



Project YEAH

Youth Empowerment Around HIV

A *collaborative* project between the
University of Rochester – School of Nursing
and the
Men of Color Health Awareness Project, Inc
Rochester, New York



UNIVERSITY of ROCHESTER

Youth Empowerment Around HIV

- The purpose of Project YEAH
- To modify and adapt comprehensive, theory based, and culturally appropriate prevention intervention programs for use with HIV-infected young MSM of color (YMSMC) age 13 to 24
- Establish an effective outreach program which identifies and engages HIV seropositive YMSMC and those at high risk
- Link HIV+ YMSMC into care, and increase counseling and testing of this population



Local Multi-site

- Enrolled Participants: n=3 (Oct 2007 – Pres)
- What have we learned locally
 - *Recruitment*: Harder than we ever thought
 - *Interviewers*: Female and graduate student successful
 - *Local Epidemic*: Lower levels
 - *Clinics*: Most treated at community clinics
 - *Community Dynamics*: Competition, Confidentiality, Agency
- *Subject Post interview*: Planned for early late spring



Related CSA Article

- Fields, S. D., Malebranch, D., & Feist-Price, S. (2008). Childhood Sexual Abuse in Black Men who have Sex with Men: Results from three Qualitative Studies. *Cultural Diversity & Ethnic Minority Psychology, 14* (4), 385-390.
- Very interested in the age at first data for the overall initiative: Will bring proposal to dissemination group about this issue



Local Study Evaluation

- YMYV- Young Men Young Voices
 - Group level intervention
- Care Collaborative
 - What is working and what is not
- Internet Outreach
 - There is much going on



Intervention Background

- **Many Man Many Voices (3MV):** Developed in 1998
 - 7-Session Group Level Intervention
 - Targets Black MSM (Gay and Non-Gay Identified)
 - Addresses: Cultural, social, and religious norms, sexual relationship dynamics' Racism, Homophobia and the interactions between HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases
 - Nationally disseminated intervention model
 - Not appropriate for younger MSM of color under age 24



YMYV Pilot Cohort Study Design

YMCSM=Young men of color who have sex with men, D=Data collection

| <u>Group</u> | <u>TB</u> | <u>TX</u> | <u>T1</u> | <u>T2</u> | <u>T3</u> |
|--------------|-----------|---------------|------------|-----------|------------|
| YMCSM | D | YMYV sessions | YMYV end-D | 6 Weeks-D | 3 Months-D |

■ Pre and Post-Test Model

- Pre-Test: Baseline data collection point (TB)
- Post-Test: Data collection point, Immediately at end of Intervention (T1)
- Post-Test: Data collection point, 6 weeks Post-intervention (T2)
- Post-Test: Data collection point, 3 months Post-intervention (T3)

■ Cohorts Completed (N= 25) 90% Participant Retention

- *Wave 1*: February 2007 – June 2007 (n=8)
- *Wave 2*: July 2007 – November 2007 (n=6)
- *Wave 3*: March 2008 - July 2008 (n=4)
- *Wave 4*: October 2008 – February 2009 (n=7)



YMYV Pilot Measures and Tools

- Baseline demographic/sexual behavior questionnaire
- HIV-KQ (revised), 45 questions
- Knowledge Attitude Beliefs and Behavior (KABB) Survey
- Sexual practices, baseline # of sexual partners in past year, Condom use, forced to have sex (CSA)
- HIV knowledge questionnaire scores
- HIV testing history, HIV and condom beliefs, Attitudes about HIV/STDs, ongoing # of sexual partners post intervention



YMYV Pilot Cohort Study Sample

| | |
|--|--|
| <u>Age</u> at first Sexual experience | <i>M</i> = 14.68; Range = 8 to 17 Male = 88.9%, Female 11.1% |
| Primary Sexual position | Bottom = 72%, n=18 Top = 28%, n=7 |
| Change Sexuality | Yes = 36%, n=9; No = 64%, n=16 |
| Homosexuality as a Sin | Yes = 12%, n=3; No = 88%, n=22 |
| Male sexual partners 1 year | <i>M</i> = 4.87; Range = 0 to 20 |
| Ever forced to have sex (CSA) | Yes = 36%, n=9; No = 64%, n=16 |



Pilot Cohort Study Conclusions

■ Data Trends Indicate:

- Adaptation of 3MV to YMYV was successfully accomplished
 - Addition of interactive games well received
 - Addition of multimedia pieces (videos) well received
- ↓ in the number of *male* sexual partners from baseline at all points post-intervention
- Positive ↑ in HIV knowledge levels over time from baseline
- Positive changes in HIV and Condom use beliefs
- ↑ readiness to use condoms with anal sex
- Differences in the perception of risk persist for Bottoms versus Tops
- ↑ in HIV testing behavior and frequency noted



Next Steps and Future Research

- Overall research on HIV prevention interventions for young MSM of color needs to continue
- Further adaptation of YMYV to meet the needs of other sub-populations of young MSM of color (Transgender, HIV Sero-positives)
- **Large (RCT) Multi-site trial of YMYV with target population, to further evaluate and establish its effectiveness: R01 being written (Spring submission)**
- National dissemination of the YMYV model



Care Collaborative

- **Direct clinical partners: 5**
- **Ancillary services providers: 6**
- **Annual Care collaborative meetings**
 - 4 held: Last one in August 2008
 - Attendance: 6 – 20, $M=12$
 - High satisfaction with meetings and content
 - Most enjoyed: Youth Panels, Networking
- **Sustainability**
 - Care collaborative needs to remain in some form
 - HIV+ YMSMC support group: Being explored
 - HVTN: Legacy Project with the House Ball Community



Internet Outreach

- **Overall effective outreach strategy**
- **Rooms**
 - Adam4Adam
 - BGC
- **Over 400 individual contacts made**
 - General health, STI's, Referrals, Programming
- **Good form of outreach in the winter months**
 - Some have come into the agency for other services
 - Increased visibility of the agency
 - Timing and monitoring of outreach worker



Dissemination

- Fields, S. D., Wharton, M., Pannell, K. A., Little, A., Harris, O., & Humes, D. (2008, August). Lessons in Adapting a Group Level Intervention for Young Men of Color who Have Sex with Men. **Poster Presentation at the 2008 Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program Grantee Meeting and 11th Annual Clinical Update. Washington, DC.**
- Fields, S. D., Wharton, M., Pannell, K. A., Little, A., Harris, O., & Humes, D. (2008, August). Young Men Young Voices: An Adapted Group Level HIV Prevention Model for Young Men of Color who have sex with Men. **Poster presentation at the 17th International AIDS Conference, Mexico City, Mexico (Poster #WEPE03651).**



Contact Information

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