

Attachment D

Exercise 1-1 *Male and Female Housing Community Residents* Assessment Summary Group 1

Two staff members of the ***Any Community AIDS Network*** did an assessment of men and women who live in the ***Esperanza Housing Community*** who report having solely opposite sex partners. The ACAN staff conducted four gender- and ethnicity-specific focus groups with the men and women in the community. The focus group participants indicated that they had **not** thought about using condoms with their partners and did not perceive themselves as being at risk for HIV or STDs. The reasons they cited for not doing so included:

- The males feeling embarrassed or uncomfortable using a condom;
- Both genders complaining that condoms decreased their sexual enjoyment & satisfaction;
- The females feeling embarrassed or uncomfortable asking their partners to help them use condoms in a way that is erotic and sexually arousing for them;

The ACAN staff went to the local health department to get information for the zip code where the housing community is located. They found that:

- Gonorrhea had been rising over the previous three years compared to the rest of the city
- AIDS rates per 100,000 population had been steady for the previous three years, but were still third highest of any other zip code in the city
- Pelvic inflammatory disease rates from residents of the zip code had risen dramatically from the previous year

The staff then requested information from their counseling and testing staff on the risks they've found when testing people in the area:

- 67% reported never using barriers with oral sex
- 40% reported never using barriers with vaginal sex
- 43% reported never using barriers with anal sex
- 12% reported an STD diagnosis in the last year
- 55% reported multiple partners in the last year
- 4% bought sex in the last year
- 1% sold sex in the last year
- 59% reported substance use during sex (including alcohol)
- 20% reported having partners at risk
- 49% reported having partners with multiple partners

- 1.) **Describe the population that needs the intervention:**

- 2.) **Identify the risk behaviors to focus on:**

- 3.) **Identify the influencing factors that facilitate a risky behavior and/or discourage a behavior:**

- 4.) **What more would you like to know? How can you find out more to help develop the intervention?**

Exercise 1-1
Heterosexual Women
in Drug Treatment
Assessment Summary
Group 2

Staff of the **Any Community AIDS Network** conducted four focus group interviews with women who have sex with men—two general groups and two groups with younger women—who are residents in an in-patient drug treatment facility. The questions focused on the barriers to risk reduction. The majority of focus group participants indicated that they have thought about initiating risk reduction efforts with their partners, but many had not yet done so. The younger women expressed more reluctance to initiate condom use. Through an access and control exercise, they expressed feelings of women not having power in relationships.

In all the groups, the reasons cited most often for not initiating risk reduction included:

- All of the female participants expressed a lack of confidence in their own abilities to communicate with their partners about risk reduction and negotiate consistent condom use;
- The younger women reported feeling embarrassed or uncomfortable asking their male partners to use a condom;
- The younger women reported fearing hostility and/or rejection. (“If I don’t, he’ll find someone who will.”)
- Among all ages, some of the women had been victims of domestic violence and feared that if they insisted that their partners use condoms, the violence would escalate.
- All ages of women reported pressure from partners to not use condoms and complaints from their partners that condoms decreased their sexual enjoyment & satisfaction;
- All women voiced complaints that condoms “ruined the moment”.

In addition to the issues outlined above, a majority of the women interviewed who were from rural areas also cited a lack of social support networks and access to condoms and prevention information as barriers to risk reduction.

The ACAN staff requested statistical information from their HIV testing staff on women they tested in drug treatment.

75% reported never using barriers with oral sex
45% reported never using barriers with vaginal sex
50% reported never using barriers with anal sex
10-20% reported an STD diagnosis in the last year
48% reported multiple partners in the last year
1% bought sex in the last year

Exercise 1-1
Assessment Summaries
Male Injection Drug Users
Group 3

Staff of the **Any Community AIDS Network** conducted four group interviews with male injection drug users. Questions that focused on barriers to risk reduction were asked and that issue was explored in greater detail. Many of the focus group participants indicated that HIV risk reduction is not a priority for many IDUs. About a third of the men had sold sex at some point to support their drug habit or to buy food. Most of these had sold sex to men who offered to pay more for sex without condoms. About 20% of men had bought sex in the last year, and most of them cited drug induced arousal as the main reason for this behavior. Barriers to using condoms and clean needles cited include:

- a lack of confidence in their own abilities to communicate with their partners about risk reduction and negotiate consistent condom and clean needle use;
- fear of rejection by their injecting partners if they insist on clean needles
- financial dependence on selling sex and pressure from paying sex partners to not use condoms
- lack of access to condoms and clean needles or cleaning supplies
- the influence of alcohol and other drugs on their behavior

Men interested in seeking drug treatment cited a lack of access to methadone clinics, long term treatment & counseling, and a lack of social support networks for recovering addicts as barriers to successful, long term recovery. This was especially true for men in rural areas and low-income men in urban areas.

The ACAN staff requested statistical information from their HIV testing staff on the male injecting drug users that they'd tested.

63% reported never using barriers with oral sex
48% reported never using barriers with vaginal sex
46% reported never using barriers with anal sex
12% reported an STD diagnosis in the last year
61% reported multiple partners in the last year
16% bought sex in the last year
7% sold sex in the last year
93% reported substance use during sex (including alcohol)
68% reported sharing needles
63% reported having partners at risk
54% reported having partners with multiple partners

Exercise 1-1
Assessment Summaries
Female Injection Drug Users
Group 4

Staff of the **Any Community AIDS Network** conducted four group interviews with female injection drug users. Questions focused on barriers to risk reduction were explored in greater detail. Many of the focus group participants indicated that HIV risk reduction is not a priority for many IDUs. About a third of the women had sold sex at some point to support their drug habit or buy food, and a few reported that they could sell sex for more money if they did not insist on a condom being used. Barriers to using condoms and clean needles cited include:

- a lack of confidence in their own abilities to communicate with their partners about risk reduction and negotiate consistent condom and clean needle use;
- fear of rejection by their partners and peers if they insist on condoms or clean needles
- lack of access to condoms and clean needles or cleaning supplies

Women interested in seeking drug treatment cited a lack of access to methadone clinics, long term treatment & counseling, and a lack of social support networks for recovering addicts as barriers to successful, long term recovery. This was especially true for women in rural areas and low-income women in urban areas women.

The ACAN staff requested statistical information from their HIV testing staff on the female injecting drug users that they'd tested.

55% reported never using barriers with oral sex
45% reported never using barriers with vaginal sex
50% reported never using barriers with anal sex
15% reported an STD diagnosis in the last year
60% reported multiple partners in the last year
13% bought sex in the last year
35% sold sex in the last year
94% reported substance use during sex (including alcohol)
68% reported sharing needles
71% reported having partners at risk
56% reported having partners with multiple partners

Exercise 1-1
Assessment Summaries
Men who have Sex with Men
Group 5

Staff of the **Any Community AIDS Network** conducted four group interviews with men who have sex with men. During focus groups conducted among men who have sex with men, barriers to condom use were explored in greater detail. The majority of focus group participants indicated that they have thought about initiating risk reduction efforts with their partners, but have not yet done so. Reasons cited most often for not doing so included:

- a lack of confidence in their abilities to communicate with their partners about risk reduction and negotiate consistent condom use with their partners.
- The majority felt uncomfortable bringing the subject up with their partners, and felt their partners would respond to them with hostility and/or rejection. (“If I don’t, he’ll find someone who will.”)
- Younger MSM said they felt a great deal of pressure from their partners to have unprotected sex, and said they lacked the social support needed to initiate risk reduction steps with their partners.

During two focus groups conducted among MSM in rural areas, barriers to counseling and testing were explored in addition to barriers to condom use. Participants cited fear and threats to confidentiality as barriers to accessing counseling and testing in their communities.

The ACAN staff requested statistical information from their HIV testing staff on the men who have sex with men that they’d tested.

75% reported never using barriers with oral sex
45% reported never using barriers with vaginal sex
30% reported never using barriers with anal sex
48% reported multiple partners in the last year
5% bought sex in the last year
2% sold sex in the last year
54% reported substance use during sex (including alcohol)
65% reported having partners at risk
42% reported having partners with multiple partners

