

STATE MINORITY AIDS PROJECT (SMAP)

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PROJECT DESCRIPTION

In June 2002 UCSF's Institute for Global Health (IGH) began collaborating with the State of California Department of Health Services, Office of AIDS (DHS/OA), in conjunction with the California HIV/AIDS Research Program (CHRP) (formally known as UARP), in their Community Collaborative Projects. The project aims to create and disseminate systematic reviews on HIV prevention interventions focusing on particular at-risk populations in the United States. In addition, the project aims to develop and maintain a database of the best evidence of behavioral HIV prevention interventions conducted with people of color.

Past accomplishments of IGH:

- Updated a search of interventions targeting African Americans and conducted a meta-analysis of the interventions that targeted African-American heterosexuals.
- Prepared a Module for UARP in their Community Collaborative Projects using the research regarding effective interventions targeting African-American heterosexuals.
- Prepared another module for UARP's Community Collaborative focusing on effective interventions for men of color who have sex with men (MSM) which is available on the UARP website.
- Updated our systematic reviews of HIV prevention interventions for Latino and Asian-American and Pacific Islander populations.

IGH's current grant accomplishments:

- Consultation with OA and CHRP to assist in the CHOICE website (California HIV Options: Interventions, Collaborations, and Everything). IGH staff review currently published literature for articles that describe HIV interventions focusing on populations in the US. If the articles fit the inclusion criteria for CHOICE they are coded (using a coding sheet created by OA and CHRP) and sent to CHRP for inclusion in the website. This project is based on the goals of the HIV Prevention Research and Evaluation Branch of OA to describe and promote the concept of intervention enhancement that can be easily used by community-based organizations. The goal of the project is to facilitate the translation of successful, evidence-based interventions from the research realm into formats that are more easily utilized by community-based organizations and/or local health jurisdictions.
- Development of a systematic review of HIV prevention interventions focusing on women of color. IGH staff conducted a systematic search of literature for inclusion in the review. Selected articles were double-coded and reviewed for inclusion. Remaining studies were analyzed for differences and similarities, and the systematic review was developed using the included articles. The review underwent peer review among UCSF faculty.

INTERESTING FINDINGS

For African-American heterosexuals, we found that the most successful interventions were grounded in theory, provided the participants with skills training (e.g., condom negotiation), and were culturally sensitive to the unique needs of African Americans. Positive outcomes from these interventions included increased condom use, decreased numbers of sexual partners, and improved communication with partners regarding safer sexual practices. For MSM of color, culturally sensitive interventions facilitate risk reduction, and future interventions should take the unique needs of the target community into account. This includes taking into consideration the unique barriers to safe sex (e.g., internalized homophobia, racism, poverty, substance use, sexual identity) that may be present within these communities. For women of color, we found that the most successful interventions were grounded in theory, provided the participants with skills training (e.g., how to use a condom, communication/negotiation), and were culturally and gender sensitive to the unique needs of the target population. The use of peer educators also often resulted in positive outcomes.

PROJECT WEBSITES: *Systematic reviews*- http://chrp.ucop.edu/ca_collaborations/modules/research_summary.html; *CHOICE*- <http://choicehiv.org>

PROJECT END DATE: June 2008