HIV Prevention: Thoughts on New Directions Based on Experiences from Local Public Health Practice

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Overview of Remarks

- Reflections on where we are domestically in HIV prevention
- What is standing in the way public health departments substantially decreasing the number HIV infections domestically?
- Advice on how to get the most from this conference
Steady number of infections: success or failure?

- Endemic versus Epidemic
- Flat disease curve as a success
- Flat disease curve as a failure
What is standing in the way of public health departments substantially decreasing HIV infections domestically?

- Our resources are not aligned with the epidemic
- We use one-size-fits-all approaches
- We try to do too much
- Our solutions (interventions) are often independent of the public health problem
- There are few structural and environmental interventions
- We treat HIV as if it were different than any other communicable disease
Decreasing the Barriers: Examples from Practice
Realigning Resources

• 70% MSM present in incidence = 70% of funding for HIV Prevention
• Develop subcontractor(s) to engage in HIV prevention for gay and bisexual men
• Interventions and collaborations with public sex venues
Tailoring Approaches:

- **Men’s Project:** HIV/STI Testing in a Bathhouse setting
- **Voz para Acción:** HIV Prevention In Culture and Context for Non-Gay Identified Latino MSM
Impact Model for Contexto Latino-Voice for Action

December 2006

Outreach to Latino MSM/NG-Bars/CSE/FSE

Pre-test

Counseling, Prevention Case management 2-months -3 Sessions


Phone warm line check-in and support

Counselor referrals for other medical/psychosocial services for Latino MSM/NG

Contextualize sexual behaviors in life context-use loteria image trigger exercise: “Voz para Acción”

Goal setting skills building: “Mi Vida, Mi Futuro”

Normalize sex, sexual desire and same-sex sexual behavior. Sex and Sexual Health Curriculum: “Es Normal”

Increase empowerment and self-defined sexual identity

Increased connectedness, skills of goal setting

Incremental changes in clients life, support network, social context

Increased health behavior safer sex, harm reduction drug use

Increased intentions for health behavior

Post-test
Triggers for Session One: Voz para Acción
Aligning Capacity and Role

- We are expert at a few things and bring in other collaborating entities to make their unique contribution.
- We depend on outside entities for evaluation.
- We define our role based on our capacity.
Aligning Intervention and Problem

- Working with sex clubs and bathhouses versus making policy about sex clubs and bathhouses
Exploring Structural Interventions

- Any intervention can be empowering
- In closed settings, even individual interventions can be environmental
- Individual and small group interventions can address the broader social reasons that lead individuals to have risk for HIV
Advice for the Day
Questions to ask as you reflect on what you hear today:

- How does this research or intervention contribute to my understanding of what can cause a sharp decline in new HIV infections?
- Does this research or intervention address the broader social reasons that lead to HIV risk?
- How do I actively incorporate this information into my local program efforts?
- Has anything I have heard today changed my mind about how I view my work in HIV prevention?
Thank you, now let’s get to work.

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