

**CITIWIDE  
HARM  
REDUCTION**

*Saving Bronx lives since 1995*

# *Responding to the Needs of Women of Color who are living with HIV/AIDS*

*CitiWide Harm Reduction is committed to improving the health, social and economic status of active drug users who are homeless or at risk of homelessness*





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***Responding to the Needs of Women of Color  
who are living with HIV/AIDS***

**Moving Forward Together: The 8<sup>th</sup> Annual  
Women as the Face of AIDS Summit**

**May 6, 2013**

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# Presentation Outline

- BREAKING THE ICE INTRO
- CITIWIDE SERVICES
- DATA WOMEN AT CITIWIDE
- CHALLENGES
- LINKAGE AND ACCESS TO CARE
- RETENTION IN CARE/ESTABLISHING PARTNERSHIPS
- MEDICATION ADHERENCE
- Q & A
- “MOVING FORWARD TOGETHER”
- SUCCESS

# Breaking the Ice Intro

- NAME
- WHY DID YOU CHOOSE THIS WORKSHOP?
- USING THE FIRST LETTER OF YOUR FIRST NAME, SHARE A POSITIVE DESCRIPTION OF YOURSELF
- ELABORATE
- DISCUSSION

# CitiWide Harm Reduction

- Since 1995, CitiWide Harm Reduction (“CitiWide”) has effectively served the South Bronx and parts of Upper Manhattan with comprehensive syringe access services.
- CitiWide is at the very heart of the US epicenter of the HIV/AIDS, HCV infection and injection drug use epidemics.



# Outreach and Engagement

Through 18 years of grassroots outreach and relationship building, CitiWide has earned unique access to the hardest to reach, and serves people at risk for and living with HIV/AIDS, including the homeless; active injection drug users; sex workers; and people temporarily housed in Single Residence Occupancy hotels - **delivering over 21,000 prevention & screening outreach encounters annually**

# Drop-in Center

- Serves over 3,200 unique participants annually.
- Core services include a multi-service syringe access drop-in center, rapid HIV and HCV testing, overdose prevention (Narcan), Buprenorphine induction and peer-delivered syringe exchange.
- Drop-in center services include support groups, mental wellness counseling, case management services, connection to health care, behavioral health, medication, housing & drug treatment, along with meals, showers, haircuts and a safe space 7-days a week.



# Health LINCC

- CitiWide's Health LINCC (Linking In-Need Communities to Care) program is a proven initiative which strengthens the engagement cascade, including linkage to care, retention in care, access and adherence to antiretroviral therapy (ART) for women of color



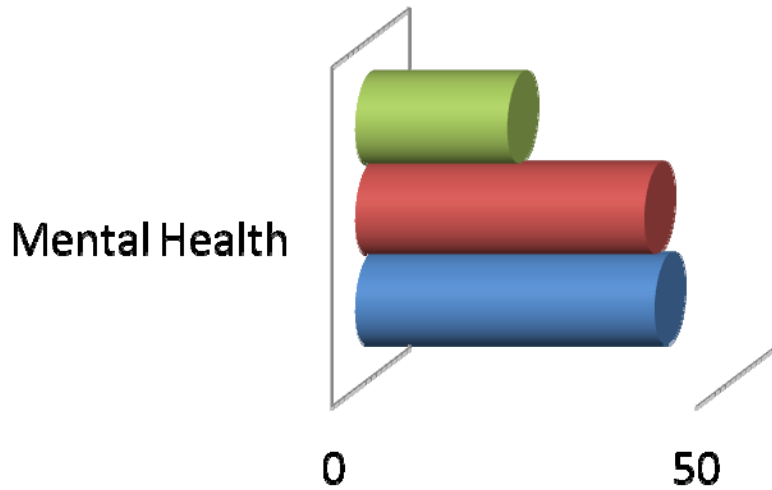


# Health LINCC

- HIV/AIDS
- Hepatitis
- Impacted by homelessness
- Addiction
- Lack of social support
- Education

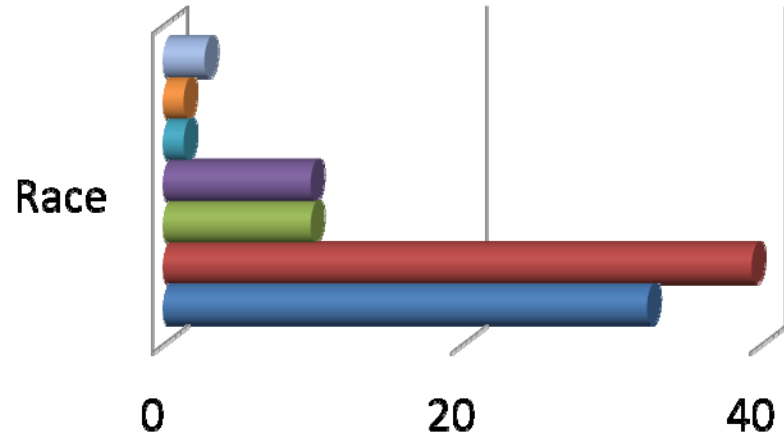
# WOMEN at CitiWide

## Mental Health



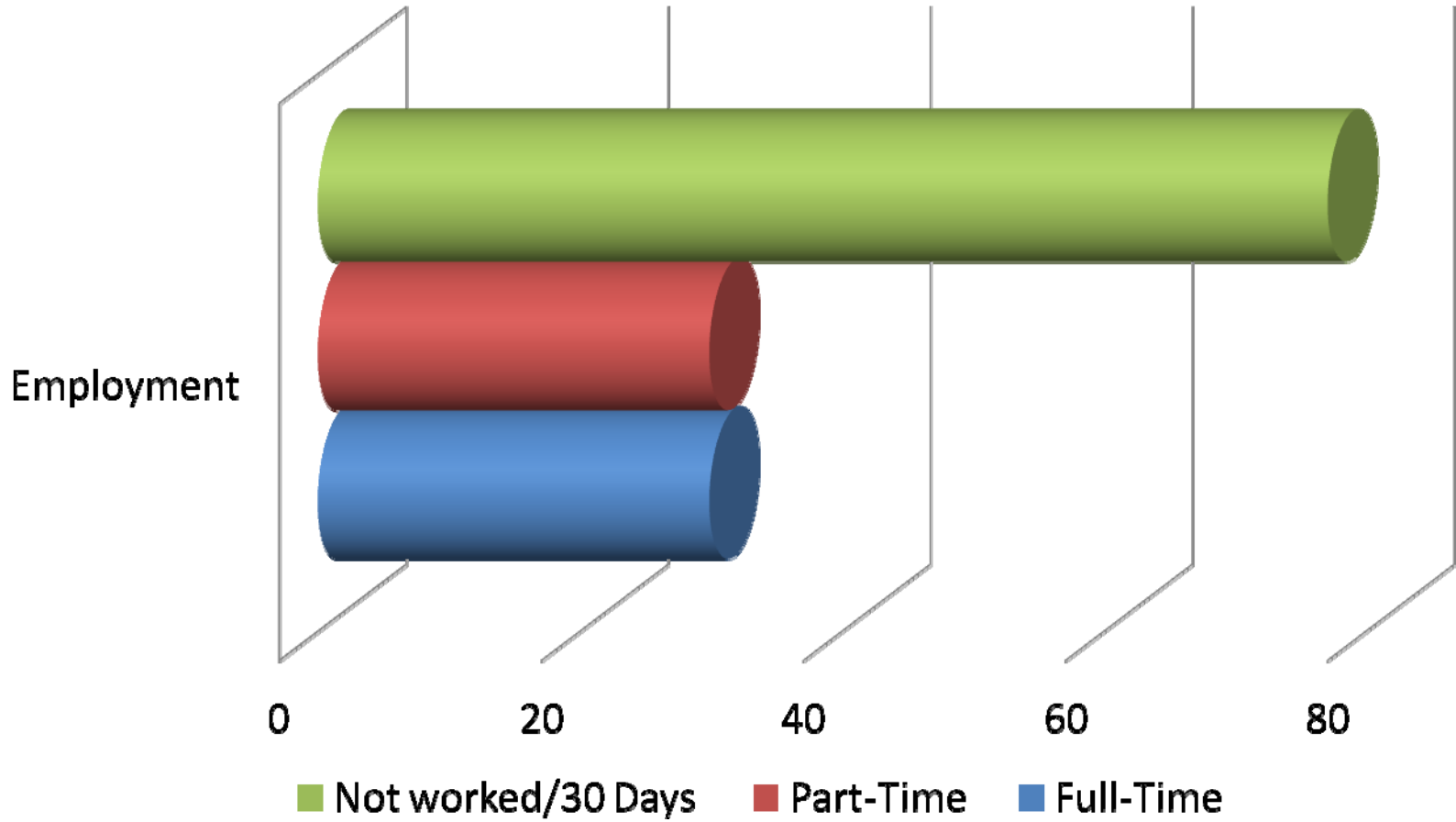
- Hallucination
- Suicidal Ideation
- Depression

## Race/Ethnicity

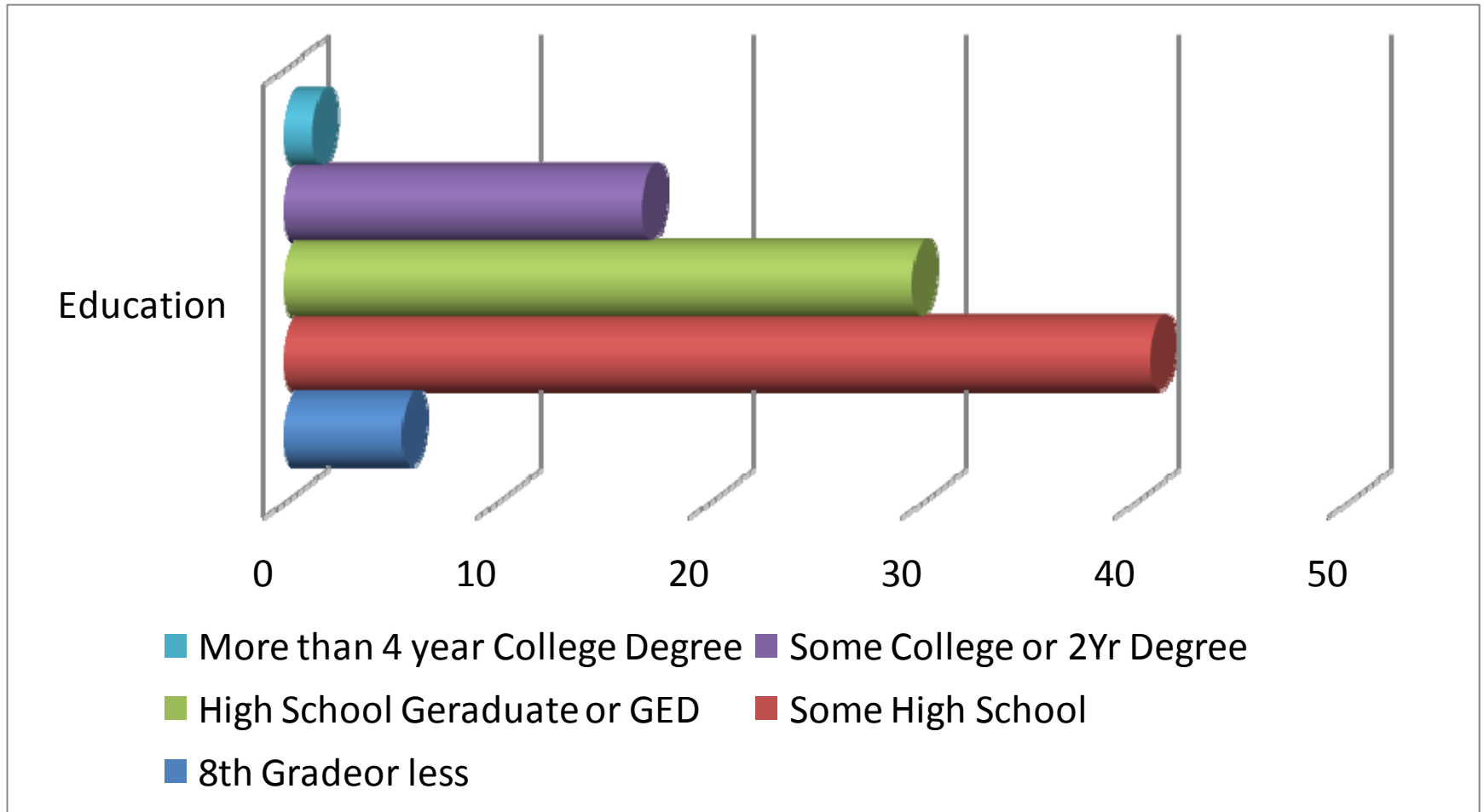


- Other
- American Indian
- Asian/Pacific Islander
- White
- Other Hispanic
- Puerto Rican
- African American

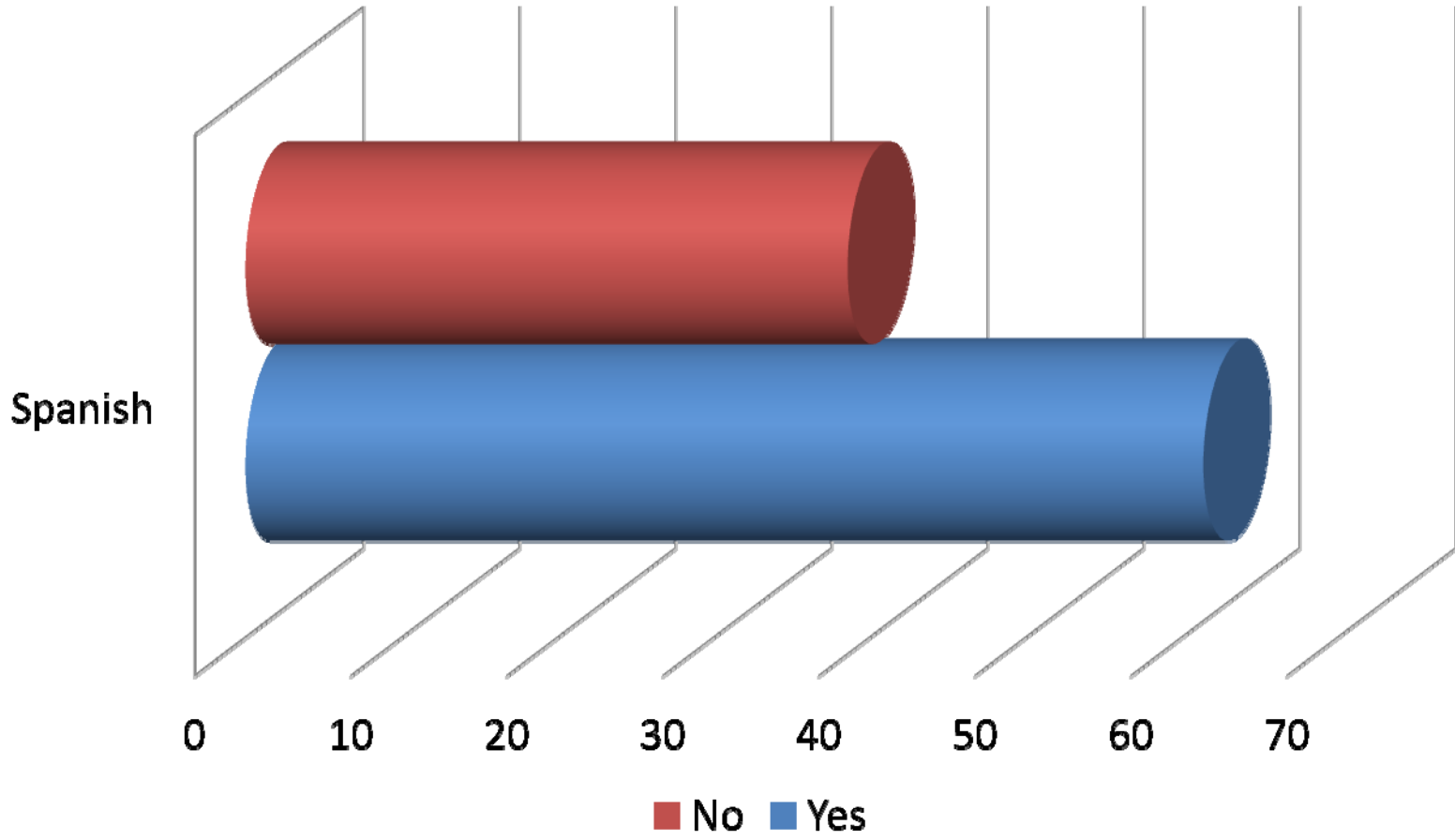
# WOMEN at CitiWide



# WOMEN at CitiWide



# WOMEN at CitiWide



# WOMEN at CitiWide



# Challenges

- Serving Women who are PLWHA, What are Some of the Challenges that you face?

# Challenges

A recently conducted baseline evaluation survey completed in collaboration with Columbia University – Mailman School of Public Health survey is part of ongoing program evaluation efforts at CitiWide, and its purpose was to capture current data on program participants' characteristics, behaviors, needs, and perceptions of program impact:

**Participants reported high levels of unmet basic needs. Biggest challenges reported included housing, health problems and drug addiction. They reported high rates of health conditions, including depression and hepatitis C.**

**CitiWide will continue focusing limited resources on addressing these high prevalence needs.**



# Linkage to Care

- A co-located FQHC Health Care for the Homeless program, HELP/PSI to provide onsite primary care and behavioral health services to CitiWide participants.
- *HELP/PSI services also include residential health care, drug treatment, adult day health care, health home care management, dental services, and psychiatric services.*
- Program participants are referred and linked to care onsite with HELP/PSI by CitiWide staff.
- HIPAA-compliant appointment and lab info is shared and care is coordinated.



*"CitiWide and HELP/PSI are breaking down barriers to care through this unique collaboration."*

**-Barbara Zeller, MD, Chief Medical Officer, HELP/PSI**

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# Linkage to Care

A co-located full-service community pharmacy, Evers Pharmacy, provides access to medications, onsite pharmacological counseling and adherence support.



*“This partnership addresses the medication access barriers faced by CitiWide program participants and the South Bronx community in general, including access to affordable medications, reduction of adverse drug reactions, and greater patient self-management and health literacy.”*

**-Bobby Rallakis, RPh, and Dave Watts, Pharm D, Supervising Pharmacists, Evers Pharmacy**

# Retention in care/Establishing Partnerships

*“Partnerships are key to our success in providing comprehensive services. And we work closely with other community-based organizations and leaders to improve the health and well-being of our community.”*

- **Memoranda of Agreement (MOAs)** are established for onsite health care, behavioral health and pharmacy services— and externally for drug treatment, specialty care, legal services, housing and other supportive services.
- Linkage and referral appointments are coordinated and confirmed onsite with HELP/PSI.

# Retention in care/Establishing Partnerships

- Partnerships with the Participants are key to our success
- Assessment Process
- Collaboration with Partners
- Supportive Services
- Inter-Agency collaboration
- Coordination of Care
- Psycho-Social Assessment
- Intervention and Prevention Strategies

# Successes

- **The CitiWide Collaborative Model**
- **Positive**
- **Non-Judgmental Environment**
- **Improvement in Health Outcomes**
- **Reduce Harm**
  - Decreasing Barriers to Medical Care and Medication Adherence
  - Increase ongoing Supportive Counseling
  - Utilizing Motivational Interviewing Technique
  - Promoting Sexual Health
  - Ongoing assessment for Substance Use

# Medication Adherence

- IMPORTANT QUESTION TO ASK PARTICIPANTS
- TOOLS FOR SUCCESS

# Q & A

# Moving Forward Together

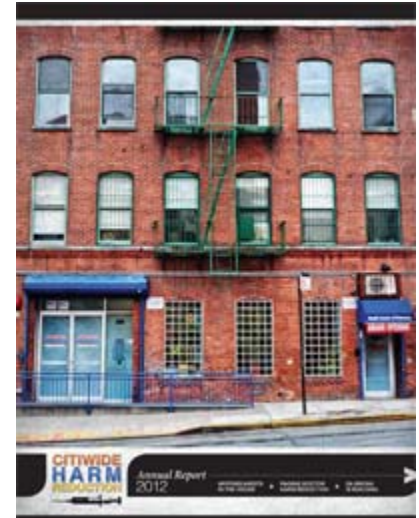
- SANDRA'S STORY,
- IRMA'S STORY,



# Successes

- ✓ Participants offer a positive overall assessment of CitiWide services. They report utilization of a wide range of services and find them helpful.
- ✓ Participants, overall, perceive that CitiWide has made a significant difference in their lives.
- ✓ Participants had high rates of access to primary care medical providers, 71% reporting that they saw their provider in the past three months.

This indicates success with the model of providing onsite health care and suggests that the participant population will access other important services when offered in conjunction with syringe exchange.



Overall, the evaluation survey results indicate that the comprehensive harm reduction model works and should continue to be expanded and enhanced.

# CitiWide Harm Reduction



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