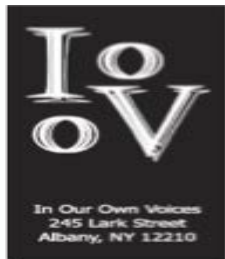


Engaging Women Who Have Sex With Women: Our Vision and Model Approach to Ending AIDS by 2020

Iris House-Just For Us Program
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and Stephanie Zapata

In Our Own Voices
Gabby Santos



Agenda

- Iris House and In Our Own Voices Program Overview
- Importance of HIV, STI, HCV and PrEP for WSW- Ending the AIDS Epidemic by AIDS 2020
- Sexversations: Talk about Sex
- Safer Sex and WSW- To Dildo or Not to Dildo
- Gender Roles/Norms and HIV Prevention
- Closure

At Iris House...We Save Lives

■ COMMEMORATING 22 YEARS

March 2, 1993. Iris House saves lives through comprehensive support, prevention and education services for women, families, and underserved populations affected by HIV/AIDS and other health disparities in a safe, family-centered environment by passionate, professional and culturally competent staff. Named for Latina HIV Activist **Iris De La Cruz**- we are grateful for her vision to making sure the women of her community were not without options or resources. We honor her legacy today.



In Our Own Voices

- Mission Needed: To work for and ensure the physical, mental, spiritual, political, cultural and economic survival and growth of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people of color communities.

HIV/AIDS, Lesbian, Bisexual and Queer Women

- Generally lesbians are at low risk of HIV infection, however they are vulnerable to certain sexually transmitted diseases STDs as women who have sex with men.
- Self-reported viral STD rates were significantly higher among bisexual women (15.0% to 17.2%) than among lesbians (2.3% to 6.7%). Heterosexual transmission places them at high-risk.

HIV/AIDS , Lesbian and Bisexual Queer Women's Risk Factors

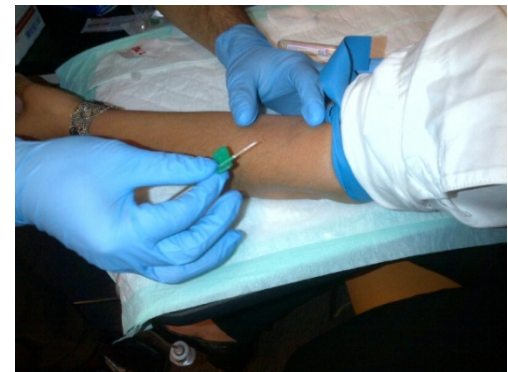
- **Oral sex** - risk is low, but increased if partner receiving oral sex has sores on her genitals or is having her period.
- **Sharing sex toys** - sharing sex toys can be risky if they have vaginal fluids, blood or faeces on them.
- **Rough sex** - any sexual activity that can lead to bleeding or cuts/breaks in the lining of vagina or anus is risky, including 'fisting' activities.
- **Donor insemination** – need donor's detailed medical history - including drug use and sexual history. It is important that the donor has taken an HIV test.

Program Overview

- Provide HIV/STI/Hepatitis C services to African American and Latina Lesbian and bisexual adolescents and women who are HIV-positive or at high-risk.
- Funded by The New York State Department of Health AIDS Institute.
- Iris House and In Our Own Voices are the **ONLY** two organizations funded in NYC and NYS; Grant started December 1, 2011

Integration of Services: HIV, STI and Hepatitis C Testing

1. Know your status
2. Linkage to Care/Navigation Services for those with positive and or reactive results
3. Referrals to supportive Services and PrEP/PEP

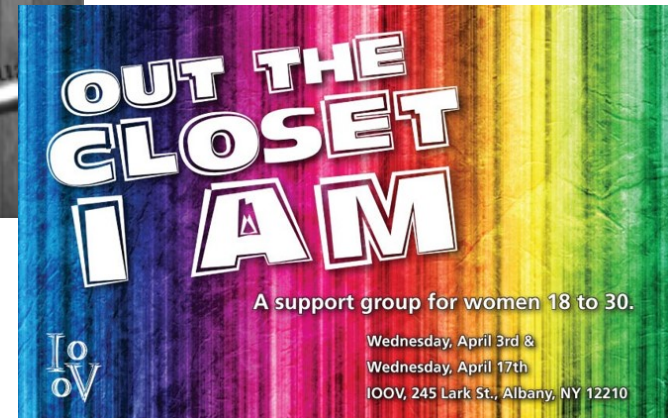


Our Space, Our Face In Our Own Voices, Inc. Why *Our Space, Our Face*?

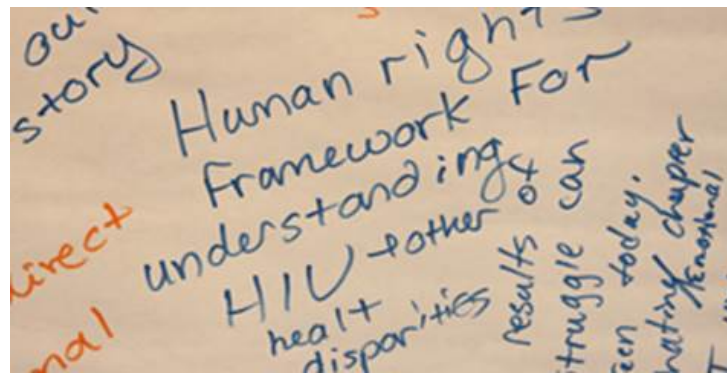
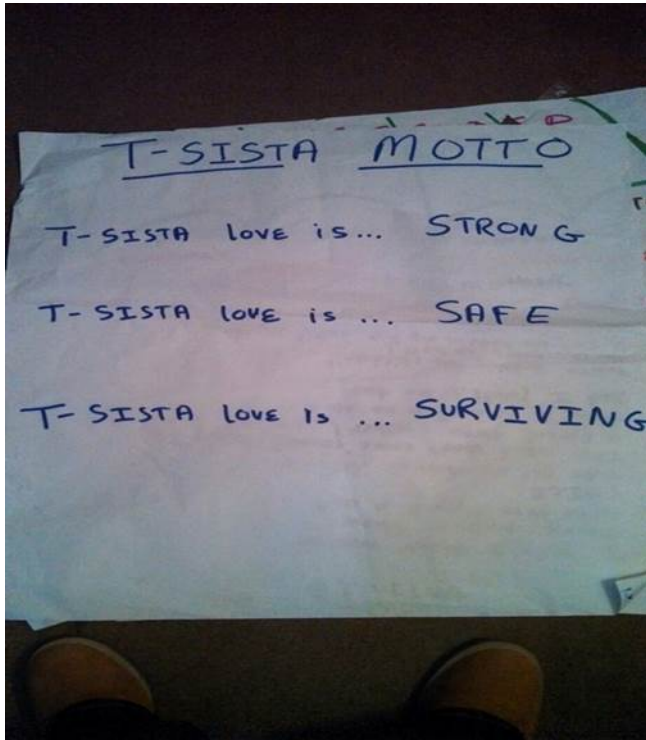


HIV

Services Provided: Outreach, testing, community engagement, groups, interventions.



Trans Women, Trans Men and GNC people ~ adapting evidence-based interventions for Trans People of Color who embrace WSW spaces.



Sexversations

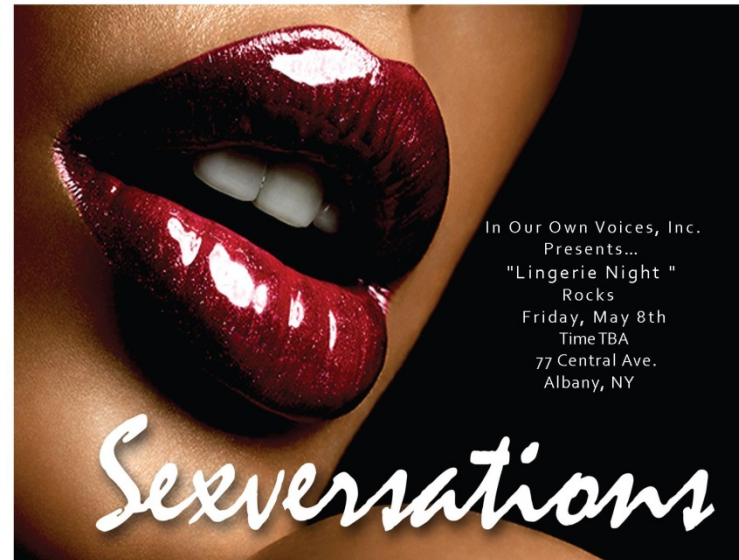


Sexversations *for Womyn Who Love Women (All Ages)*

Join us for a night of sexversations around orgasms, consent, power play, kink and overall sexual health. Bring your appetite for self-love, mental stimulation and sharing in community.

For more information, please contact **518-432-4188** or gsantos@inourownvoices.org.

The program is funded by the NYSDOH AIDS Institute, HIV/STI/Hep C prevention services for women who have sex with women.



Safer Sex and WSW- To Dildo or Not to Dildo

- Activity and Demonstration on Safer Sex/Latex Barriers
- Power of the P= sexual health, sexuality, sexual orientation

Gender Roles/Norms and HIV Prevention

- A discussion on gender roles and norms for WSW
 - Stud versus Stud
 - Fem versus Fem

Best Practices/Lessons Learned

- Safe space for lesbian, bisexual, queer women.
- Remove stigma associated with sex, sexual preferences and sexual orientation.
- Closed nit community makes it difficulty to access lesbian, bisexual and queer girls/women.
- Prevention interventions tailored to lesbian, bisexual and queer women based on their sexual orientation and coming out experiences.



Best Practices/Lessons Learned

- Offer access to HIV, HCV and STI testing
- Offer Referrals to PrEP/PEP and supportive services
- Linkage to care and navigation services for positive women
- Address risk factors associated with WSWM behaviors.

Best Practice/Lessons Learned

- Girls/women might still be dealing with their sexual orientation and disclosure
- Engaging in high-risk behaviors with boys/men
- Building self esteem when working with women
- Reinforce decision making process and the power that girls/women hold.



Best Practices/Lessons Learned

- Holistic curriculum that addresses the social-economic factors of women.
- Address other supportive services needed such as housing, substance use, intimate partner violence, etc.
- Provide technical assistance and increase collaboration with **In Our Own Voices** our sister agency in Albany and others working with lesbians and bisexual women.

Thank You

Contact **Just For Us** staff at:

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www.irishouse.org



Contact **In Our Own Voices** staff at:

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