make, without any influence from the research team or your organisation. If you choose not to participate, or to withdraw after starting, we will respect your decision and it will not affect anything related to your work with the Peer Education programme, or with MTV Shuga, or the opportunity to participate in other research.

Will I be compensated?

As a token of appreciation and recognition of your time, you will receive a voucher [for airtime/food] in the value of [\$5].

Confidentiality: Are my answers private?

Yes, all of your answers will be treated confidentially. We will not share the names of today's participants with any summaries or research reports. Nor will we share your name with your manager, organisation or anyone outside of the research team. The research team members have signed Confidentiality Agreements in which they commit to protecting the data securely and not sharing your data with any information that may identify you. The research findings will be presented as summaries without the ability to identify individuals. We would like to use anonymous quotes as part of the reporting of this study (with no names linked to the quote), and you will have the option to agree or refuse to consent to this on the Consent Form.

We ask that each of you treat this discussion as confidential and do not share personal information that has been discussed here with others when you leave. We will invite you to use a 'nick-name' of your choice during this activity to add to your privacy.

I can assure you that your managers, and the young people that attend your Peer Education sessions will not receive any individual data shared today by you or any other participants.

Consent form for volunteers in focus group discussions (peer educators) – Adults

For study entitled: Evaluation of the MTV Shuga Peer Education programme with young people in two settings of South Africa

two settings of south Africa		
Do you have any questions before you begin?	□ No	☐ Yes. ANSWER QUESTIONS
Do you agree with the following statements?		
I have been informed about the study e Education programme with young people in PMB and Caresearcher		
I have read the information concerning the in depth interper Education programme.	rviews for the Evaluat	tion of the MTV Shuga
I understand the purpose and procedures of the study		
I declare that my participation in this study is entirely volume without consequence.	untary and that I ma	y withdraw at any time
I have been given an opportunity to answer questions at satisfaction	oout the study and ha	ave had answers to my
I have been informed that I will be compensated [\$5], for	my participation in t	this study.
If I have any further questions/concerns or queries rel contact Cherie Cawood at Epicentre Health Research (che	•	•

at London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (Isolde.Birdthistle@lshtm.ac.uk)

If I have any questions or concerns about my rights as a study participant, or if I am concerned about an aspect of the study or the researchers, I understand I may contact: **HUMANITIES & SOCIAL SCIENCES RESEARCH ETHICS ADMINISTRATION** Research Office, Westville Campus Govan Mbeki Building Private Bag X 54001 Durban 4000 Do you agree with the above statements ☐ Yes. ☐ No I hereby provide respond to the following question and provide consent to: Do you agree to take part in the study? No. END Yes ☐ Yes Do you agree to be contacted after the study, to help in the ☐ If yes, please interpretation of findings, or to share lessons with those who provide can improve young people's health? (in those activities, ■ No contact lessons will be kept general and no data will be linked directly information to you or other individuals) valid for the next 6 months Do you agree for anonymous quotes to be used as part of the ☐ No. MAKE Yes reporting of this study? (with no names linked to the quotes) NOTE Do you agree for your interview to be audio recorded for ■ No Yes research purposes **PARTICIPANT (18 YEARS AND OLDER)** Printed Name Signature/Mark or Thumbprint Date and Time TRANSLATOR / OTHER PERSON EXPLAINING INFORMED CONSENT......(DESIGNATION): Printed Name Signature/Mark or Thumbprint Date and Time WITNESS (If applicable):= **Printed Name** Signature/Mark or Thumbprint Date and Time

Date:	
Also, at any time, you can contact:	

Cherie Cawood South Africa Principal Investigator, and CEO Epicentre Health Research, Ltd https://epicentre.org.za/

Address: 2 Builders Way, Hillcrest, Durban KZN Telephone: 031 765 3266 / 021 201 1658

Email: cheriec@epicentre.org.za

Isolde Birdthistle, PhD

Principal Investigator, and Associate Professor London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine http://www.lshtm.ac.uk

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