

PEZ DISPENSER

Fall/Winter Newsletter

2010

Special points of interest:

- Renew or discover interest in PEZ Projects with seasonal newsletters.
- Reflect with Dr. Sondra Solomon.
- Read about research results.
- Receive updates on PEZ team members and activities.
- Read about and support our new project

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A Snowy Owl

Autumn Winter Haiku

Sun filled days grow short
Moon and star light fills the sky
Look up! Renew! Breathe!

PEZ Greeting and Reflections from Dr. Sondra

Hello All,

I enjoy this time of year. The days are brisk and we have fewer hours of sunlight in the winter sky. This is not a time for gloom because there is much potential in the creative energy that winter offers. The North Country offers us a challenge with ice, snow, wind and rain and we have our own paths to navigate as well. Yet, this is a golden opportunity for us to look forward and make plans for another trip around the sun.

The PEZ team is moving forward, too. We are in the process of analyzing data, preparing articles for publication, and taking a look at the stories you have been telling us about your experiences living with HIV/AIDS from our first project. We continue to enroll new participants for our current project. Although we have recruited 30% of the participants we need to conduct our study we still need more of you to participate. Thanks to those of you who have participated at Time 1 and for coming back to participate at Time 2 and Time 3.

This PEZ Dispenser places the spotlight on James Hodge. Many of you may have met James at PEZ Projects at the University of Vermont when you participated in our current study. We also present aspects of Dr. Susan Richardson's work that emerged from her doctoral dissertation.

We are learning that HIV/AIDS stigma is a complex tapestry. Every story we hear and every piece of data we collect from you reveals another aspect of a complex interplay between perceptions of HIV/AIDS stigma and the fabric of the communities in which people with HIV/AIDS live.

Take note of the Autumn Winter Haiku. Remember to breathe and stay in the present moment. Take time to renew and reflect. Be gentle with one another and reach out to each other when the days are at their shortest. As always, the entire PEZ team is grateful that you continue to support our efforts. Continue to pass the word about our research. We are still in the recruitment phase and we need your help. You are our best ambassadors! Most of all..... remember to breathe.

With gratitude,
Dr. Sondra



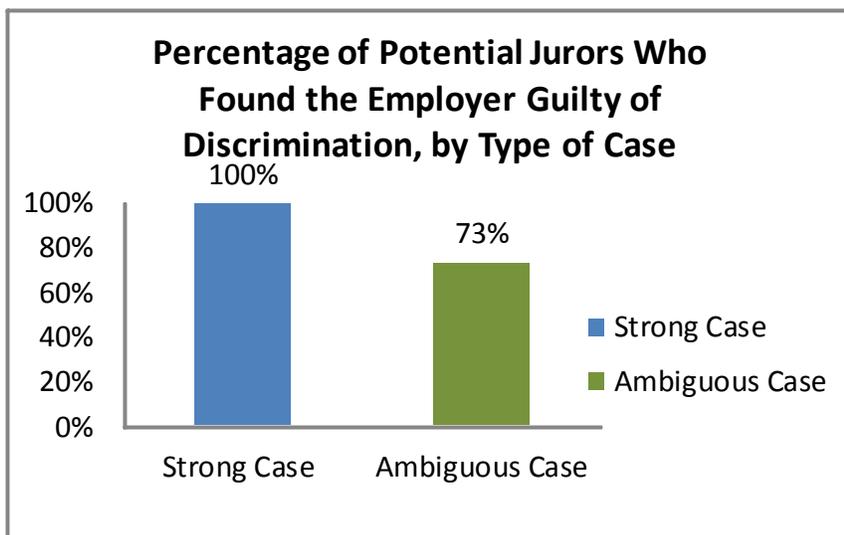
Research Snapshot

Do Attitudes About HIV/AIDS Influence Decision Making About HIV/AIDS?

In the spring of 2009, Susan Varni Richardson (our Postdoctoral Associate and Project Manager) defended her doctoral dissertation looking at how potential jurors make decisions in cases related to HIV/AIDS. Susan measured jury eligible, college-students' attitudes toward people with HIV/AIDS to see if having negative or prejudicial attitudes toward HIV/AIDS would affect whether they thought an employer was guilty of discriminatory firing.

Participants read one of two cases. In one case, called the "strong case", a person with AIDS was fired from his job and testimony revealed that the employee with AIDS was an excellent employee and the employer made prejudiced statements about people with HIV/AIDS like, "You know what kind of people get AIDS, and those kinds of people aren't good for business." In the other case, called the "ambiguous case", the employee with AIDS was a fair employee (he did some things well, others not so well) and the employer did not make any prejudiced remarks.

Participants then decided whether the employer was guilty of discriminatory firing. If the participant found the employer to be guilty, he/she also rated how guilty the employer was and how much (if any) money they would award to the employee who was fired.



Summary of Results

- ◆ The attitudes the potential jurors expressed on a paper-and-pencil measure of HIV/AIDS attitudes did not predict verdict decisions or monetary award decisions. Instead, mock jurors were guided by the facts of the case and not their explicit attitudes or opinions about people with HIV/AIDS.
- ◆ People who heard the strong case were 18 times more likely to deliver a guilty verdict than people in the ambiguous case condition.
- ◆ People who heard the strong case awarded more money (on average, \$14,186) to the employee with AIDS who was fired than participants who heard the more ambiguous case (\$8,329).

PEZ Projects Profile: Who is... James Hodge?



James Hodge is the newest member of the PEZ Projects Research Team.

James was born in Erie, Pennsylvania where he lived until the first grade, when his family moved to Palm Bay, Florida. Throughout his youth, James continued to move between Pennsylvania and Florida. When James graduated from high school in Florida in 2005, he decided that the last four years of hurricanes and the scorching Florida heat was enough for him, so he moved back to Pennsylvania to attend college. In 2009 James earned a degree in psychology from Penn State University, and he joined the UVM experimental psychology graduate program this fall. His primary research interest is exploring how people are affected by and cope with various stigmatized identities. One of his current projects examines third party (i.e., an observer) reactions to gender discrimination.

James is an avid Penn State football fan, and he never missed a single game when he was a student at Penn State University. His hobbies include golfing, drumming, hunting, and tossing the football. James is a member of Essex Alliance Church in Essex Junction, VT. After earning his Ph.D, James hopes to teach at the university level, extend scientific discovery in psychology, and mentor the next generation of aspiring psychological scientists.

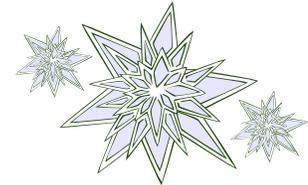
Already Enrolled in or Completed the Current Study? You Can Still Help PEZ Projects!

Have you already participated in our current longitudinal study? We want to say a big **THANK YOU** to everyone who has shared their time and their stories with us since we started our project in September of 2009. **We have already recruited 90 participants.** That's just over 1/3 of our goal!

Of course, this means we still have a ways to go to recruit **160 more people** living with HIV/AIDS in Vermont, New Hampshire, Western Massachusetts and Eastern New York. **How can you help? By spreading the word about your experience participating in our project to other people living with HIV/AIDS.**

One easy way to do this is to **share this newsletter**. When you are finished reading this newsletter, please share it with someone else and be sure to point out our recruitment information on the last page.

The PEZ Projects Research Team



Winter Trivia!

1. On what side of buildings do icicles most often form: north, south, east or west?
2. In what year did Mount Washington see the record-setting precipitation of 172.8 inches?
3. What famous Vermont resident is credited with inventing "snow golf"?



1. South
2. 1964, in February
3. Rudyard Kipling

UNIVERSITY OF
VERMONT

PSYCHOLOGY
DEPARTMENT

**Not close to
Burlington, VT?
We currently
travel to the
following towns to
meet with people
interested in
participating:
St. Johnsbury, VT
Rutland, VT
Brattleboro, VT
Greenfield, MA
Lebanon, NH
Manchester, NH**

**Live nearby one of
these locations?
Call us at
1-866-532-7183**

**Want to know more?
Look for us on
the web at
www.uvm.edu/pez**

101 John Dewey Hall
Psychology Department
2 Colchester Ave.
Burlington, VT 05405

Phone: 802-656-8029
Toll Free: 1-866-532-7183
E-mail: pez@uvm.edu



Become a Participant! COPING WITH HIV/AIDS PROJECT

We are looking for people to participate in our research project
investigating how people cope with HIV/AIDS.

The Person Environment Zone is continuing its study on coping with HIV/AIDS. The study is supported by a grant from the National Institute of Mental Health. We are interested in finding out the ways in which individuals with HIV and AIDS cope with the stigma of HIV/AIDS. We are currently recruiting adult (18 years old and older) men and women with HIV/AIDS to participate in the study.

To participate, you will:

- * Come to our research space at the University of Vermont 3 times over 6 months.
- * Complete a diary of day-to-day experiences living with HIV/AIDS using a telephone call-in system for 7 days.

You will be paid for each of your visits to our project site (\$40 for the first visit, \$50 for the second visit, and \$60 for the third visit). You will also receive \$12.50 for every 50 miles you travel, plus an additional compensation for mileage if you drive. Every day you complete the telephone diary study, you will earn \$10. Completing all seven days in a row will earn you a bonus \$15, for a total compensation of \$85.

In the event you are unable to travel to the UVM project site, arrangements can be made to accommodate you.

The confidentiality of all communications associated with the study will be maintained to the maximum extent allowable by law.

To learn more about the study or if you are interested in participating in the project please call

1-802-656-8029 or 1-866-532-7183 (toll free)

YES! I would like to be contacted to participate in your new project!

I would like to update my contact information

(Please return this form by mail, or visit our website www.uvm.edu/pez)

Name: _____ Date: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone: (H) _____ (C) _____

Is it OK to leave a message on your voicemail (circle)? YES NO

Email address _____