

B9. INTERVIEW: TALKING TO OTHERS ABOUT HIV AND RISK- COMMUNICATION FREQUENCY AND RANGE

USE WHEN YOU WANT TO EVALUATE:

Outcomes :

- ✓ Healthy behavior: improved communication
- ✓ Increased individual capacity and competency

Intervention types:

- ✓ Targeted education activities for priority population
- ✓ Skill building sessions to increase capacity to engage in risk reduction behaviors
- ✓ Outreach to priority populations to increase their capacity to engage in risk reduction behaviors

Worked well with these populations:

- ✓ Women who use drugs and have other risks

Interventions for:

- ✓ HIV
- ✓ STIs

DESCRIPTION

This structured interview measures communication behaviour about HIV and risk: what topics are discussed, and with whom. This tool was used in a controlled evaluation of a program aiming to reduce HIV risk behavior among women who use drugs and have other risks. Women in a Peer Mentor group had improved communication and reduced risk.

WHY THIS TOOL MIGHT BE USEFUL FOR COMMUNITY-BASED INTERVENTIONS

- ✓ Suitable for before and after testing of a program's effects
- ✓ Easily completed and analysed
- ✓ Could easily be programmed to be given electronically

Developed in:

- ✓ English

ADMINISTRATION, DESIGN, SCORING and ANALYSIS CONSIDERATIONS

ADMINISTRATION

- This interview should take about 10 minutes each time.
- The interview should be conducted by someone who is not part of the program but who is knowledgeable about the program and the setting.
- Tell participants why you are conducting the interview, being clear that it is to evaluate the intervention to help make it better, and not to evaluate or judge them.
- Participation should be voluntary, so tell participants that it is ok if they do not want to participate in the interview, and assure participants that there are no negative consequences if they don't want to be interviewed. Give them a way to do something else at the same so that the confidentiality of this decision is protected. (For further information on ethical considerations in carrying out evaluations, see [Ethics Resources](#))
- Ensure that people feel safe and that the space is confidential; no one can hear their answers.

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DESIGN OPTIONS

Measuring before and after intervention (this is the best option because it measures actual change)

1. **WHEN TO USE:** Conduct the interview before the intervention or at the very beginning of it, and again after, as close to the end as possible (often the very last session is not suitable because it may be a celebration, or have low attendance).

2. **LINKING RESULTS:** Include a way to match the same person's pre and post interviews while protecting confidentiality, for example using a [password](#) or unique identifier that respondents generate and remember.

3. SCORING:

- ✓ Calculate the [average](#) of questions 1, 4 and 7 to get a Communication Frequency Score.
- ✓ Alternatively, recode responses into "never" (0) and "at least once" (any other answer between 1 and 7). Then calculate the Communication Range score by adding up the total number of boxes checked in questions 2, 5 and 8. Don't count responses for "Don't Know", "Prefer not to answer" and "Not Applicable".

4. **ANALYSIS:** Compare the pre and post scores for each individual, noting how many people improve, how many stay the same, and how many get worse.

Measuring change only after the end of an intervention: (this is the second best option, because people often think the intervention has had more effect than it really did)

1. Adapt the questions so that the interview asks people what their answer is now and what it was before the intervention. For example, for question 1 ask: "*Before this program, how often did you talk to your family members about HIV or STIs?*" AND, "*Since you were in this program, how often have you talked to your family members about HIV or STIs?*" (see an [example](#))

2. SCORING:

- ✓ Calculate the [average](#) of questions 1, 4 and 7 to get a Communication Frequency Score for both before the program and since they've been in the program.
- ✓ Alternatively, recode responses into "never" (0) and "at least once" (any other answer between 1 and 7). Then calculate the Communication Range score by adding up the total number of boxes checked in questions 2, 5 and 8, for before and after the intervention. Don't count responses for "Don't Know", "Prefer not to answer" and "Not Applicable".

3. **ANALYSIS:** Compare the pre and post scores for each individual, noting how many people improve, how many stay the same, and how many get worse.

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<p>1. How often do you talk to your family members about HIV or STIs? [READ RESPONSES] (Choose one) Nb: IT MAY BE HELPFUL TO DEFINE FAMILY ACCORDING TO YOUR INTERVENTION'S CONTEXT</p>	<p>0. Never 1. Once or twice a year 2. Once a month 3. A few times a month 4. About once a week 5. A few times a week 6. Once a day 7. More than once a day DK. Don't Know R. Prefer not to answer NA. Not Applicable</p>
<p><i>If 1 is equal to 0, then skip to 4.</i></p>	
<p>2. What HIV or STI topics have you talked with your family members about? [CHECK ALL THAT APPLY]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> HIV or STI symptoms <input type="checkbox"/> How HIV or STIs are transmitted <input type="checkbox"/> Using condoms or safer sex <input type="checkbox"/> Cleaning or not sharing works <input type="checkbox"/> STI testing <input type="checkbox"/> Getting an HIV test or result <input type="checkbox"/> Viral load or CD4 count <input type="checkbox"/> Medication or treatment <input type="checkbox"/> Someone has HIV or STIs <input type="checkbox"/> Someone has died of AIDS <input type="checkbox"/> Clients (for sex) being HIV positive <input type="checkbox"/> Research studies/projects <input type="checkbox"/> Having only 1 sex partner <input type="checkbox"/> Having multiple sex partners <input type="checkbox"/> Feelings if we/I became infected <input type="checkbox"/> Past sex partners <input type="checkbox"/> Drug use <input type="checkbox"/> Having or ever having an STI <input type="checkbox"/> Other topic(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Don't Know <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to answer <input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable
<p>3.[INTERVIEWER: Record other HIV or STI topic(s) client has talked to family members about]</p>	

<p>4. How often do you talk to your sex partners about HIV or STIs? (Choose one)</p>	<p>0. Never 1. Once or twice a year 2. Once a month 3. A few times a month 4. About once a week 5. A few times a week 6. Once a day 7. More than once a day DK. Don't Know R. Prefer not to answer NA. Not Applicable</p>
<p><i>If 4 is equal to 0, then skip to 7.</i></p>	
<p>5. What HIV or STI topics have you talked with your sex partners about? [CHECK ALL THAT APPLY] (Check all that apply)</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> HIV or STI symptoms <input type="checkbox"/> How HIV or STIs are transmitted <input type="checkbox"/> Using condoms or safer sex <input type="checkbox"/> Cleaning or not sharing works <input type="checkbox"/> STI testing <input type="checkbox"/> Getting an HIV test or result <input type="checkbox"/> Viral load or CD4 count <input type="checkbox"/> Medication or treatment <input type="checkbox"/> Someone has HIV or STIs <input type="checkbox"/> Someone has died of AIDS <input type="checkbox"/> Clients for sex being HIV positive <input type="checkbox"/> Research studies/projects <input type="checkbox"/> Having only 1 sex partner <input type="checkbox"/> Having multiple sex partners <input type="checkbox"/> Feelings if we/I became infected <input type="checkbox"/> Past sex partners <input type="checkbox"/> Drug use <input type="checkbox"/> Having or ever having an STI <input type="checkbox"/> Other topic(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Don't Know <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to answer <input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable</p>
<p>6. [INTERVIEWER: Record other HIV or STI topic(s) client has talked to sex partners about]</p>	
<p>7. How often do you talk to your friends about HIV or STIs? (Choose one)</p>	<p>0. Never 1. Once or twice a year 2. Once a month 3. A few times a month 4. About once a week 5. A few times a week 6. Once a day 7. More than once a day DK. Don't Know R. Prefer not to answer NA. Not Applicable</p>

<i>If 7 is equal to 0, then end.</i>	
8. What HIV or STI topics have you talked with your friends about? [CHECK ALL THAT APPLY]	<input type="checkbox"/> HIV or STI symptoms <input type="checkbox"/> How HIV or STIs are transmitted <input type="checkbox"/> Using condoms or safer sex <input type="checkbox"/> Cleaning or not sharing works <input type="checkbox"/> STI testing <input type="checkbox"/> Getting an HIV test or result <input type="checkbox"/> Viral load or CD4 count <input type="checkbox"/> Medication or treatment <input type="checkbox"/> Someone has HIV or STIs <input type="checkbox"/> Someone has died of AIDS <input type="checkbox"/> Clients for sex being HIV positive <input type="checkbox"/> Research studies/projects <input type="checkbox"/> Having only 1 sex partner <input type="checkbox"/> Having multiple sex partners <input type="checkbox"/> Feelings if we/I became infected <input type="checkbox"/> Past sex partners <input type="checkbox"/> Drug use <input type="checkbox"/> Having or ever having an STI <input type="checkbox"/> Other topic(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Don't Know <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to answer <input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable
9. [INTERVIEWER: Record other HIV or STI topic(s) client has talked to friends about]	

Source:

Davey-Rothwell, M., Tobin, K., Yang, C., Sun, C. J., & Latkin, C. A. (2011). **Results of a randomized controlled trial of a peer mentor HIV/STI prevention intervention for women over an 18 month follow-up.** *AIDS and Behavior*, 15(8), 1654-1663