BACKGROUND

- MSM are disproportionately affected by HIV. The Mpowerment Project (MP), a community-level intervention designed for young gay/bisexual men has been shown to be efficacious in reducing unprotected anal intercourse among primarily white young MSM (YMSM).
- Three CDC-funded community-based organizations (CBOs) targeting YMSM of color (AID Atlanta, CALOR, and Family Health Centers of San Diego) participated in the MEM.
- Data were collected using client-administered handheld computers from MEM participants at enrollment (baseline), and at three (follow-up 1) and six (follow-up 2) months.

DESCRIPTION

- Project design consists of three evaluation components:
  - Process monitoring
  - Individual-level outcome monitoring
  - Community-level outcome monitoring
- Evaluation questions:
  - Do clients participating in an m-group report any changes in HIV risk behaviors or psychosexual factors?
  - Which client-, intervention-, or CBO-level factors are associated with reported changes in HIV risk behaviors or psychosexual factors among clients who participated in an m-group?

METHODS

- 503 participants with baseline surveys
- 488 were analysis eligible
- Analysis inclusion criteria:
  - Client reported having sex at one or more time points
  - Client’s survey data are within defined window periods for the time points
  - Follow-up 1 is within 83-104 days after baseline
  - Follow-up 2 is within 166-194 days after baseline
  - Generalized estimating equations (GEE) were used to test for significant changes in risk behaviors after the intervention.

RESULTS

- CBO-specific Eligibility Criteria
  - Age: 18-29 (CBO A), 18-25 (CBO B), 16-24 (CBO C)
  - Gender: bisexual male or male-to-female transgender (CBO A)
  - Race/ethnicity:
    - African American (CBO A)
    - African American, Hispanic, Asian/Pacific Islander (CBO B)
    - Hispanic (CBO C)
  - Residence: Must reside in county (CBO B)

- Eligibility Criteria across All Three CBOs
  - Birth sex: Sex at birth must be male
  - Sexual orientation: Must be gay or bisexual
  - Previous exposure to the intervention:
    - No m-group participation in the last 12 months
    - Limited previous exposure to MEM (discussion/core group/social event attendance plus project space visit) cannot be greater than three events
    - No participation in more than one discussion/core group or more than two social events in the last 12 months
    - Not accessed the project space more than three times in the last 12 months

- Outcome explored was unprotected anal sex with a male in the last three months.
- Preliminary analyses indicate:
  - A significant decrease in unprotected sex with a male in the previous three months at follow-up 1 (OR=0.70, 95% CI=0.51, 0.96) among MEM participants combined
  - Behavior was not sustained at follow-up 2

- Agencies experienced difficulty collecting data from participants within target window period.

REFERENCES

3. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Atlanta, GA; and Manulife Consulting Group, Inc., McLean, VA

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