



Doing Something Different - Group Counseling at STD Clinics to Promote Condom Use

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FOCUS

- Injection Drug Users & Their Non-injecting Partners
- Gay/Bisexual Men
- STD Clinic Clients
- Women
- Minority Specific
- Other

ORIGINAL SITE

- Community-Based
- Clinic-Based

APPROACH

- Behavioral Skills Development
- Community Outreach
- Condom Education/Access
- HIV/STD Education
- Needle Cleaning/Exchange
- Self Efficacy/Self-Esteem

COMPONENTS

- Behavioral Skills Practice
- Group Discussion

SUMMARY

Developed for use in the waiting room of an inner-city public health clinic, this single-session program consists of a group discussion on condom use, a videotape portraying condom use as socially acceptable, a role playing session practicing negotiating condom use with sexual partners, and a question-and-answer period. A health educator leads discussions of STD prevention methods, condom use, and why people like/dislike condoms. The video, "Let's Do Something Different", uses culturally appropriate language to deliver the message that condoms are socially acceptable and that sex can be exciting and pleasurable when condoms are used. Following the video, participants engage in a role play in which they negotiate using condoms in a variety of settings. The health educator then answers questions as time allows. A field test of the program demonstrated that, seven to nine months after the intervention, male participants were nearly two thirds less likely to have received a new STD diagnosis than men in a control group.

SUITABLE FOR USE IN

This program is suitable for use in public health and STD clinics that provide education or services to high-risk populations.

ORIGINAL INTERVENTION SAMPLE

Age, Gender

mid-20's to mid-30's, 64% male

Race/Ethnicity

76% African-American, 15% Hispanic, 9% Other Race/Ethnicity

- HIV Antibody Testing/Counseling
- Lectures
- Peer Counseling/Instruction
- Role Play
- Safer Sex Communication/Negotiation
- Video
- Other

PROGRAM LENGTH

The intervention session requires 45-60 minutes, depending on the amount of group participation. The sessions's three distinct segments range in time needed, with the first (including the 20-minute video) being the longest.

STAFFING REQUIREMENTS/TRAINING

A health educator leads the intervention. No program-specific training is required. The *Facilitator's Manual* provides detailed guidance to help implement the curriculum.

HAPPA PROGRAM PACKAGE

The HAPPA Program Package for this program includes:

- ▶ *HAPPA* User's Guide
- ▶ Facilitator's Manual
- ▶ *Let's Do Something Different* videotape
- ▶ Activity Masters packet
- ▶ HAPPA Evaluation Assistance Kit (includes the Evaluation Questionnaire)
- ▶ Original Evaluation Instrument
- ▶ Process Evaluation Instrument
- ▶ HAPPA Adaptation Workbook

- ▶ Telephone technical support on implementation and evaluation for 1 year