

Project ABLE (Milwaukee-Detroit)

**African-Americans
Building
Life
Empowerment**



Project ABLE: Collaborating Partners

- The Center for AIDS Intervention Research (CAIR)
- Diverse and Resilient, Inc.
- Milwaukee LGBT Community Center
- Michigan AIDS Coalition
- Community Advisory Board

Project ABLE: Primary Objective

- To conduct a randomized clinical trial to compare the relative effectiveness of
 - A rapid HIV testing and counseling risk reduction intervention (HCT-only)
to
 - An enhanced intervention that includes the HCT intervention plus a theory-based and culturally tailored small group intervention designed to reduce HIV and STI risk behavior (HCT-plus)

Project ABLE: Eligibility Criteria

- 18 years of age or older
- Self-identify as Black or African-American
- Reside in the greater Detroit region (Wayne, Oakland, Macomb Counties)
- Able to provide informed consent
- Report unprotected anal sex with a man in the past 3 months
- Report at least one additional partner (male or female) with whom the participant had unprotected anal or vaginal sex in the past 3 months
- Not involved in an HIV-related study currently or in the last 6 months
- Willing to have a rapid HIV test

Project ABLE: Study Design (per recruitment cycle of 20 men)

- Step 1
 - Recruitment
 - Enrollment & Consent
 - Baseline Assessment (Computer Surveys)
 - HCT Intervention
 - Randomization
- Step 2
 - Small group intervention (HCT-plus participants only)
- Step 3
 - Three-month post-intervention assessment

Project ABLE: HCT Intervention

- One 60-90 minute, face-to-face, individualized risk reduction intervention using rapid HIV testing technology, including
 - HIV pre-test counseling
 - Conduct an OraQuick rapid HIV test (finger prick)
 - Post-test counseling
 - Discussion of barriers with participants of sexual risk reduction and maintenance
 - Development of a personalized risk reduction plan
 - Motivational reinforcement of risk reduction efforts & goals
 - Discussion of rapid HIV test results and interpretation
 - Review (and revision) of personalized risk reduction plan

Project ABLE: HCT-Plus Intervention

- The HCT-Plus Intervention will consist of the HCT intervention plus 8 small group intervention sessions
- Group sessions will
 - Occur once-a-week and last approximately 2 hours
 - Build upon the HCT intervention
 - Address risk behavior within a framework of contextual influences that can influence risk reduction motivation and behavior
 - Create a “safe space” which fosters positive peer support for safer sex behavior
 - Use role-plays and group exercises to reinforce key discussion points and provide experiential learning opportunities

Project ABLE: HCT-Plus Intervention

- Session 1 (Learning Together)
- Sessions 2-4 (Identities & Stigmas)
 - Gender & Masculinity
 - Sexual Identity, Orientation, & Behavior
 - Racial, Ethnic, & Cultural Identity
- Sessions 5-7 (Creating Connections)
 - Open Disclosure & Being Out
 - Relationships
 - Community Connections & Social Support
- Session 8 (Putting It All Together)

Project ABLE: Assessment

- Respondent characteristics, life circumstances, & resource utilization
- Sexual behavior
- Substance use
- HIV, STI, and hepatitis testing, infection, treatment, and vaccination history
- HIV knowledge and beliefs
- Safer sex intentions and skills efficacy
- Social support

Project ABLE: Assessment

- Social support
- Disclosure of homosexual behavior
- Identification with ethnic and gay communities
- Psychosocial moderators
 - Internalized racism and homophobia
 - Beliefs about masculine norms
 - Depression
 - Coping self-efficacy
 - Problem-solving style

Project ABLE: Hypotheses

- Primary hypotheses: The HCT-plus intervention will result in
 - A greater proportion of men who abstain from anal and vaginal intercourse
 - A smaller proportion of men who had an act of anal or vaginal intercourse without the use of a condom
 - Fewer total number of anal and vaginal intercourse acts without the use of a condom
 - A smaller proportion of anal or vaginal intercourse acts without the use of a condom
 - Fewer total number of anal or vaginal sex partners

Project ABLE: Lead Partners

- Center for AIDS Intervention Research, MCW
 - David Seal (PI)
 - 2071 N. Summit Avenue, Milwaukee, WI, 53202
 - 414-955-7750
 - dseal@mcw.edu
- Diverse & Resilient
 - Gary Hollander
 - Brenda Coley
- Michigan AIDS Coalition
 - Craig Covey
 - Kathie Griffin, Jihannah Jones, Wayne Stallworth, Royale Theus

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