



Hermanos de Luna y Sol: Addressing Stigma and Promoting Community Involvement in Latino gay men

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Presentation Overview

- Development of Theoretical Model: Risk as Outcome of Social Oppression
- Empirical Test of Theoretical Model
- Hermanos de Luna y Sol: Intervention Development, Implementation and Evaluation

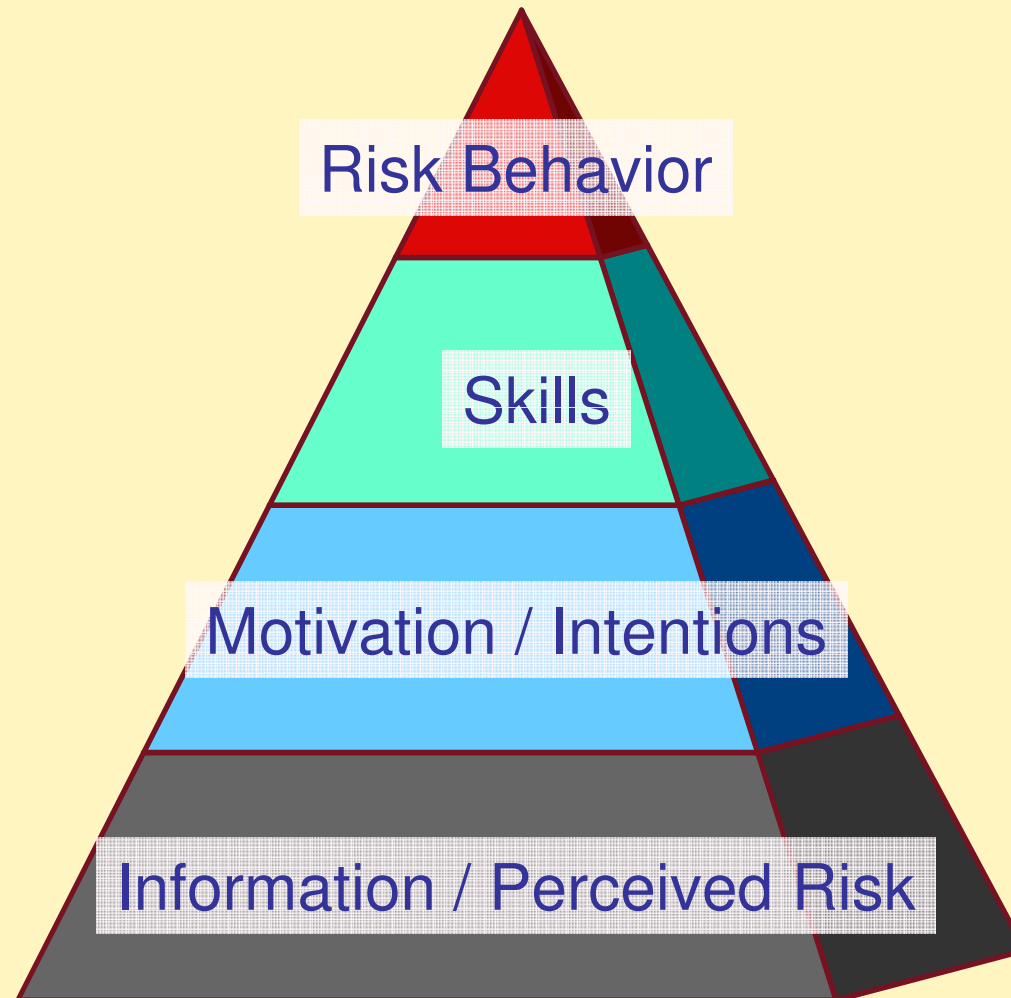


HIV Among Young Men Who Have Sex with Men in the U.S. (Valleroy et al, CDC)

	Ages 15-22 1994-1998, 7 US cities N=3449		Ages 23-29 1998-2000, 6 US cities N=2942	
	Prevalence	Incidence	Prevalence	Incidence
Whites	3.3%	2.4%	7%	2.5%
Latinos	6.9%	1.8%	14%	3.5%
African Americans	14.1%	4.0%	32%	14.7%
Mixed race	13.4%	5.4%	10%	

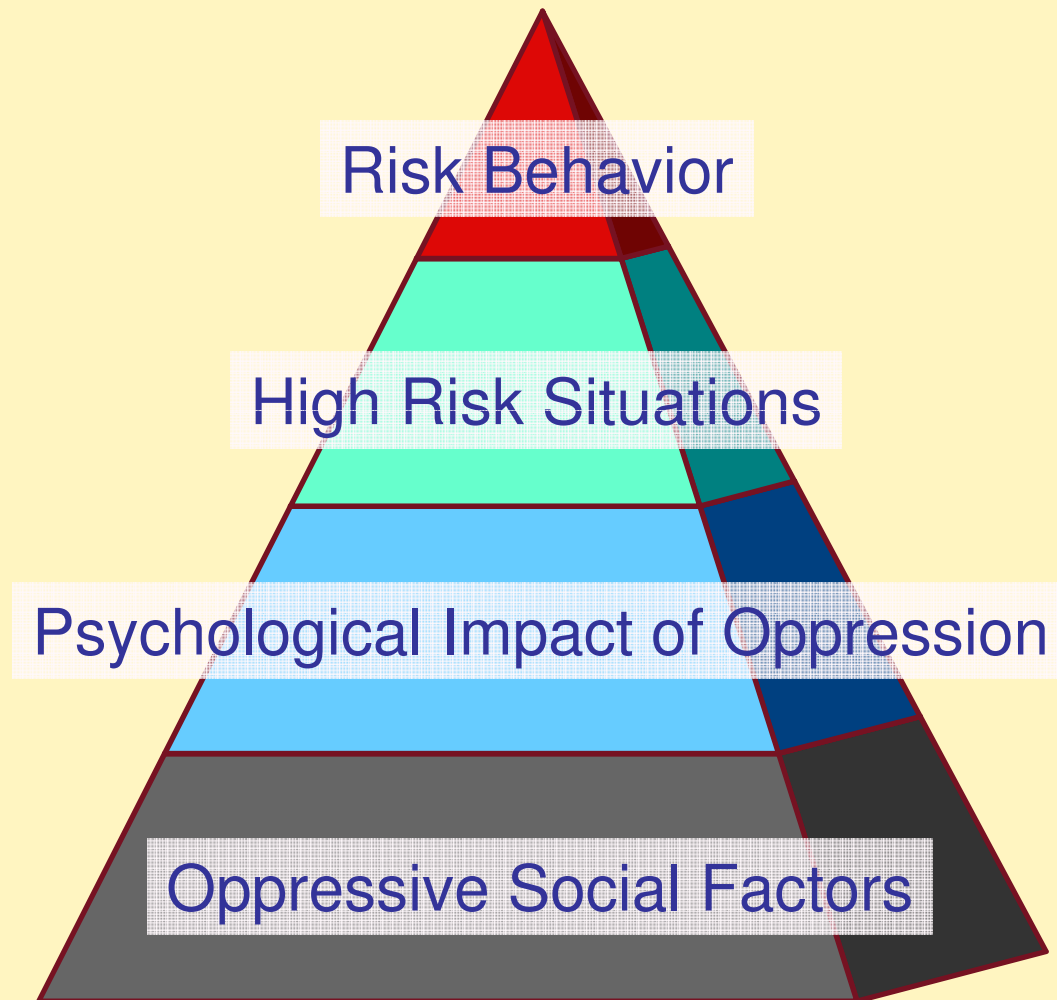


Risk as an Individual Factor



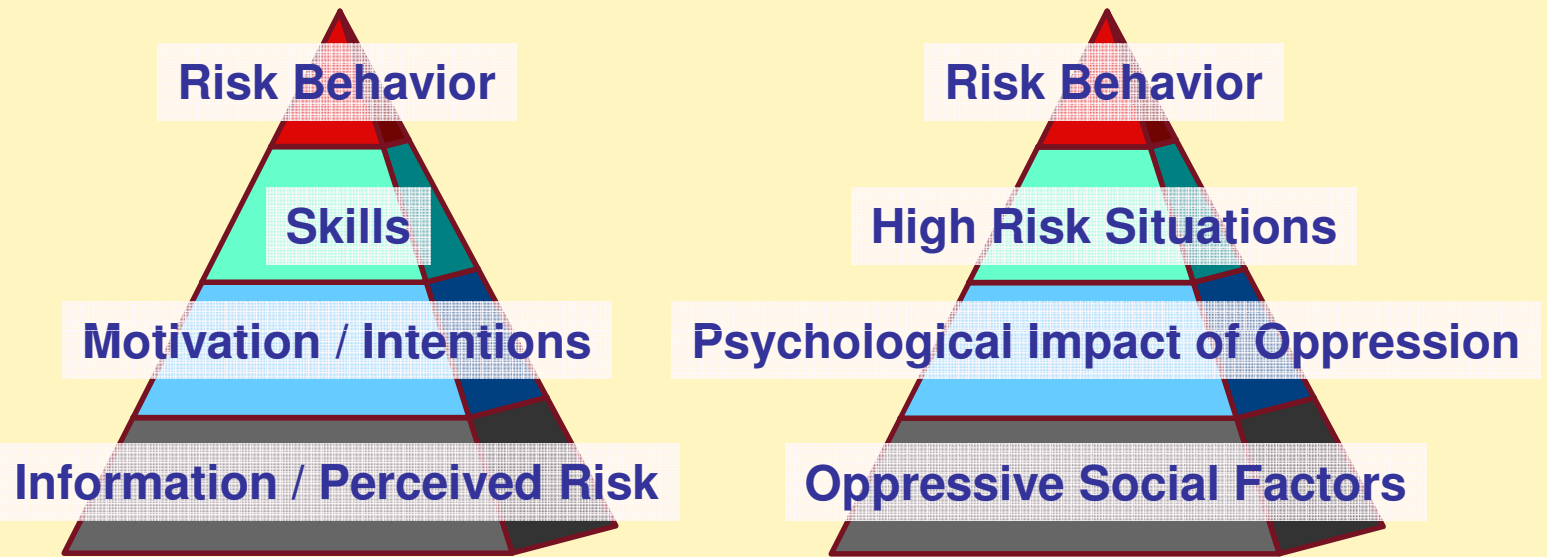


Risk as a Contextual Factor





The Social Constraint of Self-Regulation



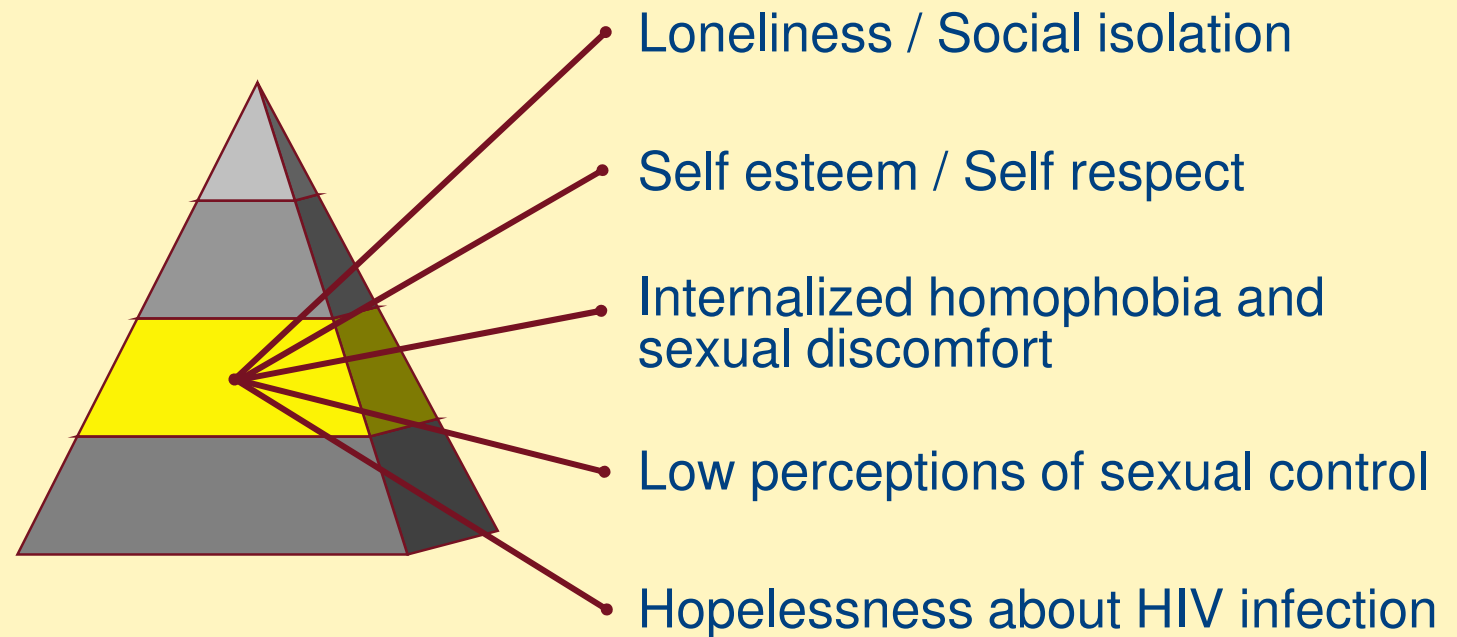


Oppressive Sociocultural Factors



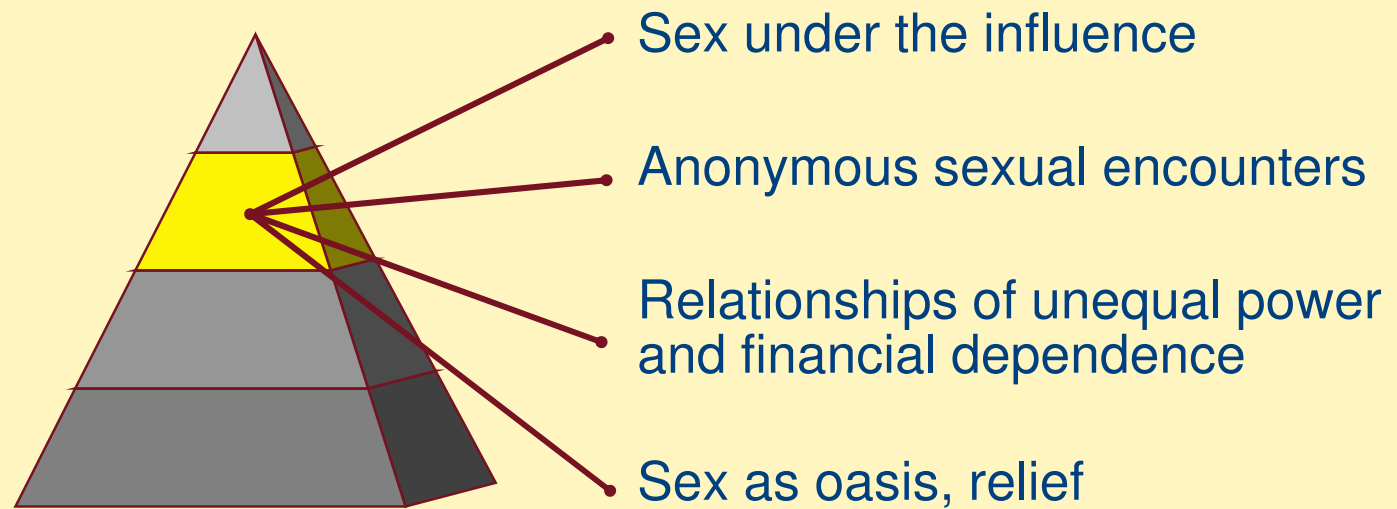


Psychosocial Impact of Oppression





High Risk Situations





Resiliency Factors

Family Acceptance

- Experienced acceptance from mother and/or father
- Able to speak openly with at least one family member

Social and Sexual Satisfaction

- Satisfaction with friendships and lover relationships
- Satisfaction with sex life

Social/Political Network & Activism

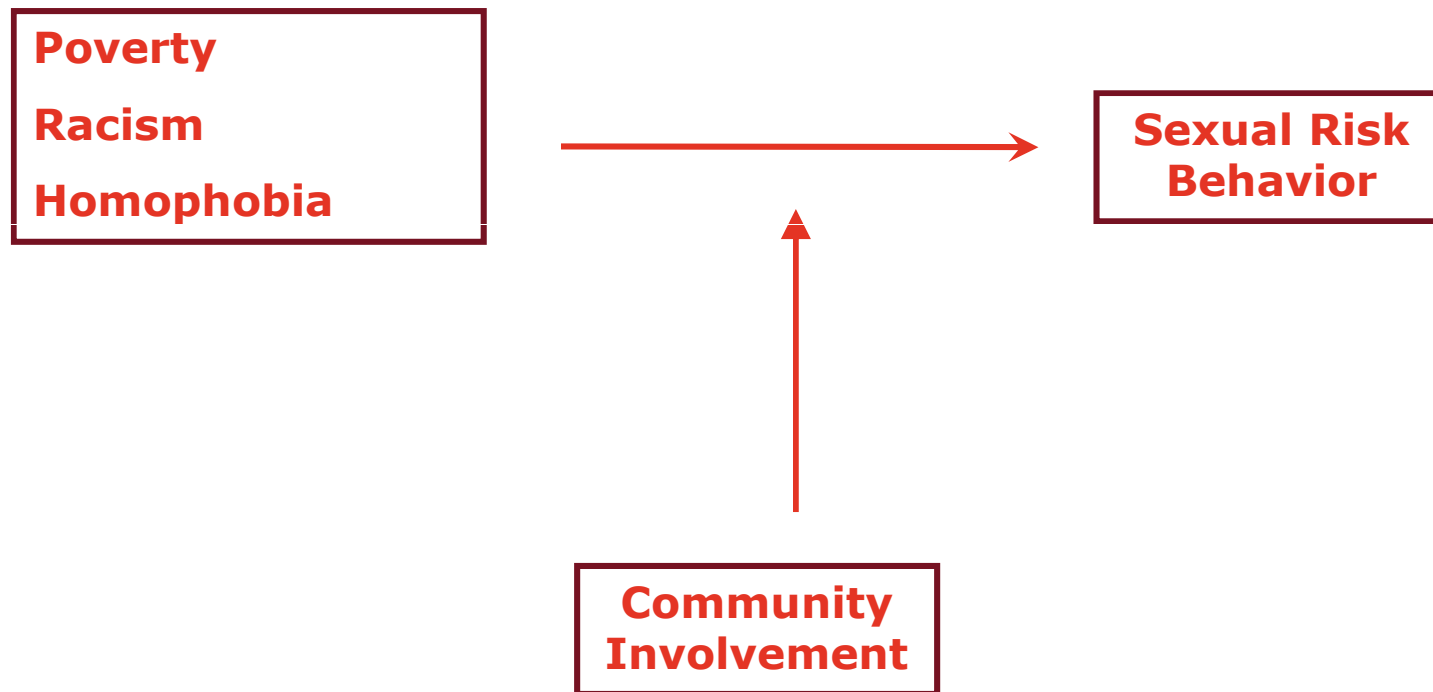
- Feeling part of a social network of similar people
- Involvement in promotion of gay/Latino rights

Gay Role Model in Childhood

- Older gay friends or relatives to look up to as a child



A Model of Stigma, Community Involvement and Sexual Risk.





Explaining HIV Risk as an Outcome of Social Discrimination

Social Discrimination

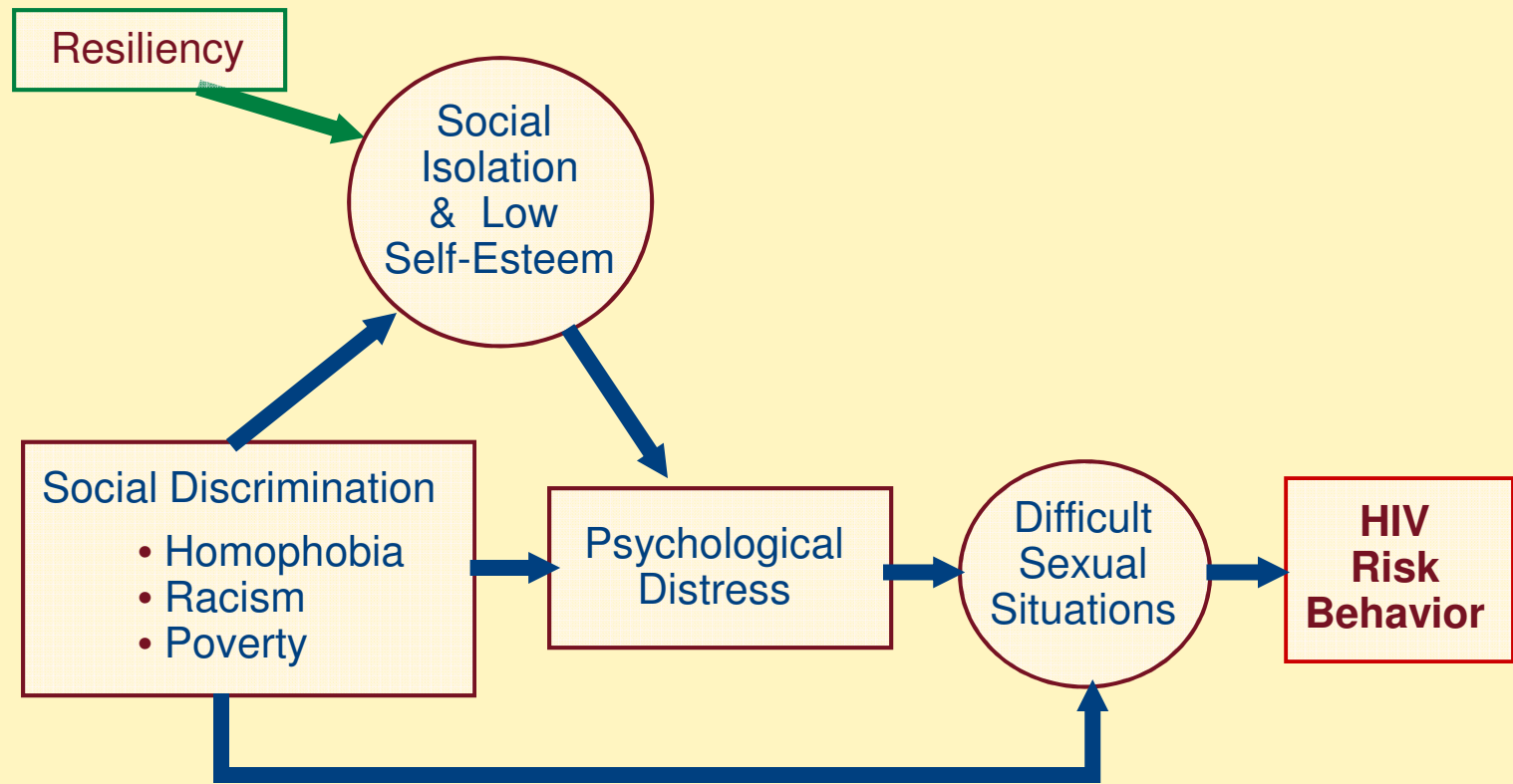
- Homophobia
- Racism
- Poverty


?

**HIV
Risk
Behavior**



Explaining HIV Risk as an Outcome of Social Discrimination



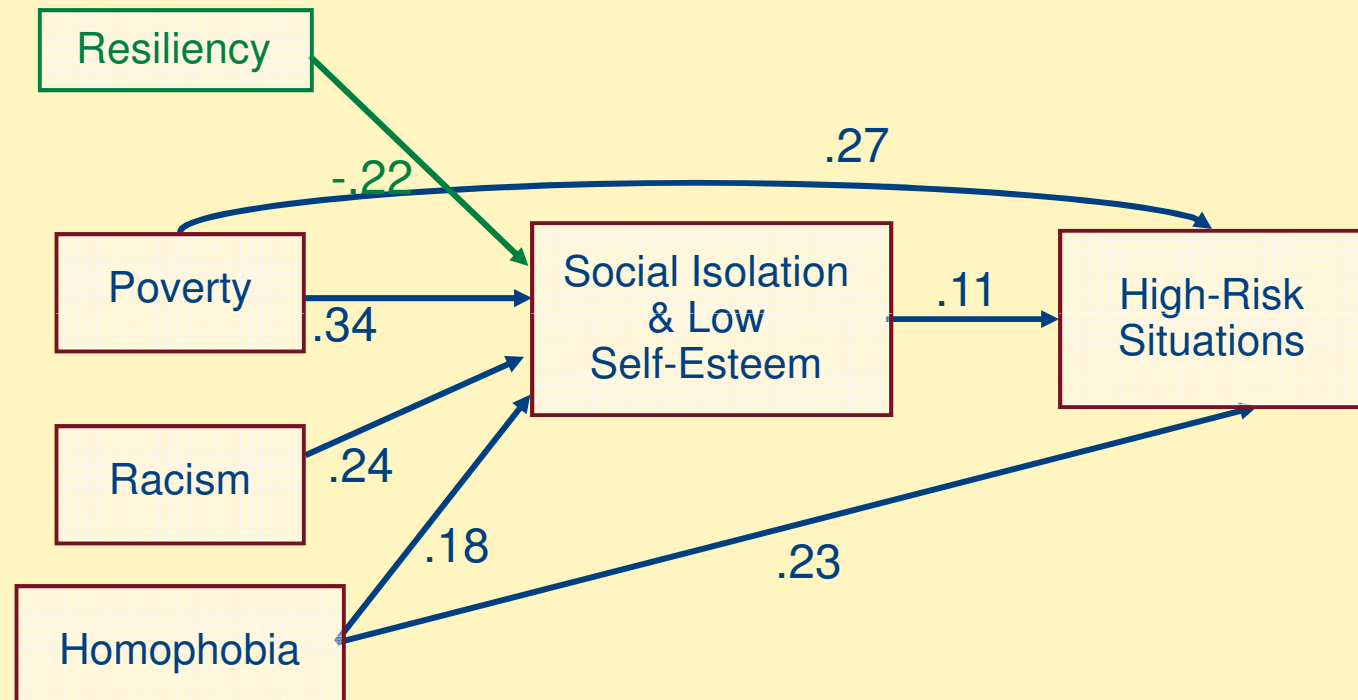
 Denotes mediator

Díaz, R.M., Ayala, G., Bein, E., Henne, J. and Marin, B.V. (2001) The Impact of Homophobia, Poverty and Racism on the Mental Health of Gay and Bisexual Latino Men: Findings from 3 U.S. Cities. American Journal of Public Health, 91(6):927-932.

Díaz, R.M., Ayala, G., Bein, E., (2004). Sexual Risk as an Outcome of Social Oppression: Data from a probability sample of Latino gay men in three US cities. Cultural Diversity and Ethnic Minority Psychology.10(3): 255-267.



Sociocultural Predictors of High-Risk Situations Significant Paths (standardized coefficients)



Test of Model Fit

$$\chi^2 = 0.24$$

$$p = .89$$

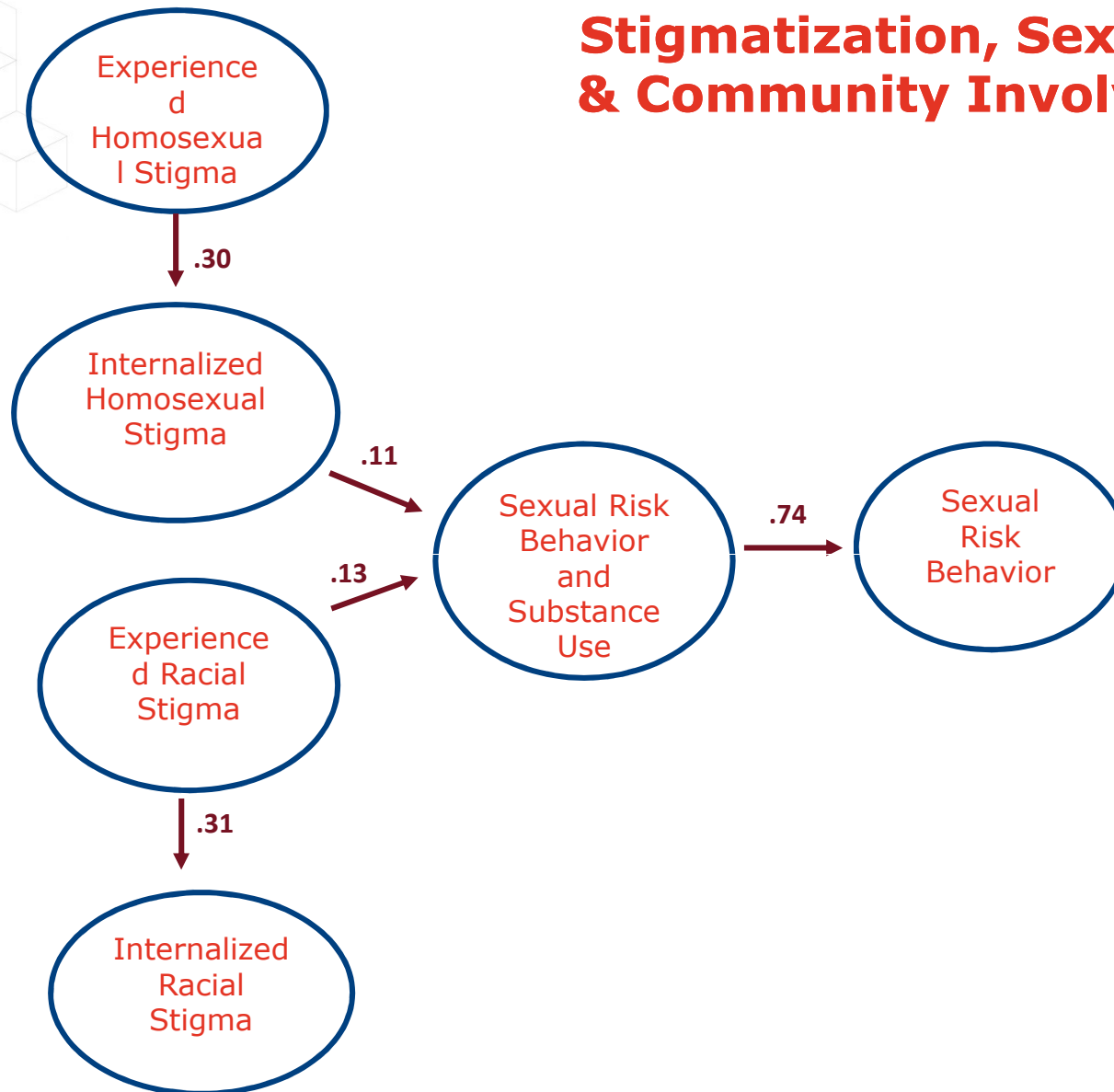
Variance Explained

$$\text{Isolation/Self-Esteem, } R = .29$$

$$\text{Risky Situations, } R = .16$$



Stigmatization, Sexual Risk & Community Involvement.





*Hermanos
de luna y sol*

Hermanos de luna y sol

*Encuentros de comunicación y amistad
para gente latina de ambiente.*

Sólo faltas tú...



Diseño: Lorea Medina, Foto: Elizabeth Orosco

Para mayor información e inscripción
llama al 415/552-1013 ext.212



*Un programa de Mission Neighborhood Health Center
financiado por el Departamento de Salud Pública de San Francisco*



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Hermanos De Luna y Sol

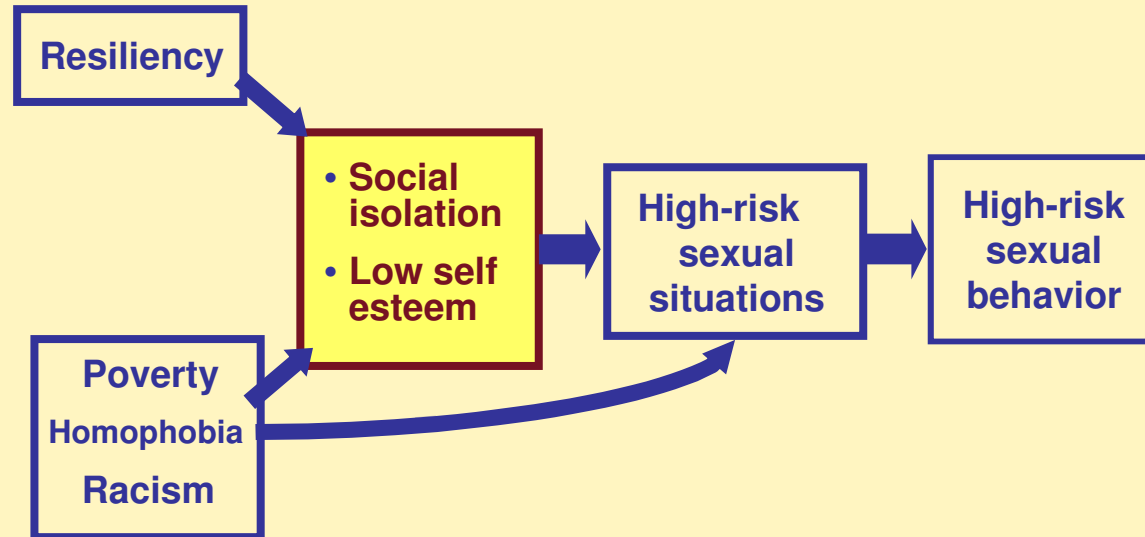
Celebrando 10 AÑOS de encuentros de comunicación y amistad para latinos Gays, Bisexuales y transgéneros



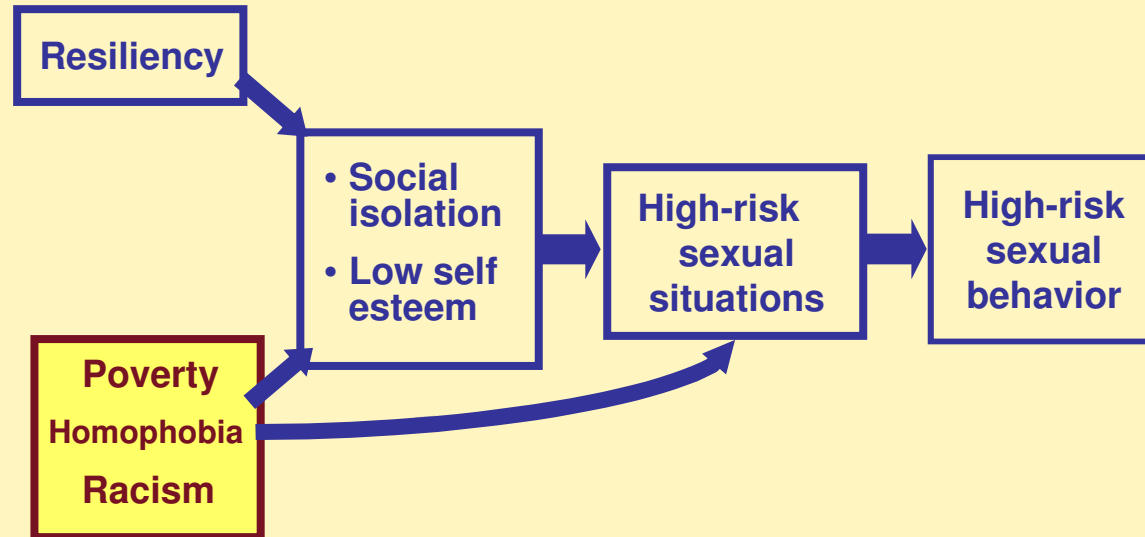
Esta es tu Comunidad

Para mayor información e inscripción llama al
(415) 352-1013, ext. 212

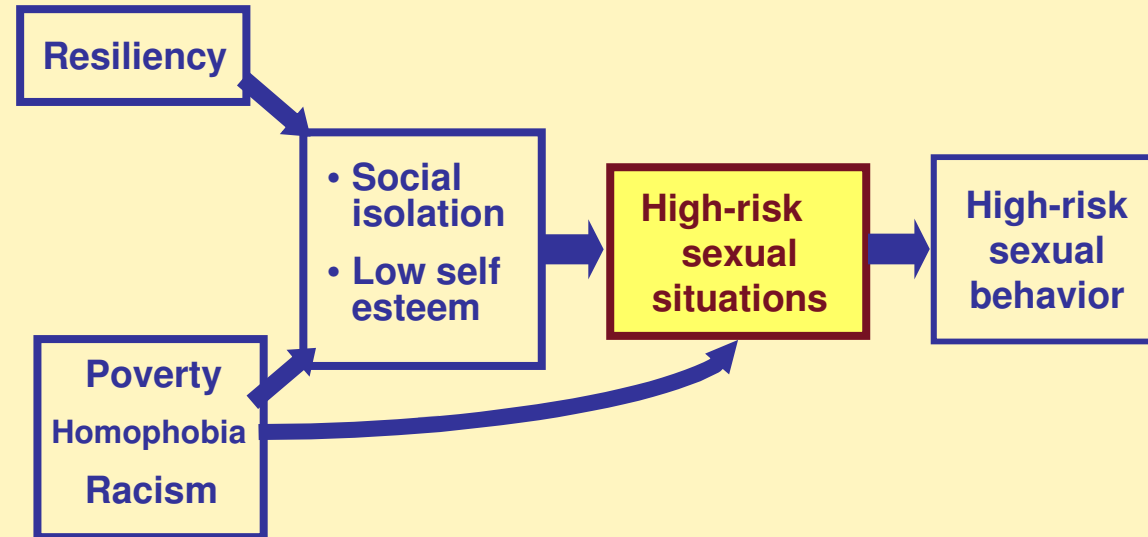
Un Proyecto de Nelson Estrada con el apoyo financiero del Ayuntamiento de San Francisco, CA



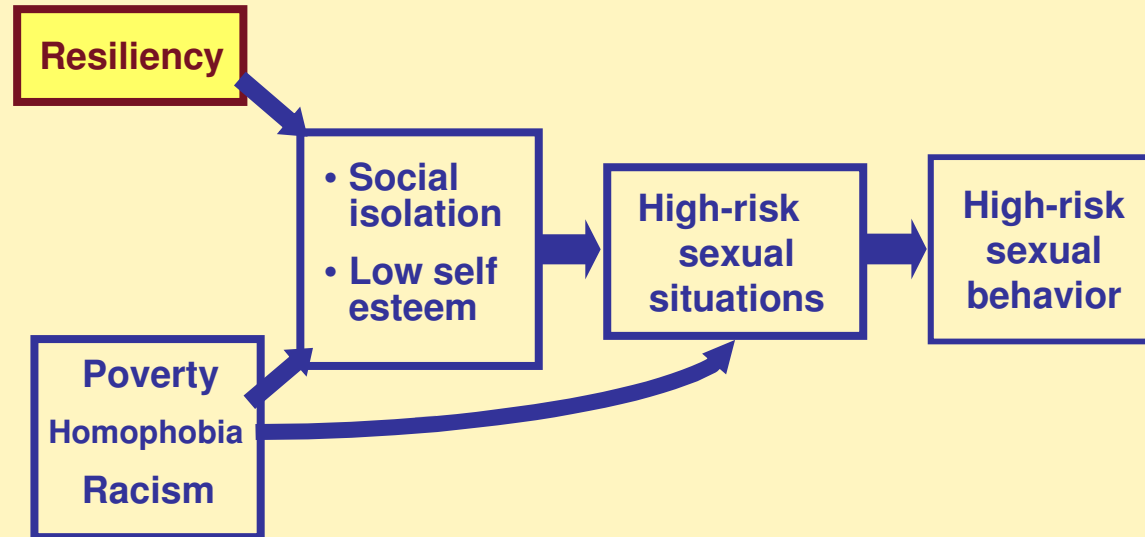
1. Provide experiences of social support, social belonging, and enhanced self-esteem in the context of a Latino gay identity and community;



2. Promote **critical awareness** of social and cultural forces that impact and shape participants' social and sexual lives;



3. Increase participants' sexual self-knowledge, with particular emphasis on **sexual contexts and situations** of personal vulnerability that limit participants' ability to practice safer sex, and;



4. Facilitate **community involvement and activism** to support a sense of increased personal agency and self-efficacy (instead of fatalism and victimization) in response to oppressive social forces in participants' lives.



Program Implementation

1. Advertising and recruitment
2. Initial 7-session cycle/or one day intensive
3. Weekly discussion / support group for “Cycle Graduates”
4. Drop-in workshops
5. Individual risk reduction counseling
6. Community Involvement/Volunteer work
7. Encuentros: Social gatherings to introduce graduates



Program Pedagogy

Bandura's Theory of Self-Regulation

- Self-observation
- Self-assessment
- Self-reaction

Freire's Principles of Empowerment Education

- Educators from the same community facilitate reflection
- Participatory; social construction of knowledge (problem understanding) and solutions
- Social and individual change through community organizing



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2000 Pre - Post Changes (N=87)
Variables Targeted by HLS Program

	Pre	Post	Baseline Change*
Consistent Condom Use			
• anal receptive	55%	63%	+ 15%
• anal insertive	46%	64%	+ 39%
No Condom Use			
• anal receptive	21%	10%	- 52%
• anal insertive	15%	8%	- 47%
Firm Commitment (<i>"Definitely Yes"</i>) to condom use for anal sex	22%	34%	+ 55%
Gay-positive Attitudes (<i>"Homosexuals should not be silent or discreet."</i>)	48%	65%	+ 35%
Self Esteem			
• reported as <i>"low"</i> or <i>"very low"</i>	22%	8%	- 64%
• reported as <i>"high"</i> or <i>"very high"</i>	37%	51%	+ 38%
Social Networks			
• has more than 2 friends with whom to <i>"go out and have fun"</i>	62%	76%	+ 23%

* $\frac{\text{Post \%} - \text{Pre \%}}{\text{Pre \%}}$



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2003 Pre - Post Changes (N=37)
Changes in Sexual Risk Behavior

	Pre	Post	Baseline Change*
Consistent Condom Use			
Anal receptive	40%	64%	+60%
Anal insertive	48%	41%	-15%
Never or Almost Never Condom Use			
Anal receptive	27%	21%	-22%
Anal insertive	26%	32%	+23%
Unsafe Sex with More than 1 Partner			
Anal receptive	20%	7%	-65%
Anal insertive	26%	9%	-65%

* $\frac{\text{Post \%} - \text{Pre \%}}{\text{Pre \%}}$



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2003 Pre - Post Changes (N=37) Changes in Psychosocial Factors

	Pre	Post	Baseline Change*
Social Support (Definitely Yes)			
Have people who understand	62%	84%	+35%
Have people to socialize with	57%	76%	+33%
Have people who give emotional support	65%	76%	+17%
Have people to help when sick	62%	70%	+13%
Life Satisfaction (1-10) (Score \geq 7)			
Satisfied with friendships	70%	89%	+27%
Satisfied with sexual, romantic partners	57%	72%	+26%
Satisfied with family relations	59%	81%	+37%
Satisfied with life	78%	89%	+14%
Satisfied with self	78%	92%	+18%
Level of self-esteem (1-10) (Score \geq 7)	76%	95%	+25%
Feeling of loneliness (always / almost always)	25%	32%	+28%

* $\frac{\text{Post \%} - \text{Pre \%}}{\text{Pre \%}}$

HLS Program Estimated rates of success in HIV prevention

Preventing anal receptive risk	77% - 83%
Preventing anal insertive risk	77% - 87%
Preventing risk of HIV acquisition among HIV negative men	79% - 85%
Preventing risk of HIV transmission	80%



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Participants' Reactions to Program

“The program has helped me reintegrate myself into the Latino community, from which I’d been separated for many years. It has helped me destroy several myths about HIV, sex, and AIDS. It has informed me about the reality of the situation, which has given me a lot of power. It has given me the opportunity to meet new friends and has given me a place to go to other than a bar, a park, a bathhouse. You feel like you are in a family, and it has filled that emptiness I carry about being far away from my family.”

“A mí el programa me ha ayudado muchísimo para reintegrarme a la cultura latina, de la cual estuve alejado por muchos años de mi vida. En primer lugar. Segundo, destruyó muchos mitos acerca del VIH, acerca del sexo, del SIDA. Me informó acerca de la realidad de la situación, y esa información me va a servir como un poder... Me ha ayudado a encontrar algunos amigos, con los cuales he disfrutado mucho... Y me ha dado un lugar adonde ir, que no sea un bar, que no sea un bathhouse, que no sea una esquina o un parque... Aquí es un ambiente de familia, te sientes en familia... Y ha llenado también ese vacío familiar.”



Participants' Reactions to Program, *continued*

The group has helped me value my peers. Each one of us is important, and I learn something from each one of them. I've lived here for four years, but I didn't feel part of a community, until I found this group. Now it is not as hard to have my family so far away.

Lo que me ha dado más este grupo es valorar cada uno de los compañeros. Creo que cada uno de nosotros es importante, y de cada uno de ellos aprendo algo...yo he vivido aquí por unos 4 años, pero a partir del advenimiento de este grupo siento que pertenezco a una comunidad. Y digo la palabra comunidad, yo nunca había sentido su significado, y el pertenecer a un grupo latino de gays y jóvenes, compartimos bastantes problemas y, tú sabes, eso me hace sentir lo que es pertenecer a una comunidad. Y llena en parte esa pérdida de familia.



Participants' Reactions to Program, *continued*

This group has helped me in many ways to protect myself, in ways that no pamphlet nor documentary, nor expert, could have helped me. No expert speaking on TV could ever reach me the way this group has reached and touched me. I have now the privilege to be within a group of people that say to me with courage and respect, you little bastard, you need to protect yourself, if you don't protect yourself, this will happen...

Este grupo a mí me ha servido en todos aspectos... Me ha servido para protegerme de una forma que ni un panfleto ni un reportaje me dijo, ni una eminencia del SIDA en la televisión podría llegar a tocarme en la forma que este grupo me ha tocado. Tener el privilegio de conocer a personas como los otros compañeros allá que tan valientemente se levantan con orgullo y dicen, no importa, mira, en pocas palabras, cabrona, si no te cuidas te va a pasar esto.

GRACIAS!

THANK YOU!



Sample Characteristics

912 men recruited probabilistically
in 35 Latino gay bars

New York: n = 309

Miami: n = 302

Los Angeles: n = 301

- 50% under age 30
- 27% unemployed
- 84% self-identified gay or homosexual
- 72% immigrant (*including Puerto Rico*)
- 64% some college or more
- 41% mostly Spanish-speaking (*with friends*)
- 22% HIV-positive



Social Discrimination & Sexual Risk

	SEXUAL RISK		
HOMOPHOBIA	HIGH	LOW	p<
Full scale	13.71	10.52	.001
<i>Sample Items:</i>			
Verbal assault in childhood	66%	45%	.001
Family embarrassed and hurt	80%	68%	.01
Police Harassment	33%	17%	.0001
RACISM	HIGH	LOW	p<
Full scale	6.25	3.98	.001
<i>Sample Items:</i>			
Racial rude treatment	48%	32%	.01
Racial discomfort in Gay venues	43%	23%	.001
Race-based sexual objectification	75%	58%	.001
POVERTY	HIGH	LOW	p<
Full scale	3.37	2.74	.05
<i>Items:</i>			
Ran out of money for basics	71%	58%	.05
Had to borrow money to get by	60%	53%	n.s.
Out of work at least once last year	45%	43%	n.s.



Psychosocial Factors

	Sexual Risk		p
	High	Low	
Loneliness/Social Isolation			
<input type="checkbox"/> feels alone	91%	77%	<.0001
<input type="checkbox"/> feels left out	74%	54%	<.0001
Low Self-esteem			
<input type="checkbox"/> low self-respect	7%	2%	<.001
<input type="checkbox"/> poor self-care	11%	4%	<.05
Hopelessness about HIV			
<input type="checkbox"/> believes likely to seroconvert	39%	18%	<.01



Situational Factors

	Sexual Risk		p
	High	Low	
Sex under influence of alcohol	67%	51%	<.001
Sex under influence of drugs	50%	26%	<.001
Anonymous sexual encounters	48%	28%	<.0001
Pressure to be silent about condoms	53%	21%	<.00001
Partner refuses condom use	83%	47%	<.00001
Sex as relief from depression	61%	37%	<.00001



Call to a Paradigm Shift

Cognitive

- Health and disease as socially produced phenomena

Methodological

- Grounded, participatory research that needs no translation

Moral

- Partnerships with the work for social justice

Definitions

No Risk	Anal sex abstinent or “always” protected
Low Risk	Unprotected anal intercourse with only one partner
High Risk	Unprotected anal intercourse with multiple partners

HIV Sexual Risk Behavior

all HLS participants with pre-post tests ($N=71$)

	Pre N = 66	Post N = 61	Baseline change
Receptive anal sex			
No risk	70%	77%	+ 10%
Low risk	21%	15%	- 29%
High risk	9%	8%	- 11%
Insertive anal sex	Pre N = 63	Post N = 60	Baseline change
No risk	64%	72%	+ 12.5%
Low risk	24%	20%	- 17%
High risk	13%	8%	- 38%

* $\frac{\text{Post \%} - \text{Pre \%}}{\text{Pre \%}}$

Estimating HLS Program Success Rate on HIV Risk Behavior

		Risk at post-test		
		No Risk	Low Risk	High Risk
Risk at pre-test	No Risk	S	F	F
	Low Risk	S	S Š Upper-bound F Š Lower-bound	F
	High Risk	S	S	F