

Building the Capacity of HIV Peer Educators as part of Interdisciplinary Teams to meet the Needs of the Underserved

PEER Center
Peer Education & Evaluation Resource Center



Boston University School of Public Health



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Presenter Disclosures

Sharon Coleman and Paul Colson

- (1) The following personal financial relationships with commercial interests relevant to this presentation existed during the past 12 months:**

NO RELATIONSHIPS TO DISCLOSE

Goals for Peer Education Training Sites (PETS)

1. To expand number of trained HIV+ peers
2. To enhance the effectiveness of HIV+ peers
3. To train HIV+ peers to assist PLWHA in getting into and/or continuing care & treatment
 - Increase treatment adherence
4. Develop a prominent National profile for peer education

HRSA
(Minority AIDS Initiative)
Funder

**Peer Education & Evaluation
Resource Center
(PEER Center)**
Boston University
Multisite Coordinator

Pact Project
Harlem Hospital
(New York)
PETS

People to People
Kansas City Free
Health Clinic +
Red Cross
St. Louis Chapter
+ MATEC
(Missouri)
PETS

Lotus Project
Center for Health
Training+ WORLD
(California)
PETS

The PEER Center



- Acts as a resource and evaluation center for work that occurs through three peer education training sites (PETS)
- Coordinates training and capacity building work
- Establish quality assurance plan for National cross-site evaluation

PACT Project



- Training location: NYC, state of NY & nearby states
- Target population: men & women infected and affected by HIV
- Training spread out over 3 weeks
- Trainers include working professionals – doctors, lawyers, nutritionists.
- Training of supervisors

People to People



Missouri AIDS Alliance:

- Training location: begin in St. Louis & Kansas City, then progress to out-of-state, Ryan White-funded programs
- Target population: HIV+ men & women
- Peers receive training on 3 levels
 1. Overview of HIV & peer roles
 2. Building peer skills
 3. Mentorship in organizations
- Expertise incorporating peers in clinic settings

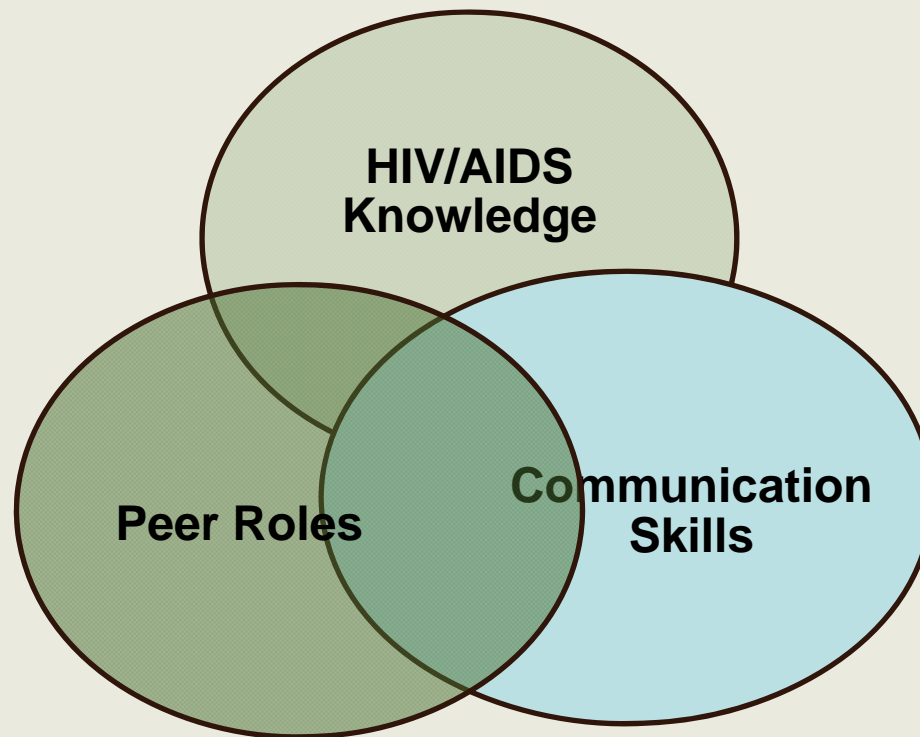
Lotus Project



- Training Location: Nationwide
- Target Population: HIV + women
- Partner with women's organizations serving HIV + women
- 5-day training (5 modules)
- Translation into Spanish
- Utilization of peers in clinics & at women's organizations

Core Elements of PETS Curriculum

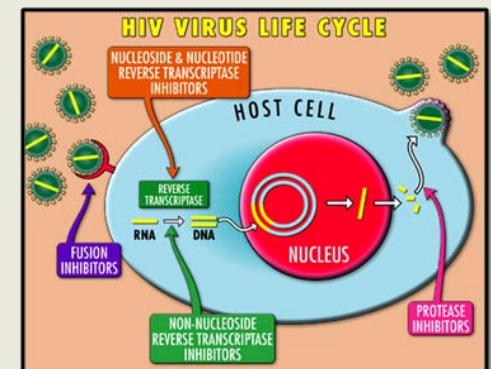
3 Competency Areas



Core Elements of PETS Curriculum



- Peer roles
 - Peer counseling skills
 - HIV transmission & risk reduction
-
- HIV life cycle
 - Treatment & adherence
 - Communicating with providers



Core Elements of PETS Curriculum

- Navigating the system
- Coping with HIV
- Communicating HIV information
- Boundaries & self-care
- Return to work
- Cultural competency



Challenges

- Funding for peer programs
- Jobs for peers
- Supervision of peers
- Continued education
- “Buy-in” from providers
- Peer network
- Stigma, misinformation
- Spanish Peer Advocacy Training



Results to Date: Changes in Peer Knowledge and Skills

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Measuring Program Outcomes

Evaluate program goals by answering the following questions – *For Peers*:

1. What is the impact of trainings on HIV knowledge?
2. What is the impact of the program on peer services?
3. What is the impact of trainings on risk behaviors?
4. Does participation in the trainings impacts peers' job opportunities?
5. What is the impact of trainings on HIV self-care and treatment?

Data as of November 2009



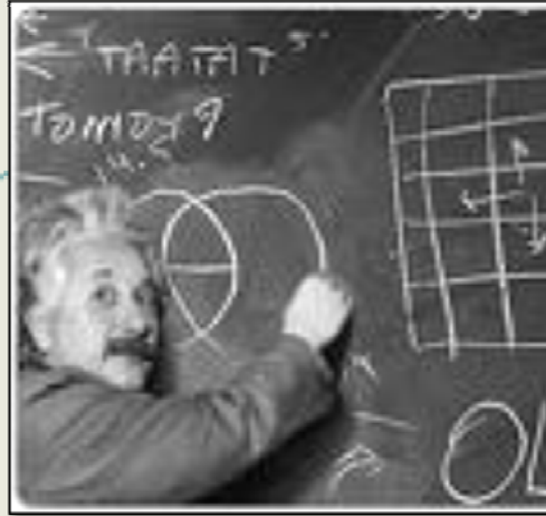
	Lotus	People to People	PACT	TOTAL
Baseline Interviews	155	166	110	431
6-month interviews	141	117	76	334
12 month interviews	123	108	48	279

Who Participates in Our Trainings?

Age	
Mean	44 (SD 9.5)
Range	19-70 years
Race Ethnicity	
Black/AA	55%
White	23%
Latino/Hispanic	17%
Other	5%
Did you do paid or unpaid work as a peer in the last 6 months?	
No	50%
Yes	50%

Who Participates in Our Trainings?

Years with HIV	
Mean	11.2 (SD 6.4)
Range	<1 year to 27 years
Sexual Orientation	
Heterosexual	68%
Bisexual	10%
Gay/Lesbian	22%
Gender	
Female	57%
Male	41%
Transgender	2%



The Top 5 Knowledge Questions to Challenge Peers

Knowledge Questions *(Example Question)*

Which of these questions is an open-ended question?

“Do you take your medications every day?”

“Do you think you should discuss your medications with your doctor?”

“Have you told your partner about your HIV?”

“How do you feel about telling your partner about your HIV?”

All of the above

Do not know

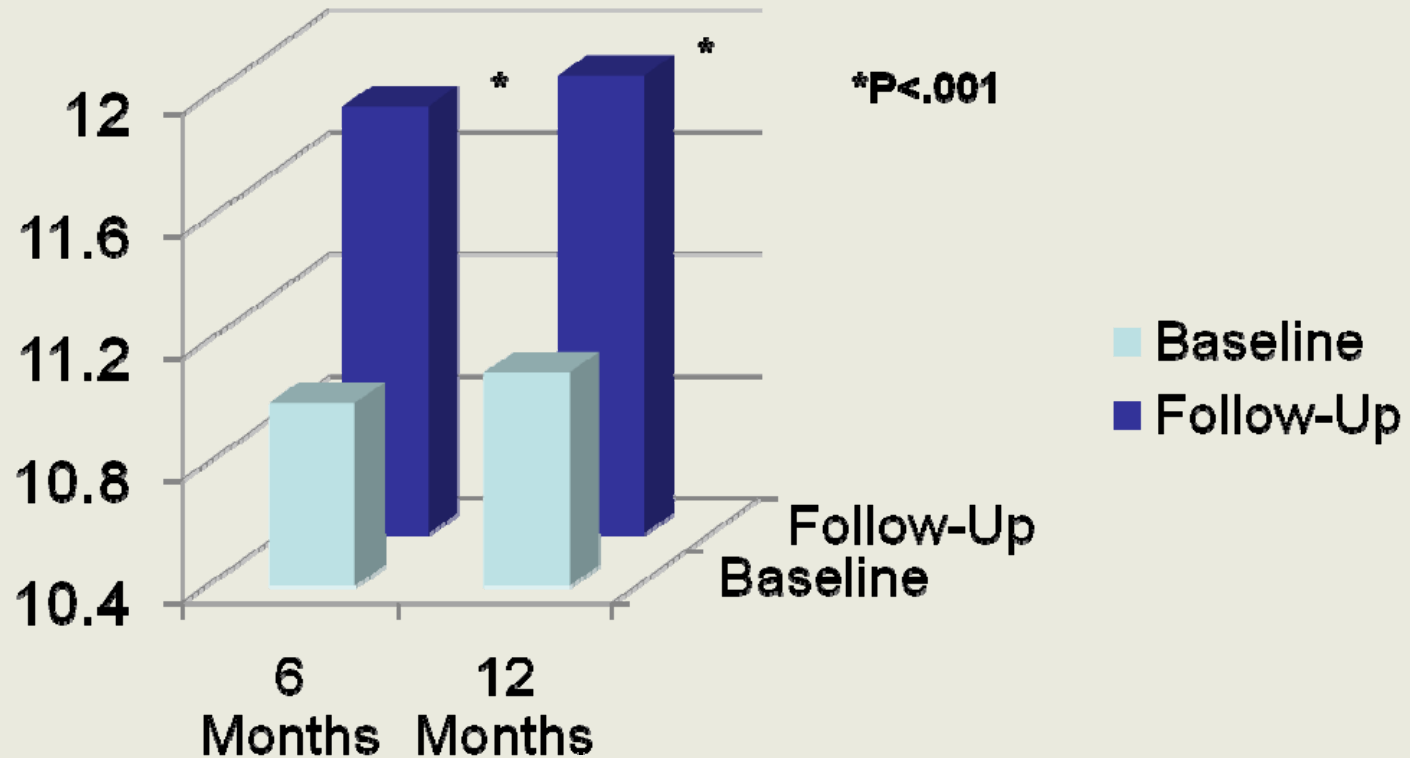
**AT BASELINE 73% GOT
THIS INCORRECT**

What about changes 6 and 12 months after training?

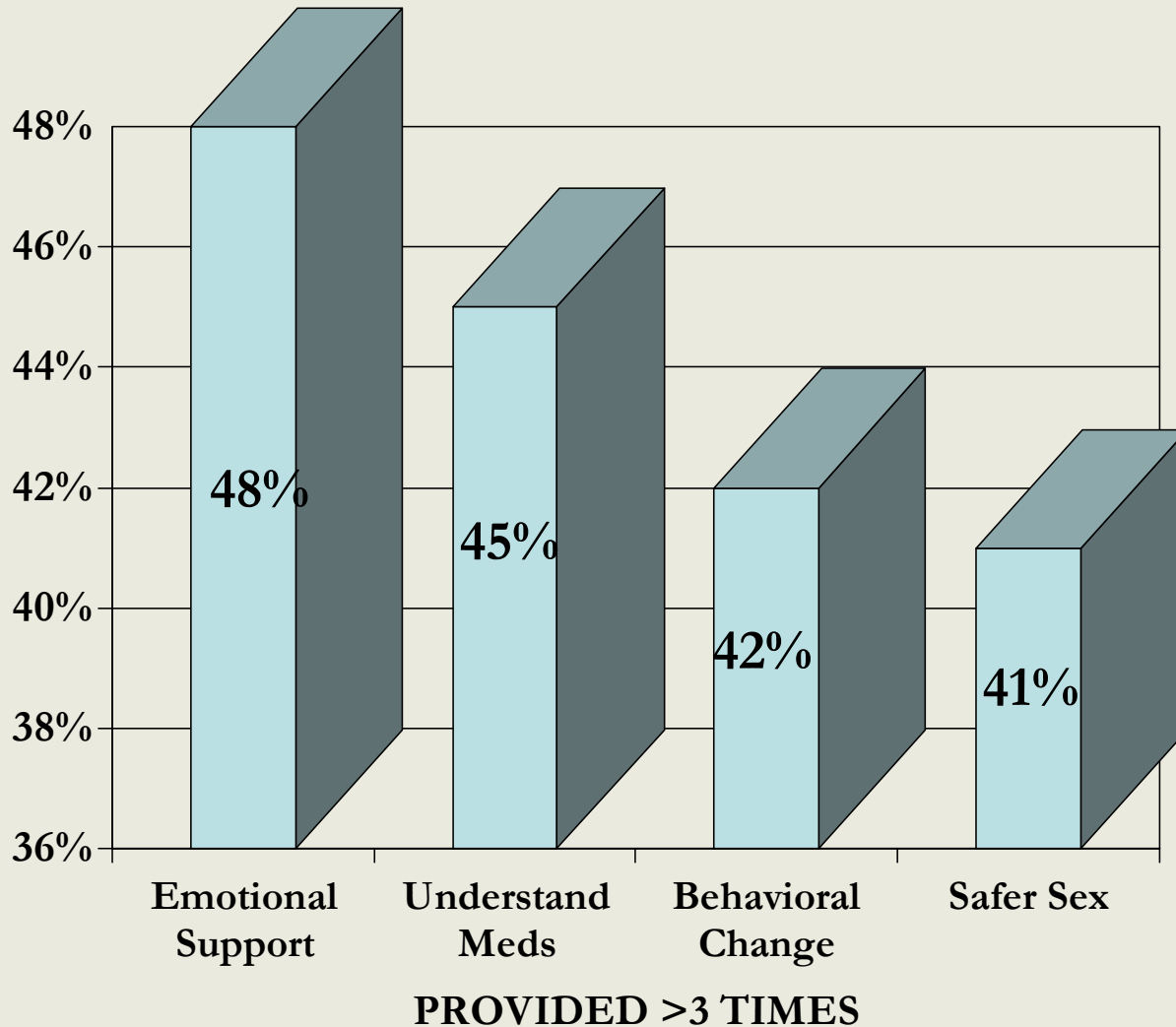
HIV Knowledge Question	% Correct at Baseline	% Correct at 6 month follow-up (n=334)	% Correct at 12 month follow-up (n=279)
Which of the following is an open ended question?	27%	42% *	42%
A viral load less than 200 means you have AIDS	39%	39%	38%
If a person with HIV has diarrhea, they should...	62%	70%*	70%
The HIV test looks for...	65%	76% *	76%*
Which activity is NOT appropriate for a peer?	67%	79% *	78%*

* p<.05

What about changes 6 and 12 months after training?



Most prevalent peer services at 6 month follow up



Thank you !

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For more information please visit,
www.hdwg.org/peer_center

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