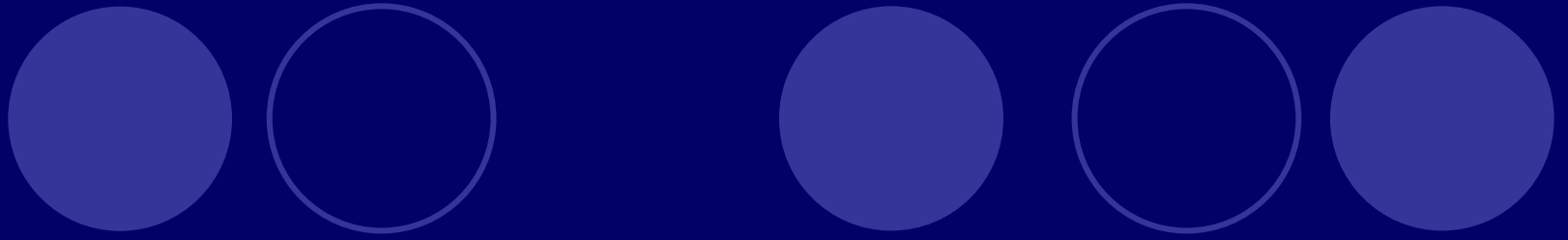




An evaluation of the Jewelry Education for Women Empowering Their Lives (JEWEL) study: A novel HIV prevention intervention targeting drug using women

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Economic Empowerment and HIV Prevention for Drug Using Women Involved in Prostitution

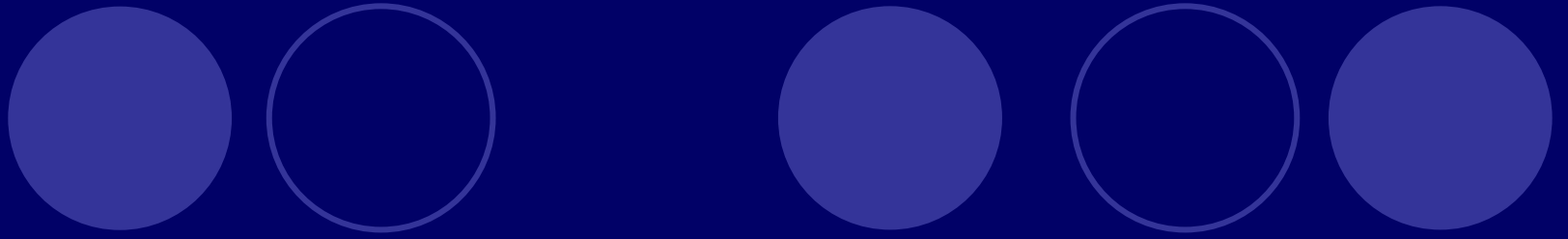
The Decontextualized Individual

- Women drug users have elevated sexual risk behaviors and HIV/STI rates compared to male drug users (Sherman, 2003; Latka, 2001; Kral, 2000).
- Most epidemiological research on female drug users' risk of HIV/STIs focuses on individual-level sociodemographic factors.
- Women engage in transactional sex for a variety of reasons that are both proximal and distal.
 - Research focuses on crack users.

Decontextual Risk



- Individual focus necessary but not sufficient in explaining and reducing women's risk.
- The role of broader relationship and structural factors that shape women's risk through direct and indirect pathways is often noted but not addressed.
 - Poverty
 - Employment opportunities
 - Sexual relationships



“Risk Behaviors” or Survival and Coping Mechanisms?

Study Aims



- 1) to assess the feasibility of training drug using women how to make, market, and sell beaded jewelry;
- 2) to examine JEWEL's effects on job self-efficacy; and
- 3) to examine JEWEL's effects on HIV risk-taking behaviors.

Why Jewelry Making?

- broad market appeal
- its relatively inexpensive start-up costs
- ease of learning
- and short time needed to produce marketable products

Study Design

- December, 2002 - June, 2003
- Pre and 3-month post follow-up post intervention in Baltimore, MD

Recruitment

- targeted outreach by trained reviewers
- NGO, SEP, and research studies
- 66 women baselined, 54 women participated

Study Design



Inclusion criteria:

- being female
- ≥ 18 years old
- traded sex for money or drugs in the past month
- having used heroin and/or cocaine at least weekly in the past month

Baseline and 3 month follow-up surveys

- sociodemographic characteristics
- sources of income
- employment/job training history
- job self efficacy scale
- drug use initiation and current use
- sexual partners

Intervention



- 6 two-hour interactive sessions
- Facilitated by artistic harm reductionist with health educators on hand
- Located in storefront in high drug-using neighborhood
- 4 sessions (1-4) harm reduction and jewelry making; Session 5 sale; Session 6 graduation
- Open jewelry-making Wednesdays

Content of Sessions

- 1: drug related risk reduction
- 2: sexual risk reduction
(primary/casual/ trade sex partners)
- 3: male and female condom demonstration/practice
- 4: —————→
- 5: —————→
- 6: review, next steps, graduation

- 1: jewelry making
- 2: jewelry making
- 3: jewelry making
- 4: marketing and jewelry making
- 5: ~~sale~~—————

Session 5: Sale

- 6 cohort sales at Johns Hopkins outpatient center
- 4 community sales (farmers' market, festival, store)

Proceeds

- 50% to the individual jeweler
- 30% divided between working participants
- 20% for supplies.

Results: Demographics* (n=54)

African American	62%
High school grad/GED	33.0%
Median (IQR) age	39 (34, 45)
Homeless last 3 months	27.0%
Jailed ever	81.0%
<i>Jailed last 3 months</i>	42.0%
Have children	11.0%
<i>Live with children</i>	76.0%
Tested for HIV	98.0%
<i>HIV positive</i>	9.3%
Participated in job training program ever	20.0%

Sources of Income, pre vs. post (n=54)

	Baseline* %	3 mo. follow-up %	P-value
State/federal benefits	43.2	51.1	0.248
Parents/friend/relative	54.6	46.7	0.248
Traded sex for drugs/\$	100.00	71.0	<0.0005
Part/ full time licit job	23.8	26.2	0.50
Selling needles	25.0	12.2	0.059
Selling drugs	35.0	10.5	0.021

* past 3 months

Drug Utilization Patterns, pre vs. post (n=54)

	Baseline* %^	3 mo. follow-up %^	P-value
Daily drug use	76.0%	55.0%	0.0003
Daily crack use	27.3%	13.13%	0.0140
Injection drug use	55.6	35.6	0.0027
<i>≥ daily injection</i>	61.0	57.0	0.4142
<i>never shared syringes</i>	86.9	93.7	0.1573
Mean (SD) amount of \$ spent on drugs/day	\$52.57 (\$58.47)	\$46.71 (64.57)	0.001

* past 3 months

^ unless indicated

Sexual Risk Behaviors, pre vs. post (n=54)

	Baseline*	3 mo. f-up	P-value
Mean # (SD) of sexual partners/month	10 (29.9)	3.0 (42.4)	0.010
Mean # (SD) of sex trade partners/month	9.0 (23.6)	3.0 (42.4)	0.025
Consistent condom use vaginal sex – steady (n=21)	29.0%	29.0%	1.00
Consistent condom use vaginal sex - casual (n=18)	25.0%	75.0%	0.157
Consistent condom use vaginal sex – trade (n=35)	53.0%	75.0%	0.03

* past 3 months

^ unless indicated

Attendance and Jewelry Making



- Women attended a median of 6 (IQR: 4.5, 6.0) sessions
- 20 women attended ≥ 1 open jewelry-making several
- An average of 5 women/open session

Sales

- Net jewelry sales totaled \$7000 from 11 sales:
 - 6 cohort
 - 5 community
- Of women (n=42) that sold ≥ 1 piece, median sold/person = \$164
- (\$29 – \$1231)



Street Festival Sale



Multivariate Linear Regression Model of Change in Number of Sex Trade Partners

	Parameter estimate	Stand. Error	P-value
Intercept	15.2	9.2	0.11
Income from jewel sale (\$)	0.08	0.03	0.0129
Baseline job efficacy*	10.5	7.3	0.16
Baseline drug expenditure (\$)	-0.3	0.08	0.0002

Conclusions



- HIV prevention aims met (researchers)
- Self efficacy, licit employment, positive experience (participants)
- **STRUCTURAL** intervention address concerns of participants

Limitations

A decorative graphic at the top of the slide consists of two overlapping circles on the left and three circles on the right. The first circle on the left is solid blue, while the second is a white outline. The three circles on the right are solid blue, white outline, and solid blue from left to right.

- Small sample
- Nonrandom sampling
- No comparison group

Next Steps (participants)

- Creation of GEMS of Hope
- Continued sales: internet, JHU, markets
- Continued collaboration with PI and study coordinator



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