

PROBLEM STATEMENT FOR INTERVENTION

Black men who have sex with men (MSM) face several kinds of discrimination, including homophobia, racism, and rejection by their families. This discrimination and rejection, which can include a loss of support from family and faith institutions, create different levels of stress, distress, and helplessness that impact these men’s sexual risk. The men in these networks are in need of skills to communicate about and support one another in safer practices. The social networks of Black MSM need greater emphasis on social norms that are supportive of safer practices.

| <i>d-up! BEHAVIOR CHANGE LOGIC</i> | | | |
|--|---|--|---|
| Behavioral Determinants <i>Corresponds to risk or contextual factors</i> | Activities <i>To address behavioral determinants</i> | Outcomes <i>Expected changes as a result of activities targeting behavioral determinants</i> | |
| | | Immediate | Intermediate |
| Social <u>norm</u> related to risk. | Influential, admired friends (opinion leaders), at 15% of each friendship group, clique, or “pocket” of the social network (or subculture) of Black MSM, endorse or promote the risk-related social norm to their Black MSM friends and acquaintances who most admire them. | The social network or subculture of Black MSM friends embraces the social norm related to the risk behavior. | Condom use behavior for sexual intercourse characterizes the social network of Black MSM. |
| Bias-based <u>attitudes</u> about race and sexuality. | Discuss experiences of bias, how these experiences relate to sexual risk, and skills for coping with racial and sexual bias. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased skills for coping with bias • Decreased bias-based attitudes among the men in the social network. | Increased behavioral skills for coping with bias that impacts sexual risk. |

| <i>d-up! TRAINING OF THE OPINION LEADERS</i> | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| Behavioral Determinants <i>Corresponds to risk or contextual factors</i> | Activities <i>To address behavioral determinants</i> | Outcomes <i>Expected changes as a result of activities targeting behavioral determinants</i> | |
| | | Immediate | Intermediate |
| <u>Self-efficacy</u> , <u>attitudes</u> , <u>intention</u> , <u>knowledge</u> , and <u>norm</u> to communicate safer practices to friends. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brainstorm how experiences of bias impact safe sex practices. • Teach elements of effective communication. • Practice the communication. • Plan and make commitments to communicate about protecting one another and self. | Increased self-efficacy, attitudes, intention, knowledge, and norm to communicate safer sex practices to Black MSM friends and acquaintances. | Increased communication about safety by the men in the targeted social network of Black MSM. |