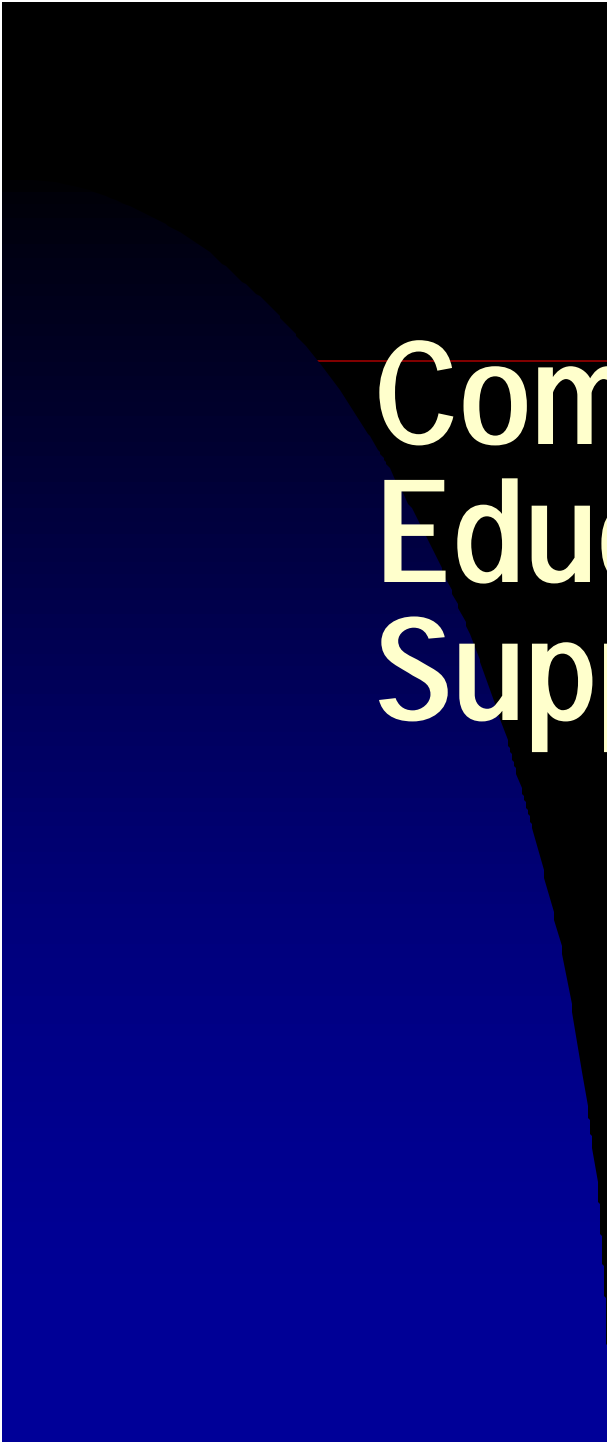



**A Multifaceted  
Approach to Train  
African American  
Women as HIV  
Prevention  
Community  
Educators**



# Complementing Health Education with Social Support and Art

- Presentation prepared by Sheila F. Tarbet, Ph.D., Evaluator, The Perinatal Council (TPC)
- Program implementation by:
  - ◆ Emily Motley, M.A., Program Coordinator &
  - ◆ Claudette Garner, M.A., Program Director
  - ◆ Karen Trocki, Ph.D., Alcohol Research Group (ARG), consulted

- Initiated by Barbara Bunn McCullough, Ph.D., Executive Director, TPC, and P.I.



# Healthy Tomorrows Peer Educator Training Program

# Program Goals

- To train at risk African American women in HIV prevention to reduce their own risk
- To train at risk African American women to act as peer educators in Richmond and Oakland

# Key Community Partners

- TPC, headquartered in Oakland, with offices throughout the East Bay Area, CA
- The East Bay Center for the Performing Arts, Richmond, CA
- The Center for Art and Public Life, California College of Arts & Crafts, Oakland, CA

# Key Program Elements (1)

- Concurrent groups of up to 13 women in Richmond and Oakland
- 48 hours of training provided over 8 to 12 weeks
- Small stipend, childcare & transportation provided
- Social support provided in group sessions

## Key Program Elements (2)

- Artists as members of program staff
- Art, photography, video used extensively
- Community graduation ceremony at the end of each session, displaying graduates' art

# Comprehensive Curriculum (1)

- HIV/AIDS in the African American community
- Modes of transmission - HIV & STIs
- Alcohol & drug use & transmission
- Instruction on safer sex
- Infusion throughout of material supporting racial & ethnic pride

# Comprehensive Curriculum (2)

- Self-esteem building
- Exploration of personal values
- Communication skills training
- Discussion of family & parenting issues
- Training in public speaking

# Post Graduation

- Graduates encouraged to conduct community education
- Staff assists in setting up community presentations
- Small stipends paid for community presentations
- Ongoing aftercare support group

# Programmatic Accomplishments

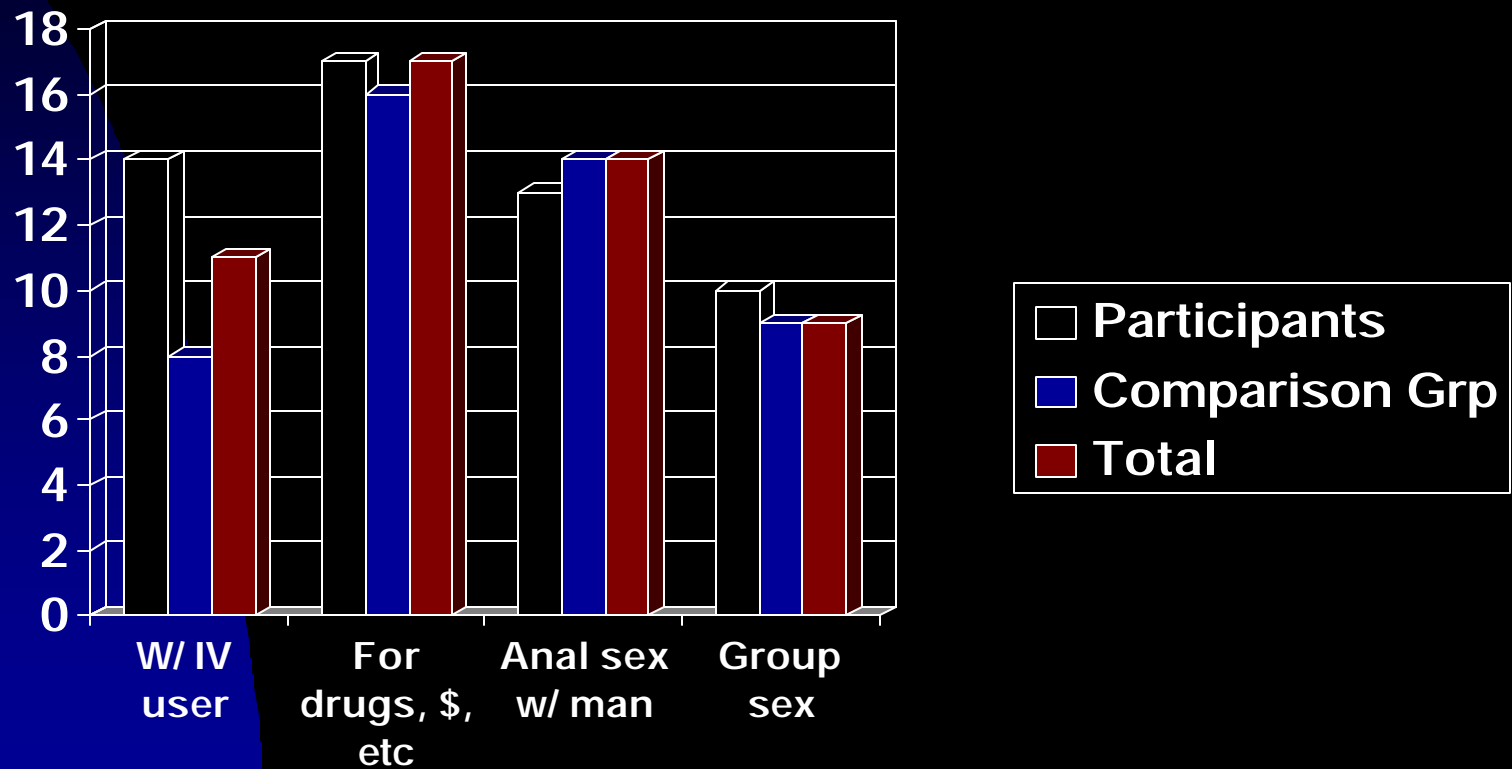
- 72 participants in 4 cycles (8 groups) attended training
- About 75% completed training
- 1 cycle devoted to HIV+ women
- 80 comparison group members recruited and surveyed
- Video documentary in development

# Preliminary Evaluation Findings

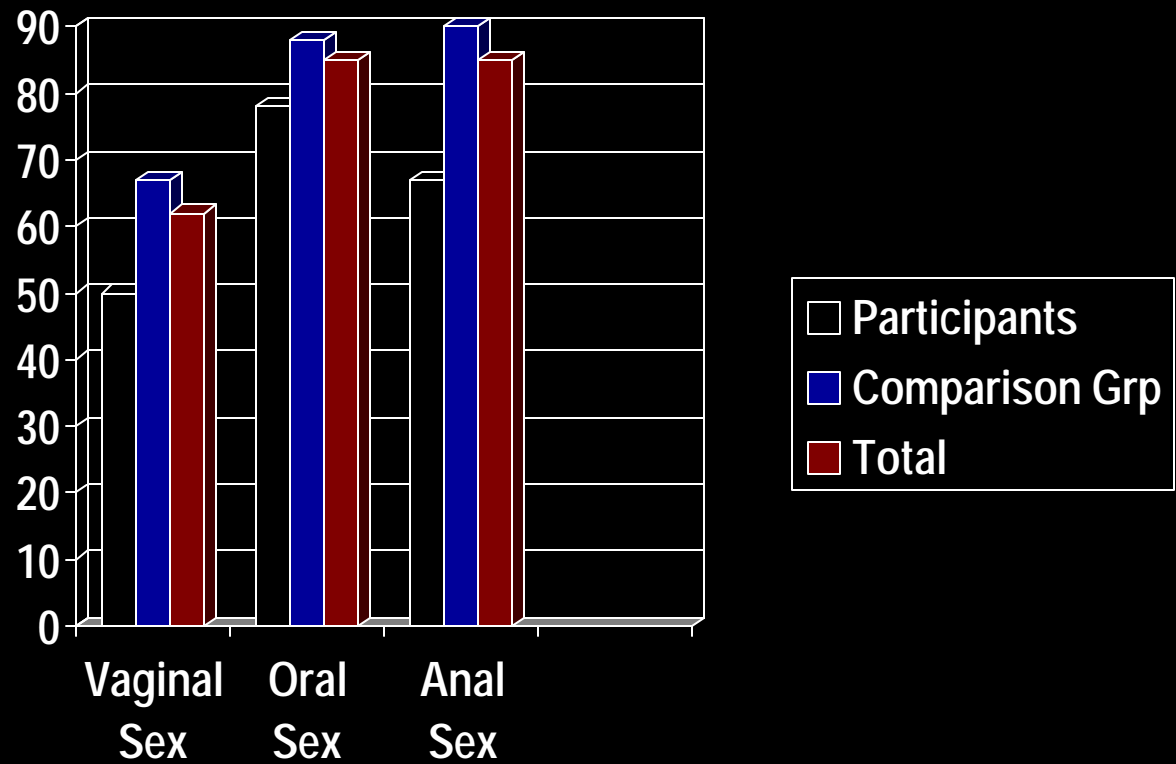
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Study Participants at  
Baseline

# Lifetime History of High Risk Unprotected Sex , in Percents

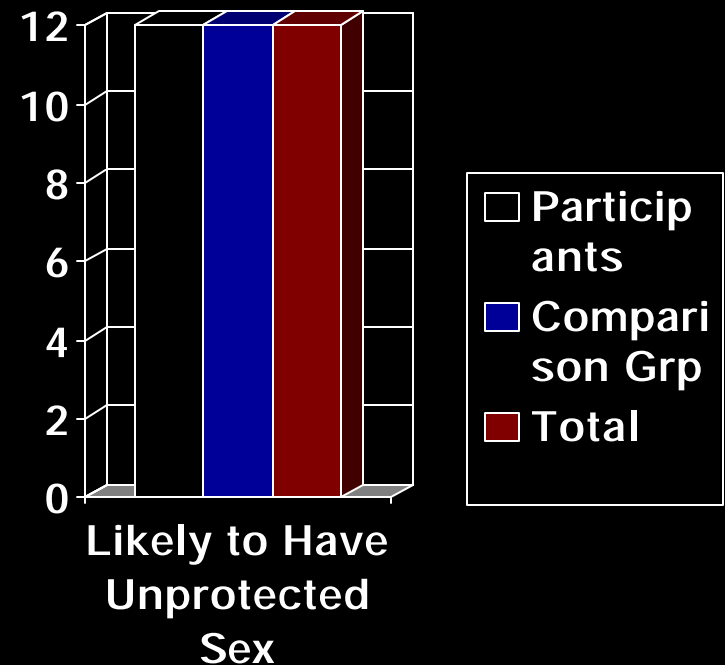


# Those with Multiple Partners: % Using No Protection Last Time



# Possible Future Risky Behavior

- % responding at least “somewhat likely” to have unprotected sex if infected with HIV or another STI



# Higher Risk than General Population of African American Women in the Bay Area

- Compared to a sample drawn from the National Alcohol Survey by ARG, our population had higher levels of:
  - ◆ alcohol-related problems
  - ◆ depression
  - ◆ impulsivity

# “I was afraid I might be an alcoholic”

- 10% of the general population sample of Bay Area African American women said “yes”
- 24% of our participants said “yes”
- 20% of our comparison group said “yes”
- 22% of our total study population said “yes”

# “Police questioned me due to my drinking”

- 5% of the ARG sample said “yes”
- 12% of the participant group said “yes”
- 14% of the comparison group said “yes”
- 13% of the total study population said “yes”

# “I felt depressed”

- 67% of the African American women in the ARG sample said “rarely”
- 33% of the participant and comparison groups said “rarely”

# “I felt lonely”

- 64% of the African American women in the ARG Bay Area sample responded “rarely”
- 46% of our participants said “rarely”
- 42% of our comparison group answered “rarely”
- 44% of our total study population answered “rarely”

# “I like to try new things for the excitement”

- 17% of the ARG sample responded this described them “a lot,” as did:
  - 32% of the participants
  - 29% of the comparison group
  - 31% of the total study population

# “I like to experience new and different sensations”

- 18% of the general sample of Bay Area AA women responded this described them “quite a lot,” as did:
  - 34% of the participants
  - 27% of the comparison group
  - 30% of the total study group

# Preliminary Outcomes, August 2002

# Change in HIV-related Knowledge

- From baseline to first follow-up, participants' mean HIV knowledge scores significantly ( $p < .01$ ) increased, from 33.0 to 36.6
- For the comparison group, mean scores at baseline were 30.0 and 30.8 at first follow-up, but the increase was not significant

# Future Analyses To Examine:

- Comparative data from baseline to 6 month follow-up
- Retention of knowledge increases
- Attitudinal data (self-esteem, views of safer sex, etc.)
- Behavioral data (use of condoms, number of partners, etc.)
- Intent to use safer sex practices