

Implications for Female Same Sex Couples and HIV

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Vulnerable Communities: LGBTQ+

- 9 million adults identify as lesbian, gay, or bisexual
- 19 million Americans engage in same-sex behavior
 - 646,000 same sex couples-54% being female
- 89% of women reported having sex without a condom
- 6 known cases of woman to woman transmission of HIV
 - Infected with HIV by bisexual partner, during the use of sex toys, and exchange of blood during sex.
- Little data on female-to-female transmission of HIV
 - Many believe WSW have no risk of contracting HIV= leading to women abstaining from safe sex practices
 - Lack of education on HIV prevention strategies, inconsistent or unsafe sex with men/women
 - Most medical/health services fit a heteronormative narrative = uninformed of women being susceptible to HIV
 - Women may not disclose HIV status to female sex partner due to shame or stigma

Solution

- Informational Pamphlets and Ads
 - a. on ways to **prevent** HIV, statistics on female same sex **transmission** on HIV, how HIV is transmitted during female same sex activities.
 - i. Social Media platforms
 - ii. Planned Parenthood, Breast Centers, Gynecologists' Offices, Clinics
 - iii. Gay bars
 - iv. Tattoo parlors
 - v. National Minority Health Month, National Women's Health Week, Women's Health Month, World Aids Day, HIV/ AIDS Awareness Month
- **Training Seminar** for Healthcare providers on the risk of HIV transmission for WSW
- **Comprehensive Sex Education Program**
 - a. Emphasis on HIV prevention methods for WSW
- Partnering with **Rideshare** companies (Uber and Lyft)
 - a. Provide informational signs/pamphlets on **HIV prevention**
 - b. Have a sign specifically targeting women- information of how women can contract HIV
 - c. Provide **condoms** for riders

Implications for Health Equity and Social Justice

- Medicine and science has historically excluded and neglected women, LGBTQ+, other vulnerable populations
- Increase education and awareness to promote safe practices, testing, overall well-being
- Promote more HIV studies on WSW
 - Fewer HIV studies on women especially female-to-female transmission compared to HIV studies on men including male-to-male transmission
- Increase in physicians' awareness of patients' need for customized care
 - Increase access to education, testing, treatment
- Creating a more inclusive environment and better quality of life for women and LGBTQ+ community

Informational Ads in Ride-Shares

ALL ABOUT HIV

How to Prevent HIV:

- *Unprotected Sex*
- *Blood Exposure During Sexual Activities*
- *Sharing Needles During Intravenous Drug Use*
- *Sharing Sex Toys*

KNOW YOUR STATUS

In observance of National HIV/ AIDS Awareness Month, we aim to raise awareness about the disease and provide free tests!

WOMEN CAN GET HIV TOO!

ALTHOUGH RARE, IT CAN HAPPEN TO YOU

HERE IS HOW YOU CAN REDUCE YOUR RISK:

- **USE CONDOMS EVEN WITH SEX TOYS**
- **AVOID BLOOD EXCHANGE DURING SEXUAL ACTIVITIES**
- **GET TESTED-KNOW YOUR STATUS**

GET TESTED!

FIND YOUR NEAREST TESTING CENTER BY SCANNING THE QR CODE

