

Evaluation of an Evidence-Based HIV Prevention Intervention to Enhance Relevance in African American Faith Settings

BACKGROUND:

- African American (AA) youth age 13-19 account for nearly 67% of HIV/AIDS diagnoses, despite representing only 15% of the U.S. population.
- In Wake County (North Carolina), AA represent 20.5% of the total population but account for 58% of the total HIV cases.
- NC teens engage in more risky sexual behavior on average than adolescents nationally.
- AA faith-based organizations have been resistant to HIV prevention interventions; however, their participation is shifting, highlighting the potential faith settings have for HIV/STD prevention efforts.

FOY INTERVENTION:

- Focus on Youth (FOY) is a community-based intervention that provides youth with the skills and knowledge they need to protect themselves from HIV and other STDs. Informed Parents and Children Together (ImPACT) that assists parents in areas such as parental monitoring and effective communication.

RESEARCH OBJECTIVES:

- Would FOY + ImPACT, work in the context of faith-based organizations in Wake County?
- What adaptations are needed, if any, to ensure relevance, uptake, and sustainability of the FOY + ImPACT in faith-based organizations?

METHODS:

- Implemented intervention in three AA churches
- Eight total focus groups: 2 pre-intervention youth and adults; 6 post-intervention youth and adults

SAMPLE FOCUS GROUP QUESTIONS (pre/post intervention, adults and youth):

- What kinds of decisions do youth have to face today?
- How has the FOY class helped you with the kinds of choices and decisions you face?
- Tell us about the experience of participating in the ImPACT session with your parent. What did you like about it? What did you not like?
- What type of setting do you think is best for this kind of program? What are the pros of doing this in a church setting? The cons?
- What do you think are the beliefs, attitudes, or social norms that influence youth decisions?

Next Steps

- Test the proposed adaptations to the FOY + ImPACT curriculum.
- Continue to support resulting community activities



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Additional Questions?

Contact: Tamara Taggart, MPH; ttaggart@email.unc.edu