



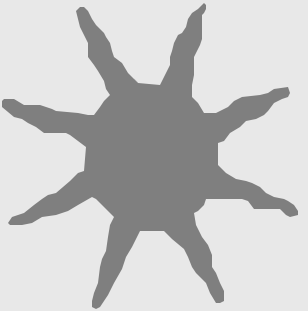
*Exploring Access to Care Issues
for HIV+ Latinos Living in the
US-Mexico Border Region*

Southern CA Border HIV/AIDS Project in
Collaboration w/ HRSA

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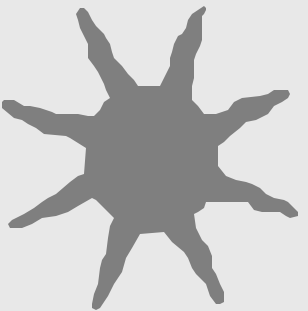
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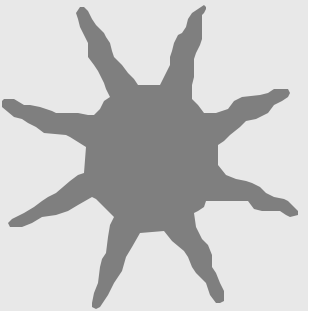
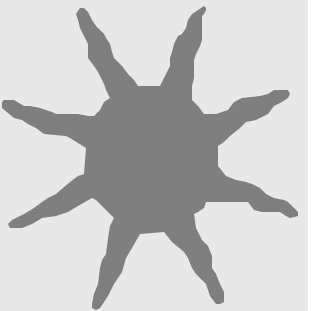
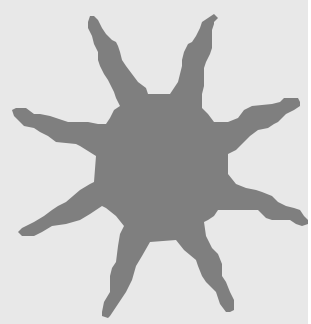
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Purpose of conducting the groups

- ★ Identify major barrier themes that would prove important to incorporate into our SPNS multi-site barriers module
- ★ Learn additional information about the barriers to and facilitators of obtaining HIV-related care and services for HIV+ Latinas/os living in US/Mexico the border region



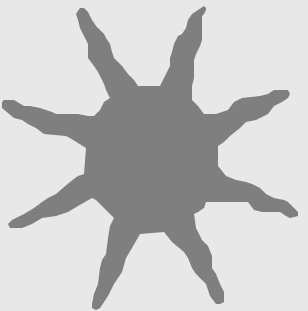
Methods & Measures



When & Who



★ Two focus groups were conducted in San Ysidro, CA in February 2001



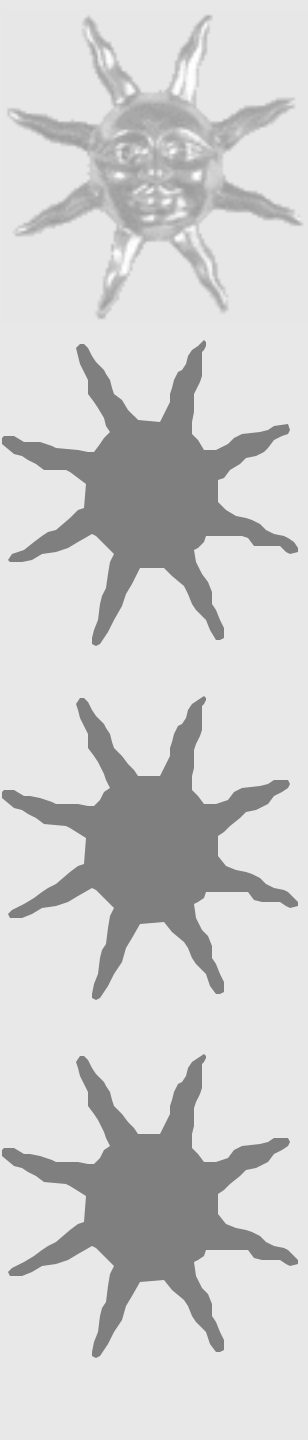
★ \$25 food voucher incentive was offered

★ Participants were HIV+ Latinos and Latinas who participated in support groups at San Ysidro Health Center



– Men's focus group n = 9

– Women's focus group n = 9

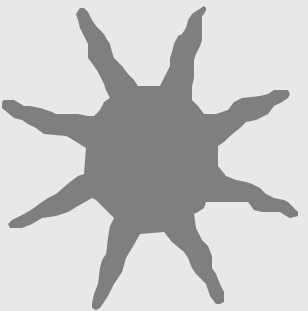


Obtaining and preparing data

- ★ IRB approval and informed consent
- ★ Permission was obtained from Participants to record the sessions
- ★ Sessions were conducted in Spanish
- ★ Transcription of the recorded session
 - Cost
 - QA issues



Data analysis

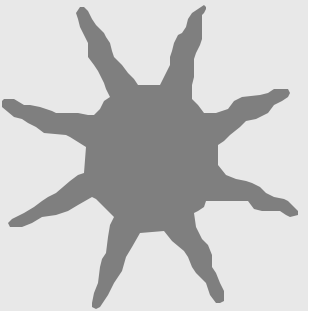
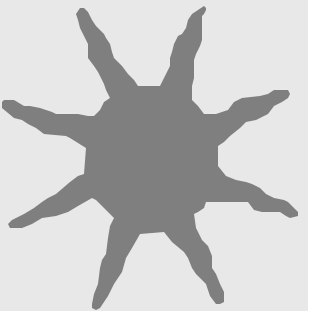
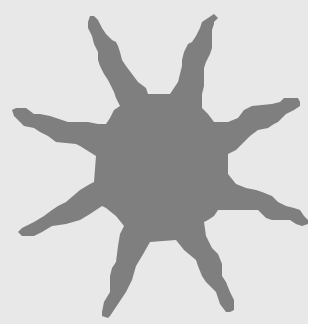


- ★ Development of detailed analysis plan
 - timeline
 - identification of coders
 - identification of software
 - identification of primary coding themes



Primary Coding Themes

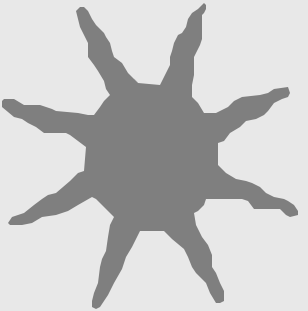
- I Availability of Services**
- II Accessibility of Services**
- III Acceptability of Services**
- IV Accountability of Services to the Community**
- V Participant Recommendations**



Findings



Women's Focus Group

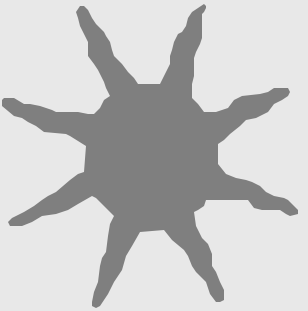
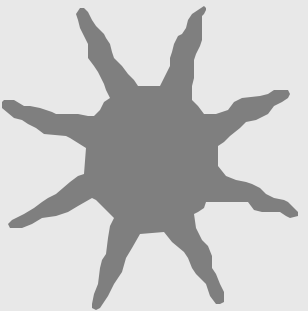


N=9

Average age: 40 (range 27-51 years)

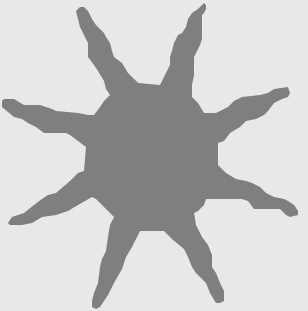
Education: 7/9 had not completed HS
all women went to school in
Mexico and in the US

Household: hh size = 3.7 persons
range 0-3 children



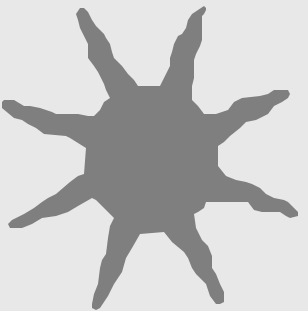


Women's Focus Group, cont.



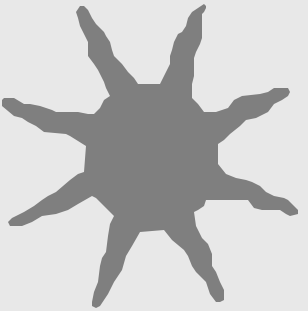
Availability of Service

- ◆ Lack of childcare is resounding issue



Access to Services

- ◆ Services not as accessible during a convenient time for working women
- ◆ Access to clinical trials





Women's Focus Group, cont.

Acceptability of Services

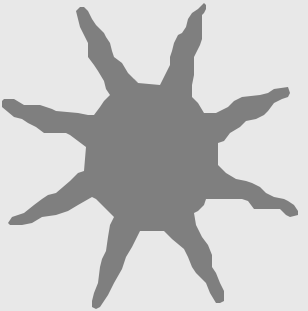
- ◆ Mixed feelings re: satisfaction with services
- ◆ Participants do not like switching providers
- ◆ Some participants feel that services are geared towards homosexual population

Accountability to Community

- ◆ Women feel that their concerns about lack of childcare are not being addressed sufficiently in HIV planning council



Men's Focus Group

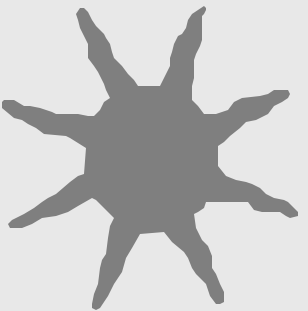


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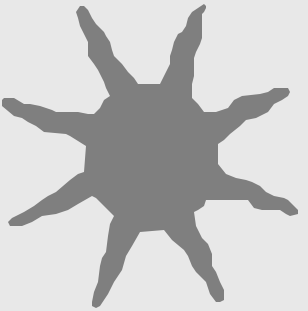
Primarily MSM

Average age: 41 (range 33-46 years)

Education: 5/9 had not completed HS



Household: avg hh size = 2.5 persons
no children





Men's Focus Group, cont.

Availability of Service

- ◆ Overall, satisfied with available services

Access to Services

- ◆ Access to clinical trials
- ◆ Services are too far away to get to by public trans.



Men's Focus Group

Acceptability of Services

- ◆ Have provider, but perceive that provider is not sufficiently empowered to make decisions or sufficiently knowledgeable about HIV issues (e.g. versus a physician HIV specialists)
- ◆ Language
 - > Lack of services in Spanish
 - > Quality of interpreter and translation services

Accountability of Services Not mentioned



Cross-cutting border issues

★ **Worries about crossing the border**

★ **Experiences in Mexico:**

> **Limited access to medications**

> **Perceived provider fear of HIV+ persons**

> **Manner in which participants told of their status when tested**

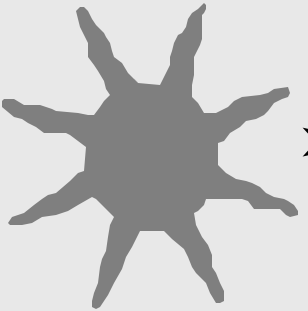


Cross-cutting border issues

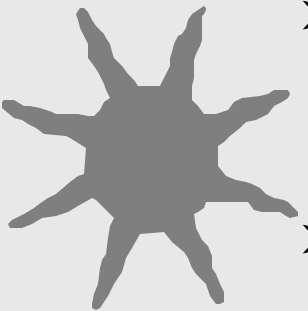
- ★ **Access to clinical trials--border crossing permission to facilitate participation**
- ★ **Need for bilingual services**
- ★ **Participants do access homeopathic medication in Mexico**



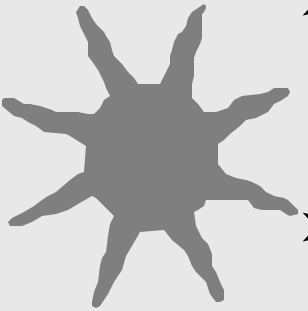
Participant recommendations



★ Interest in improving service provision in Mexico through studies



★ Improved method for linking clients to other services



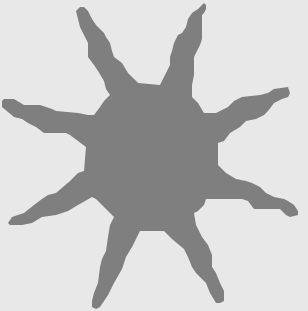
★ Provision of English classes

★ Provision of an identification system to facilitate crossing to US for care

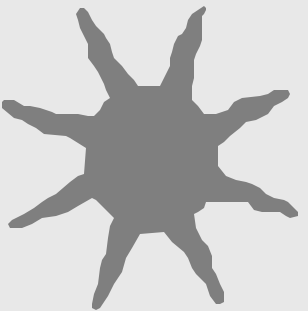
★ Improved outreach to other infected women



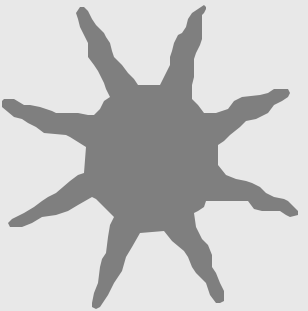
Limitations



★ Participant Bias: Group was very empowered, they had already learned how to access services, speak up, etc.



★ Small sample size



★ Temporal associations--changes have taken place in clinic services since groups took place

Mexicano detente:

Esta es la raíz de tu historia, tu cuna y tu altar.

Oirás la voz silenciosa de la cultura más antigua de México, tal vez la de la civilización madre de nuestro continente. Los olmecas convirtieron la lluvia en cosechas, el sol en calendario, la piedra en escultura, el algodón en telas, las peregrinaciones en comercio, los montículos en tronos, los jaguares en religión y los hombres en dioses.

10-X-1986.

Agustin Acosta Lagunes