

**COMPUTER-BASED HIV PREVENTION INTERVENTIONS FOR
AFRICAN-AMERICAN WOMEN
PHASE I**

While the overall HIV infection rates in the U.S. have been remained relatively constant, disparities in rates between Whites and members of other racial/ethnic groups continue to grow. Several behavioral prevention interventions tailored for African-Americans have shown efficacy in reducing sexual risk behaviors. However, their successful replication has been hampered by cost, implementation difficulties, and participant retention issues. This Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Phase I project sought to address these barriers to reducing HIV/AIDS rates by developing and empirically validating research-based, computerized versions of efficacious in-person HIV prevention programs for African-American females, and making these computerized programs accessible to service provision agencies at low cost via CD-ROM and the Internet. Specific objectives included: (1) increased service agencies' ability to implement efficacious HIV prevention interventions with fidelity; (2) increased African-American females' participation in efficacious HIV prevention interventions; and (3) reduced sexual risk behaviors and HIV infection rates among African-American females.

In Phase I we: (a) developed a computer-based version of SiSTA, an in-person, group-administered HIV prevention program for young African-American women that has demonstrated efficacy in reducing sexual risk behavior; and (b) validated computer-based SiSTA ("Digitized SiSTA") through a randomized controlled trial in which Digitized SiSTA's effects are compared to those of group-administered SiSTA ("Group SiSTA"). Digitized SiSTA developed in collaboration with Group SiSTA's developers, Dr. Ralph DiClemente and Dr. Gina Wingood, who were project Co-Investigators. The product was informed by focus groups and pilot testing with members of the target population.

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