

Maintaining a Successful Partnership to Promote HIV Prevention Education:

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HIV/STD Statistics New Jersey

- New Jersey ranked 10th among the 50 states in the rate of HIV/AIDS diagnoses among adults and adolescents in 2011.
- New Jersey ranked 4th in the rate of adults and adolescents living with HIV/AIDS in 2012.
- 8 % of persons living with HIV in NJ are < 30 years old
- As of 12/31/13, 79, 570 cases of HIV were reported in New Jersey, NJDOH Epi. Profile.

HIV & STD Statistics in Irvington, NJ

- Over 25% of household live in poverty and are headed by female no male present.
- As of 2010 1.7% of Irvington population are currently living with HIV, a rate almost 600% the national average
- According to NJDHSS HIV/AIDS diagnosis reported as of 12/31/14 in Irvington, residents age 13-24 accounted for 9%

HIV & STD Statistics in Irvington, Cont'd

- In 2013 according to the CDC 41.4 of NJ high school students did not use a condom in their last sexual encounter
- In 2012- 579 cases of Chlamydia and 194 cases of Gonorrhea were reported in Irvington according to NJDOH.

Iris House, Irvington, NJ

Behavioral Interventions/Education

- > HIV & STD 101 African American/Latino youths ages 14-19
- > Nia-African American heterosexual/bisexual involved men ages 18-24
- ⦿ Condom Distribution Program-provides free male condoms to local businesses and to residents through street outreach
- ⦿ HIV Rapid Testing is supported by community Partners
- ⦿ HIV Education throughout the community

Project Planning

- ◎ E.D met w/ Irvington Township Mayor to get program approval
- ◎ E.D met w/ Irvington High School and their Health Education Department staff.
- ◎ 2 Health Educators co-facilitated each session
- ◎ Mr. Spadola, Health Education Teacher assisted with selecting the grade level that would participate in each cycle, dates (3 dates for each cycle) and space to host the groups

In Session!

- Pre/Post test questionnaire completed by students
- Session 1 HIV 101
- Session 2 STD 101
- Session 3 Communication Skills & IPV prevention
- Incentives T-shirts & Movie tickets
- HIV Testing is offered at the final sessions, in partnership with a community provider via a mobile testing unit. SS kits are offered to the students at the testing location

2014-15 Cycle Results

601 students were enrolled in 3 cycles

(Freshman, Juniors & Seniors)

535 students completed all cycles (89% retention rate) Results cited are only for 2014-15 Grant cycle

● Demographics

Overall, the participants had a mean age of 16.1 years old (SD= 1.5) and were majorly male (52%), Black, non-Hispanic (76%) and heterosexual (92%) freshmen in High School (49%).

● HIV & STD Testing & Status

At the first session, participants are asked to indicate if they had ever been tested for HIV and state their results. Only 14% reported Ever being tested for HIV and 9% of those reported being HIV positive.

● 91% of the participants reported never having had an STD check-up. Of those with an STD check-up, only 0.5% reported ever being diagnosed with an STD and the type reported was Genital Warts.

Change in Attitudes & Behaviors:

Table 1: Condom use negotiation and condom use

Question	% of participants who answered probably or definitely YES	
	Pre-test	Post-test
Are you comfortable discussing condom use with your partner?	85%	88%
Can you correctly use a condom?	78%	88%
Can you insist on condom use even if your partner does not want to use one?	80%	85%
Do you think having sex while using alcohol or drugs increases your risk for HIV infection?	53%	69%

2014-15 Cycle Results, Cont'd

Table 2-Change in Knowledge

Question	% of participants who answered correctly	
	Pre-test	Post-test
Most people with HIV quickly show signs of being sick	70%	79%
Having an STD can increase the likelihood of HIV infection or transmission	81%	81%
Assertive communication means saying "No" to things you don't want or things that threaten your well being	77%	79%
Teeth, fingernails or sharp objects can damage a condom from being effective	90%	92%

HIV Testing

- ◉ During the grant year 2014-15, 29 students who participated in HIV 101 sessions were HIV tested.
- ◉ HIV testing was provided by three community partners , Hyacinth AIDS Foundation, NJCRI and PROCEED, Inc.
- ◉ Approximately 6 students were HIV tested on the final day of each HIV 101 cycles.

Lessons Learned

- **Modify the structure to include videos and integrate of web tools to assist freshman students in understanding the content**
- **Ensure that a Creole speaking staff is present to assist with interpreting for students who are not fluent in English.**
- **Informing the Police Community Office of after school events such as HIV testing**
- **Ensuring that condoms are provided to students at each testing location, as condoms are not allowed in Schools in NJ**

Thank You!

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