

MAKING HIV TESTING, PREVENTION, AND CARE ACCESSIBLE TO VULNERABLE POPULATIONS IN PHILADELPHIA THROUGH COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

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Building Capacity: HIV and HPV Outreach Seminar for Faith Based Leaders
Philadelphia, PA

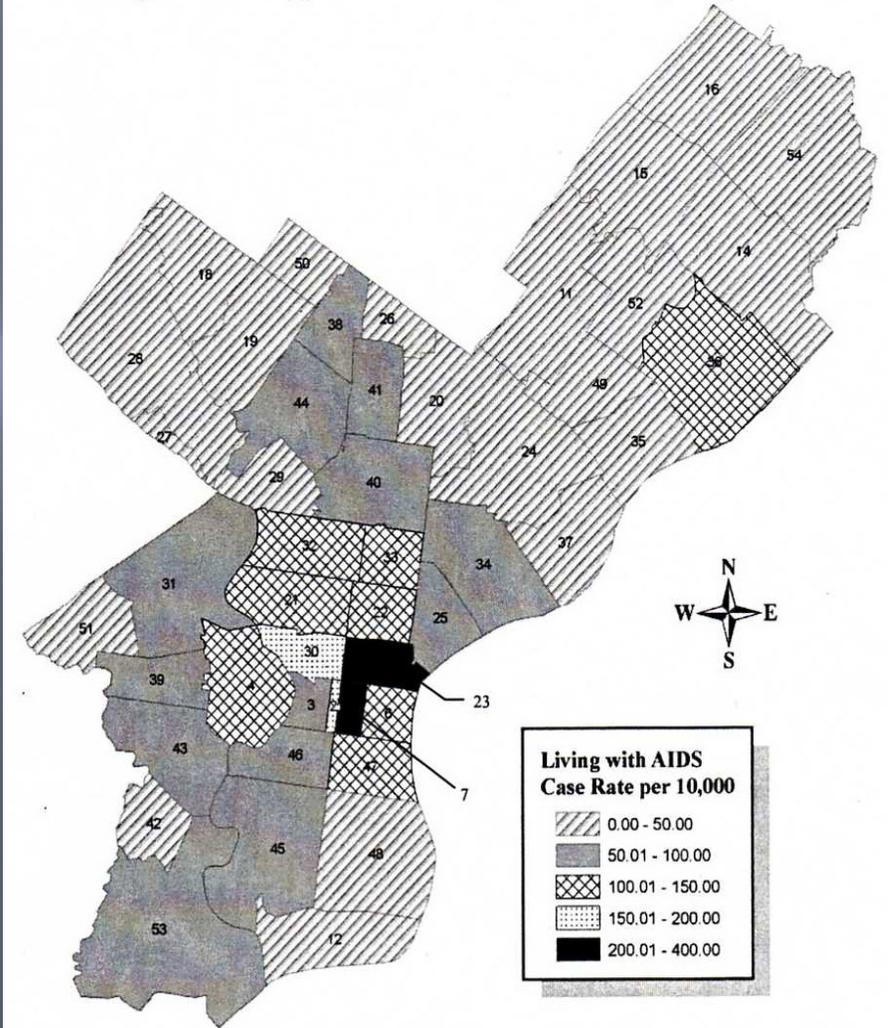
Objectives

- ▣ Define Vulnerable Populations.
- ▣ Describe multi-pronged approaches to providing HIV Prevention Services to these Special Populations.
- ▣ Describe the role of faith-based organizations in sexuality education.
- ▣ Discuss Strategies for Community Collaboration and Implementation of HIV Prevention Services.

INTRODUCTION

- Drexel University College of Medicine @ St. Christopher's Hospital for Children performs adolescent & young adult focused HIV education and testing predominately in neighborhoods surrounding the hospital in North Philadelphia.
- This program began in October 2003 as the first healthcare institution in Pennsylvania to be granted a license to perform multiple sites HIV rapid testing.
- ActionAIDS is a Philadelphia based non-profit that provides case management and prevention services to diverse communities throughout the City. As Pennsylvania's largest AIDS service organization, ActionAIDS was founded in 1986 with the mission that no one should face AIDS alone.

Philadelphia Living with AIDS Case Rate by Zip Code



Introduction

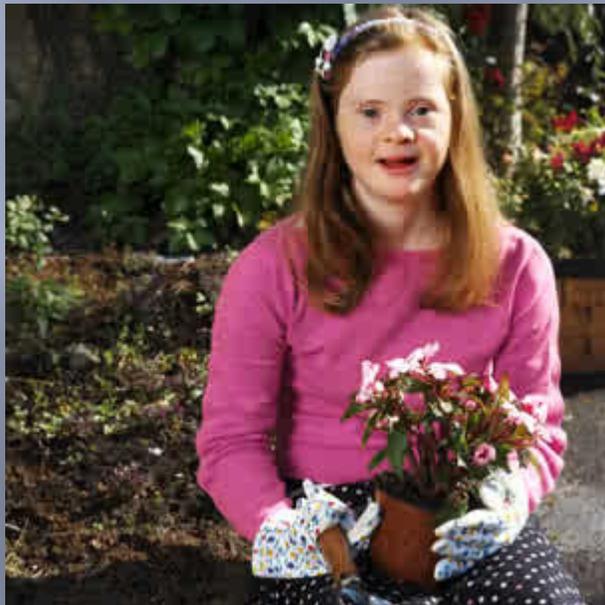
- Over and above providing HIV prevention and testing services, is the opportunity to interact with community members, educating them about HIV, counteracting misinformation, ignorance, and stigma, and empowering the community to reduce and prevent HIV transmission and improve access to care.

Vulnerable Populations

- ▣ Populations are defined as vulnerable because they are marginalized and there are multiple layers of oppression and stigmatization within these populations that decreases their ability to access client-centered prevention services such as HIV testing and education. Many of whom are in your congregation.

Vulnerable Populations

DD/MR



DEAF



Vulnerable Populations

PEDIATRICS



ADOLESCENTS



Vulnerable Populations

PRISON



SUBSTANCE/IDU



Vulnerable Populations

HOMELESS

LGBTQ



Philosophy of Risk Reduction

- ▣ Meet individuals where they are at
- ▣ Keep a non-judgmental perspective
- ▣ Manage your own discomfort
- ▣ Separate the individual's behaviors & actions from your own beliefs, values and morals.

Risk Reduction

The goal of risk reduction is to support individuals in making behavior changes that will reduce their risk of acquiring or transmitting HIV.

Risk is situational.

Risk is a continuum.

Encourage clients to practice the least risky behaviors.



No Risk

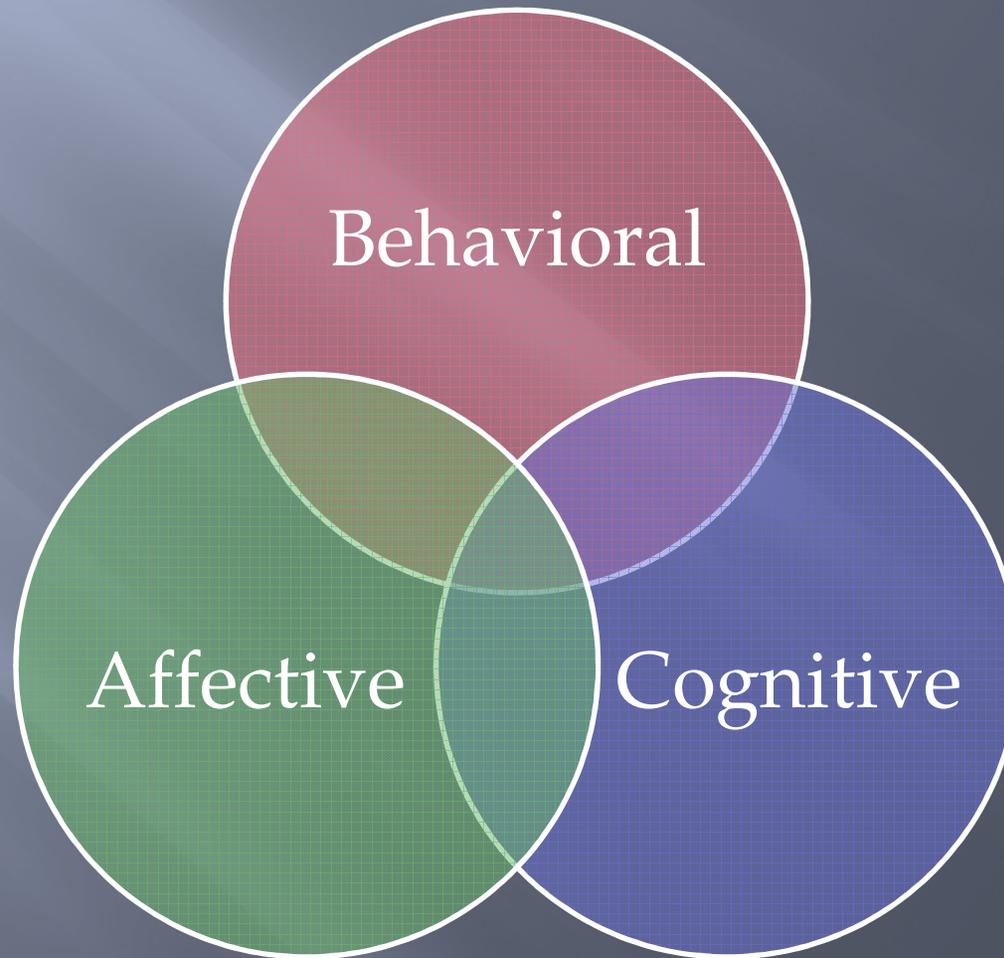
Low Risk

High Risk

Risk Reduction Counseling

- ▣ What behaviors: Vaginal, Anal, Oral, MSM, HIV+/-
- ▣ Number of partners
- ▣ Use condoms/lube/dental dams
- ▣ Share works
- ▣ Sex while high/intoxicated
- ▣ Sex for drugs/money
- ▣ History of STI/pregnancy

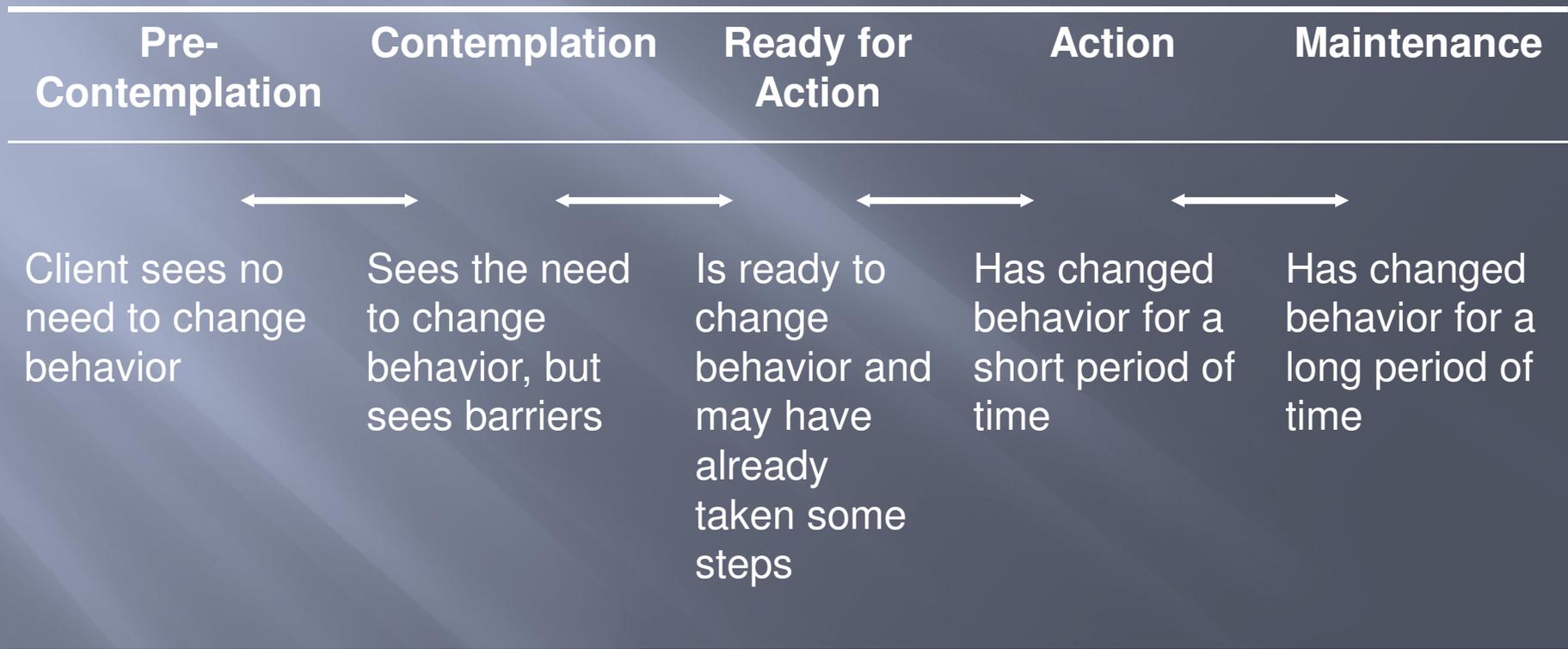
The ABCs of Learning...



The ABC's

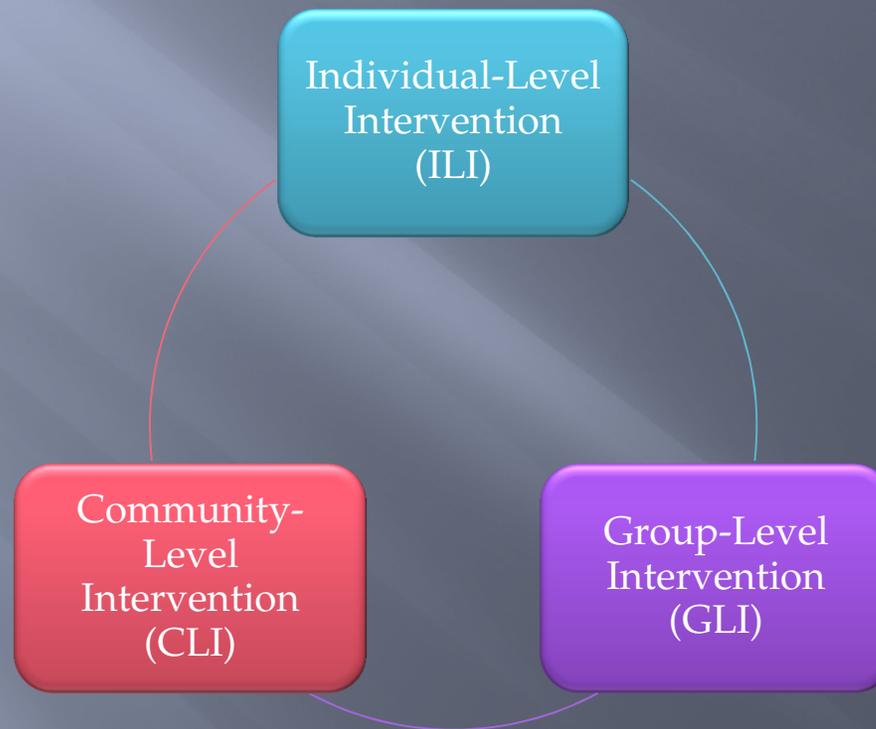
- ▣ Affective – Referring to feelings, attitudes, values---the heart and soul. These methods help clients focus on their own feelings, values, beliefs, and attitudes; often the goal is to motivate clients for behavior change.
- ▣ Behavioral – Referring to actions, involving the body (including verbal and nonverbal skills). Intended to help clients develop skills and practice cognitive learning. For example, using a condom, negotiating safer sex with a partner.
- ▣ Cognitive – Referring to thinking or the mind. Cognitive methods give information and help clients learn concepts, facts, and ideas. Cognitive learning has an impact on increasing knowledge. For example, HIV 101: what are the high risk fluids, what are high risk behaviors, etc.

Stages of Change / Transtheoretical Model



Source: Prochaska and DiClemente, 1983

Interventions

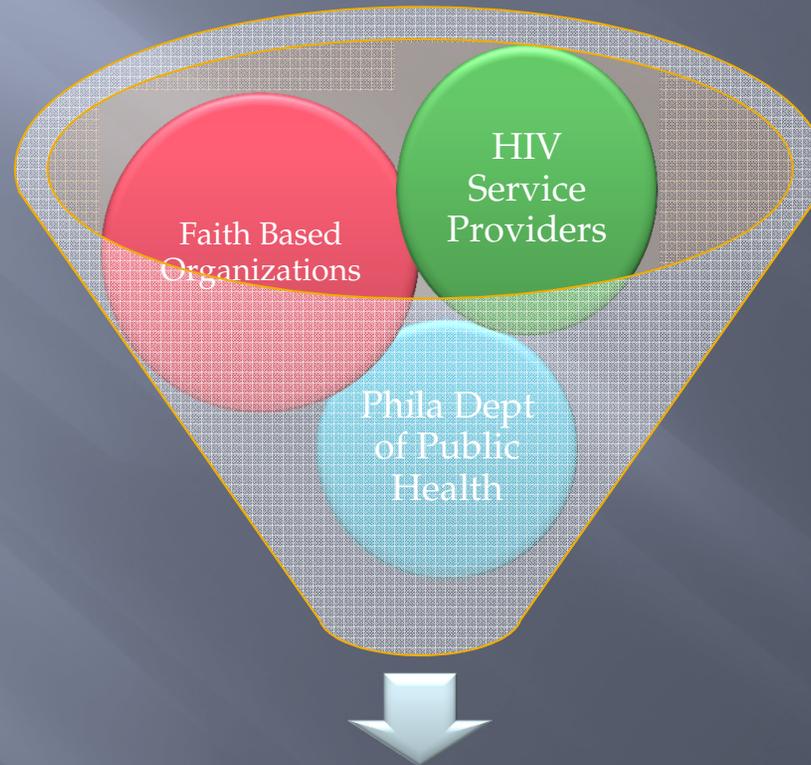


Concepts and principles from the Health Belief Model, Social Cognitive Theory, and Diffusion of Innovation Theory informed the design and implementation of prevention efforts.

Community Collaboration

- In economic times such as the one we are in now, it is imperative for faith based organizations to reach out to existing prevention programs (ie, HIV testing providers) to work together to meet the needs of their congregation.
- These efforts work together to benefit people, families, neighborhoods and communities in Philadelphia.

Implementation of HIV Prevention Services through Community Collaborations



Community Impact

Faith Based Organizations as Sexuality Educators???

- ▣ Religious institutions reach a majority of Americans; there are no other institutions in the community that touch as many people throughout the lifespan.
- ▣ Faith based organizations reach a majority of youth more than 60% of American youth spent at least one hour per week at a church or synagogue.
- ▣ Sexuality is a source of alienation and hurt for too many Americans; faith based organizations have a special role to play in helping people to heal when sexuality causes pain and suffering.

Faith Based Organizations as Sexuality Educators??

- ▣ Young people and adults say that faith based organizations fail them on sexuality issues.
- ▣ Religion involvement helps keep young people to delay engaging in sexual intercourse (not simply abstinence messaging)

Reference: Rev Debra W. Haffner (2011): Dearly Beloved: Sexuality Education in Faith Communities, *American Journal of Sexuality Education*, 6:1, 1-6.

Next Steps...

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For more information on how you can integrate sexuality education in your faith organization's programs (including HIV testing events and educational workshops), please contact us.

Resources

Center for Disease Control and Prevention

www.cdc.gov

Philadelphia Office of HIV Planning

www.hiv.philly.org

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U.S. www.siecus.org