

# My Health, My Future, I Care

## NEW HAITIAN IMMIGRANTS AND HIV PREVENTION IN THE GREATER BOSTON COMMUNITY

By New Immigrant Working Group Members

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### BACKGROUND:

- In Massachusetts, 1,074 cumulative HIV/AIDS cases have been reported among Haitians living in Massachusetts as of February 1, 2005. (MDPH)
- The rate of heterosexual transmission of HIV within the Massachusetts Haitian community is more than three times that among non-Haitians.
- Heterosexual and presumed heterosexual transmissions account for 76% of total reported Haitian AIDS cases
- Women make up more than 1/3 of the total reported Haitian AIDS cases.

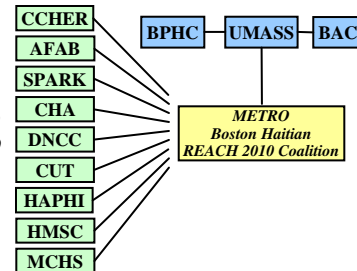
### REDUCING HIV DISPARITIES IN THE HAITIAN COMMUNITIES THROUGH COMMUNITY MOBILIZATION

#### GOALS

- By 2007, expose approximately 18,000 or 25% of Haitians in the Metro Boston area to HIV/AIDS preventive education
- By 2007, increase the capacity of leaders in the Haitian community to effectively provide HIV prevention messages to the Haitian community.
- By 2007, increase the capacity of Haitian and Non-Haitian providers to effectively provide HIV prevention services to the Haitian community

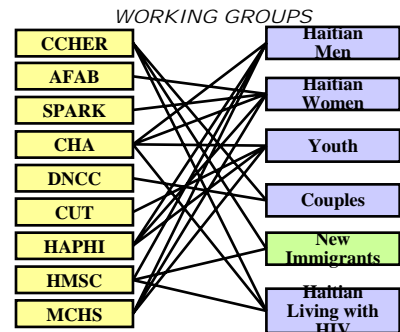
### PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

- Center for Community Health, Education & Research (CCHER)
- The Boston Public Health Commission (AIDS Program)
- University of Massachusetts of Boston (UMASS)
- Association of Haitian Women in Boston (AFAB)
- Boston Medical Center/SPARK CENTER (BMC/SPARK)
- Cambridge Health Alliance, Haitian Health Outreach Project Caribbean U-Turn (CUT)
- Dorchester Nazarene Compassionate Center (DNCC)
- Haitian American Public Health Initiative (HAPHI)
- Haitian Multi-Service Center (HMSC)
- Mass Community Health Services, Brockton (MCHS)

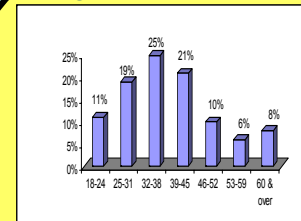


### WORKING GROUPS

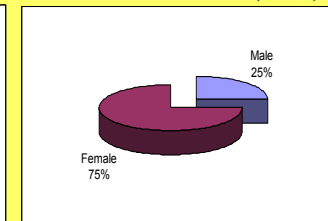
- The first target action of the Metro Boston Haitian Coalition was to convene six working groups. The Working Groups were organized as Inter-Agency collaborations of providers serving similar clients.
- Develop HIV preventive education content and intervention strategies.
- Conduct and constantly evaluated the delivery of content to targeted subgroups within the Haitian Population.
- Recommend change both in the content and the delivery of HIV Prevention Education.



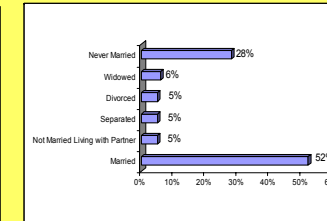
Age Distribution (N=90)



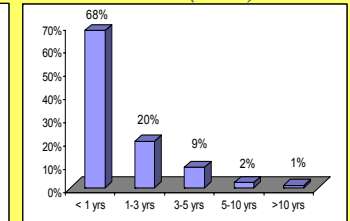
Gender Distribution (N=90)



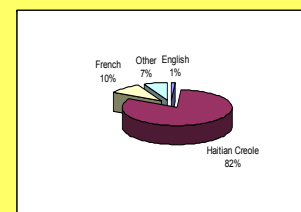
Marital Status (N=90)



Years Lived in the United States (N=90)



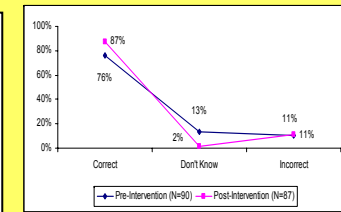
Preferred Language (N=90)



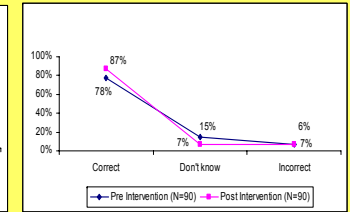
Place of Residence (N=90)

Chelsea	11%
Other	44%
<b>Residency in Boston Neighborhoods</b>	
Dorchester	35%
South Boston	1%
Brighton	1%
West Roxbury	1%
Hyde Park	20%
Mattapan	25%
Jamaica Plain	4%
Roxbury	6%
Rosindale	1%
Other	6%

Knowledge Outcome: Pre and Post Intervention Mean Score



Knowledge Specific to New Immigrants: Pre and Post Intervention Mean Scores



Intervention Outcome: General Knowledge

Effect Size	Significance
Correct	.731 .000
Don't Know	.841 .000
Incorrect	.481 .000

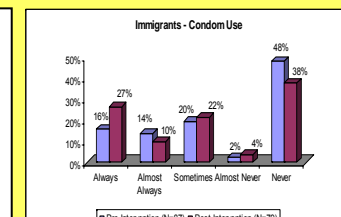
The effect of the intervention is large to moderate. The pre and post differences in mean scores are significant.

Intervention Outcome: knowledge Specific to New Immigrants

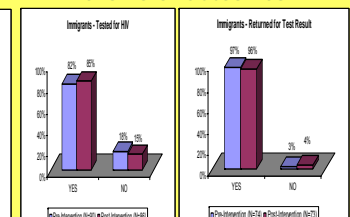
Effect Size	Significance
Correct	.72 .00
Don't know	.50 .009
Incorrect	.08 .441

The intervention produced a large effect on knowledge specific to immigrants. The differences in the correct and don't know pre and post responses are significant.

Behavioral Outcomes



Behavioral Outcomes



### BACKGROUND INFO

- Based on our community survey (n=2700)

- Haitians with less than five years in the US show a greater deficiency in HIV knowledge compared to those resided more than 5 years
- Lack of information, cultural behaviors and pressure related to immigration status increase the risks to HIV infection;
- Economic pressures (job, housing and other family responsibilities) increase the vulnerability of new immigrants.

### NEW IMMIGRANTS WORKING GROUP RATIONALE FOR INTERVENTION

- Volatile legal status of new immigrants complicates public health services delivery
- Fear of deportation creates voluntary isolation from public health services
- Adjustment process prioritizes finding a job, learning English and not HIV prevention information
- Poverty is known to be widespread in Boston Haitians New Immigrants complicating outreach for HIV prevention
- Cultural adjustment represents a shock to longtime held traditional and cultural values related to one's identity, relationship with others, relationship with intimate's other and sexual practices

### NEW IMMIGRANTS WORKING GROUP INTERVENTION CONCEPTS

- HIV prevention needs to be integrated with practical social programs such as English as Second Language, Job Search, and Job Skills Development
- Group workshops designed around cultural traditions, values and norms also incorporate scientific information on HIV transmission and prevention
- Open discussion with participants on how norms and culture could hinder or support HIV prevention

### PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION

- Outreach to new immigrants
  - Individual outreach n=350
  - Workshop participants were recruited through existing services to new immigrants.
  - Participants filled out survey prior and following the group workshop.
- Small Group Interventions:
  - Number of participants 156
  - Evaluation participants 91

### NEW IMMIGRANT CURRICULUM: EIGHT SESSIONS OF SMALL GROUP INTERVENTION

- What does it mean to be a new immigrant in the US?
- Concepts of Health and Disease
- Getting to know your body
- Human Sexuality
- STD's
- HIV/AIDS transmission and risks
- Social factors related to HIV risky behaviors
- Open session with questions and answers

### LESSONS LEARNED AND IMPLICATIONS

- Intervention yielded significant change in general knowledge about HIV transmission
- Contextualized and culturally-oriented community intervention can be effective in HIV prevention
- HIV programming needs to be integrated with practical social and economic interventions
- Program yield an increase of knowledge on HIV transmission
- Noticeable changes on specific behaviors (condom uses and HIV testing)
- Intervention could improve participant knowledge and interest on preventive behaviors
- Could serve as an entry point to the medical system in the US.

For more information, contact:  
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