



# HIV Prevention among Immigrant Haitian Women: Findings from the Metro Boston Haitian REACH 2010 Project

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## BACKGROUND

### HIV/AIDS in Haiti

- As of 1999, AIDS was the leading cause of death among adults who reside in Haiti.
- The rate of HIV/AIDS is estimated at 4.5% of the total population.
- Between 1982 and 1992, the rate of AIDS among Haitian women more than tripled (from 15% to 46%).

## PROFILE OF HAITIANS LIVING WITH HIV/AIDS IN MASSACHUSETTS

CATEGORY	N
Cumulative HIV/AIDS Cases	1,044
Male	610 (58%)
Female	434 (42%)
Modes of Exposure	
Heterosexual Relationships	233 (22%)
Presumed Heterosexual Contact	566 (54%)
MSM/IDU	71 (7%)
Unknown	174 (17%)

## PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

### HIV PREVENTION FOR HAITIAN WOMEN

- Developed to address the disparity in HIV/AIDS infection rates among Haitian women in the Greater Boston Metropolitan area.
- Based on the Social Cognitive Learning model, with focus on Haitian cultural values, social norms and practices, and individual attitudes and behaviors.
- Designed to promote HIV risk-reduction behaviors and sexual practices among Haitian women.

### GROUP WORKSHOPS

- Based on a culturally-oriented HIV prevention curriculum designed specifically for Haitian women.
- Included topics such as HIV/AIDS and domestic violence, HIV/AIDS and pregnancy, and effective HIV prevention strategies.
- Conducted in Haitian Creole at various community-based agencies that serve the Haitian community.
- Used a participatory intervention model, which included the use of group discussions, case scenarios, and role plays.

## METHODOLOGY

- Workshop participants were recruited via existing agency lists, radio and TV announcements, and word of mouth.
- Participants filled out surveys prior to and following their enrollment in the group workshops.
- Participants also completed feedback forms at the conclusion of the group workshops.

## DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

216 Haitian women took part in the group workshops (from 2001 to 2005).

- They ranged in age from 18 to 60+.
- The majority (55%) was between the ages of 25 and 45 years old.
- 98% were born in Haiti or in another country.
- Demographic data are summarized in Figures 1 to 4.

Figure 1: Age Distribution

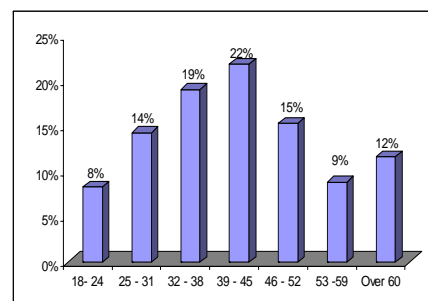


Figure 2: Marital Status

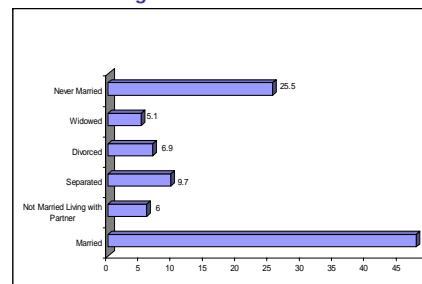


Figure 3: Years Lived in the United States

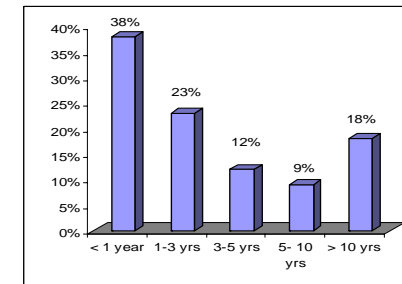


Figure 4: Preferred Language

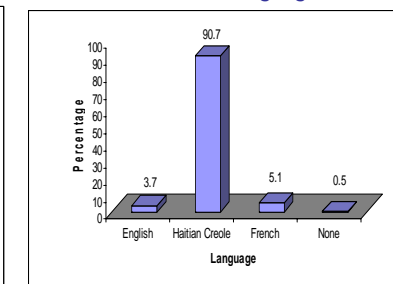
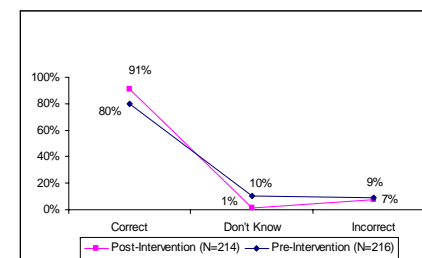


Figure 5: General Knowledge: Pre- and Post-Intervention Mean Scores



## FINDINGS

- As shown in Figure 5 and Table 1, the intervention produced a large effect on increases in the overall score of knowledge about HIV/AIDS.

Table 1: Intervention Outcome for General HIV Knowledge

	Effect Size	Significance
Correct	.98	.00
Don't Know	.90	.012
Incorrect	.16	.000

- The intervention produced very large effect on increases in the overall knowledge scores.
- The changes in pre- and post-intervention knowledge are significant.

## FINDINGS (Cont.)

- In terms of behavioral outcomes, the findings indicate that changes in "getting tested for HIV/AIDS" were significant (see Fig. 6 & Table 2).
- However, the differences in the pre- and post-data for "return for test results" and "condom use" were not significant (see Figs. 6, 7 & Table 2).

Figure 6: Behavioral Outcomes

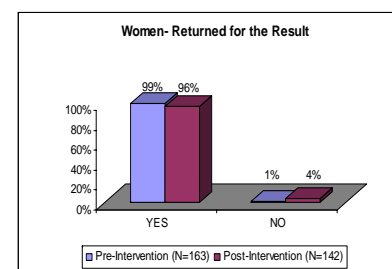
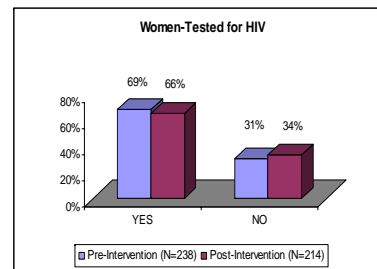


Figure 7: Behavioral Outcomes

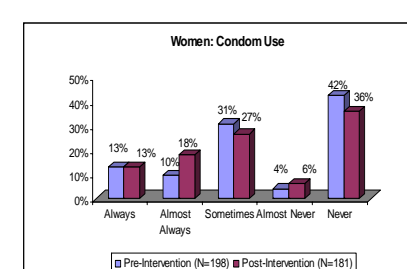


Table 2: Behavioral Outcomes

Behavior	Outcome	X <sup>2</sup> Significance
Tested for HIV	66%	.036
Return for Result	96%	.804
Condom Use	64%	.594

The differences in the pre and post data for "Return for HIV Test Results" and "Condom Use" are not significant. Changes in "Getting Tested for HIV" are significant.

## SUMMARY

- The intervention approach (e.g., small group workshops) yielded significant changes in Haitian women's general knowledge about HIV transmission.
- The intervention had significant effects on women getting tested for HIV/AIDS.
- The intervention did not appear to have any significant influences on women's condom use or behavior toward returning for their HIV test results.

## CONCLUSION

- Culturally-oriented, gender-specific and community-based programs can be effective in addressing the HIV prevention needs of ethnic minority women and immigrant groups.
- Future HIV prevention programs should focus on identifying and implementing socio-cultural factors that may increase a woman's condom use and behavior toward returning for their HIV test results.

## SUGGESTED READINGS

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