INTRODUCTION

You were a participant in a group program called ____ project. This program was designed to discuss the topic of HIV prevention with people living with HIV or prevention with positives. The purpose of this interview is to learn more about your experience as a participant in ____ PROJECT. We are interviewing participants of programs like yours all over the US to learn more about what makes HIV prevention programs successful and if participants’ needs are being met. Everything you say in this interview is strictly confidential, meaning your name will not be attached to any reports or publications and your participation is strictly voluntary. Do you have any questions before I begin?

PATIENT BACKGROUND/PROJECT MOTIVATION

Intent of this section is to provide background information on patient and to understand motivation to participate in ____ PROJECT.

READ: I’m going to start by asking you a couple of basic, background questions before I begin the questions on your experiences with ____ PROJECT.

1. How long have you been a patient at this clinic?
2. How did you find out about the ____ PROJECT program?
3. What made you decide to participate in ____ PROJECT?
   Potential Probe:
   i. Was it recommended to you?

PROJECT EXPERIENCES

Intent of this section is to discover the aspects of the intervention that resonated for the patient as well as to identify the aspects that were unimportant.

READ: Now I want to talk to you about your experiences with ____ PROJECT.

1. Tell me, what did you expect when you decided to participate in this program?
2. Walk me through the first ____ PROJECT session. What was it like?
3. What was your reaction to the first session?
4. Overall, what did you like most about the program?
   a. Was it the one on one format?
   b. The modules?
c. The facilitator?
d. Anything else?

5. Overall, what did you like least about the program?
   a. Was it the one on one format?
   b. The modules?
   c. The facilitator?
   d. Anything else?

6. What was/were the most important issues, skills or topics for you, even if they
   were topics that were uncomfortable for you?

7. What was/were the issues, skills or topics that was unnecessary for you or not
   important to you?
   Probe: Was it program content or program staff that was most meaningful?

8. How would you describe the ____ project to someone else, say a friend?
   There are no right or wrong answers.

**DIFFUSION QUESTIONS:**

Intent is to understand if this participant feels comfortable discussing intervention
at different levels: within the clinic, in the community, among family and friends.

1. Have you talked to others about ____ PROJECT?
   a. If so, who have you talked to about this family, friends other patients?
   b. What do you tell them?

2. How about the other folks that participated, what comments did you hear from
   them?

**LOGISTICAL/INTERVENTION TYPE PROBES:**

Intent is to understand the impact on the composition of the intervention.

1. ____ PROJECT is a one on one program, did this matter to you?
2. How often did you attend sessions?
3. What made you come back and attend the sessions?

**HIV PREVENTION PRIOR TO THE INTERVENTION:**

Intent is to discover the transition between non-intervention to intervention to
understand the uptake of intervention by participants.

1. Prior to participating in ____ PROJECT, had you ever talked to clinic staff about
   your sexual life or your relationships?
   1. If so, were you satisfied with these discussions?
   2. If not, what stopped you from having these discussions in the clinic?
   3. Sometimes medical providers, doctors, nurses, don’t talk about these things
      because they either they don’t know how to or they are afraid of offending
      people or making them feel ashamed by asking whether they are having safer
      sex, using condoms and protecting others. How would you feel if your doctor,
      health educator or social worker asked you about these things?
         o Would you feel he/she was being nosy?
Would you think it was offensive?

PERSPECTIVES ON HIV PREVENTION:

Intent …

1. If you think about yourself before and after _____ PROJECT, how do you think _____ PROJECT influenced you?
2. Tell me about any changes you made because of what you experienced in _____ PROJECT?
3. Can you tell me what _____ PROJECT has helped you to deal with better?
4. Were the messages that _____ PROJECT stressed in the meetings something that you felt you could do something about? For example, safer sex messages, do you feel that you can actually take steps towards lowering your risk?
5. How has participating influenced the way you think about sexual activities?
6. How has participating influenced the way you think about your sexual partners?
7. Based on your experiences with _____ PROJECT, how comfortable do you feel telling a partner that you are HIV+?
8. How much will _____ PROJECT help you through time, for example, in six months from now, do you think _____ PROJECT will still have an impact on you?
9. Do you understand your HIV better having gone to _____ PROJECT groups?
10. How much of an influence do you think _____ PROJECT can have in the community of people living with HIV here in _____?

ACASI

1. What was it like doing the survey on the computer?
2. Were you more comfortable?
3. Were you worried that providers or staff might have access to the information?
4. Do you think you were more open and honest about your sex or drug use than if I was sitting in front of you with a paper and pencil survey?

WRAP UP:

Is there anything that we haven’t talked about that you want to say about any of these issues?

Well thanks very much. I appreciate you’re taking the time to talk with me.