Mobilizing a Black Faith Community to Address HIV

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Objectives

- To build a partnership with a Black faith community to reduce HIV stigma and enhance HIV prevention and care
- To assess a local Black faith community’s needs and opportunities to address HIV
- To develop, implement, and evaluate an HIV stigma reduction and HIV education program for a local Black faith community
Guiding Framework

PRINCIPLES OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
SECOND EDITION

Clinical and Translational Science Awards Consortium
Community Engagement Key Function Committee Task
Force on the Principles of Community Engagement
Framework for Building Partnership to Address HIV via Faith-Community Engagement

- Connecting with cultural insiders
- Building collegiality
- Developing shared goals
- Identifying complementary expertise
- Sustaining collaboration

Map of Academic-Community Partnership Addressing HIV

University of Cincinnati

Researchers
- Public Health
- Health Education/Pediatrics
- Emergency Medicine (HIV Early Intervention Program)
- Sociology
- Translational Research
- Infectious Diseases

Clinical Providers
- HIV Early Intervention Program (EIP), UC Hospital, Emergency Medicine
- PAMA AIDS Education and Training Center (PAMAAETC) site at UC College of Medicine
- Cincinnati Regional Advisory Group (CRAG)

Community Providers

Community Partners

Community Organizations
- Cincinnati Queen City Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.
- United Methodist Church (LGBT community)
- INTERVENTION: 15 black churches in high HIV-risk neighborhoods

External organization: Black AIDS Institute

Szaflarski et al. 2014 (forthcoming)
Community Partners and Participants
Faith-Community Voices: Findings from a Town Hall Meeting

Concept maps

The multidimensional scaling results (Figure 1) show how the 93 items are arranged in relation to each other; points close together represent items that the sorters considered as similar. The results also show how the 93 items coalesce into groups in the cluster analysis.

Szaflarski et al. 2014; Szaflarski et al. 2015a, b (forthcoming)
Lessons Learned

• Shared lessons
  – Scarce time to build and sustain partnership

• Diverse lessons
  – Community organization
    • Faith-community readiness ("ready" vs. "reluctant" churches)
  – Clinical providers
    • Role of community empowerment in solving problems
    • Distinct realities for community and academic partners
  – Researchers
    • Feeling honored and satisfied to work with community
    • Professional and personal growth (critical career experience)

Szaflarski et al. 2014 (forthcoming)
ENGAGING RELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS TO ADDRESS RACIAL DISPARITIES IN HIV/AIDS: A CASE OF ACADEMIC-COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

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ABSTRACT

African Americans face the most severe burden of HIV among all racial/ethnic groups. Direct involvement of faith leaders and faith communities is increasingly supported as a primary strategy to reduce HIV-related disparities, and Black churches are uniquely positioned to address HIV stigma, prevention, and care in African American communities. We describe an academic-community partnership to engage Black churches to address HIV in a predominantly African American urban academic-hospital location. The opportunities, process, and challenges in forming this academic-community partnership with Black churches can be used to guide future efforts towards engaging faith institutions, academia and other community partners in the fight against HIV.