

“Saving the World in 180 Minutes”

The Challenges to and Opportunities for Using HIV/AIDS Ministry as Community-Level Intervention

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- Presented at “Getting It Together – Integration of HIV/AIDS, Mental Health, Substance Abuse and Spirituality: Strategies for Holistic Treatment,” April 20, 2011

I have worked with faith-based organizations to improve health-outcomes for my clients/patients

20% Yes, a little

20% Yes, all the time

20% No, not yet, but I want to

20% No, I have no idea how to do this

20% No, doesn't relate to our mission

Learning Objectives

- Increase participant's knowledge about how the Black Church's historical and cultural legacy as an agent for social change has been challenged in the face of the HIV/AIDS pandemic.
- Increase participant's knowledge about how to collaborate with faith-based organizations to develop spiritually-appropriate and culturally-relevant HIV counseling and prevention efforts.

Agents of Social Change

- Black churches historically have been the leader in social change, including health matters
- 85% African Americans have some spiritual or religious belief
- 65% use church as a support system
- People with HIV/AIDS too ashamed to disclose because churches talked about disease (homosexuality)
- Gay men feel they are not supported

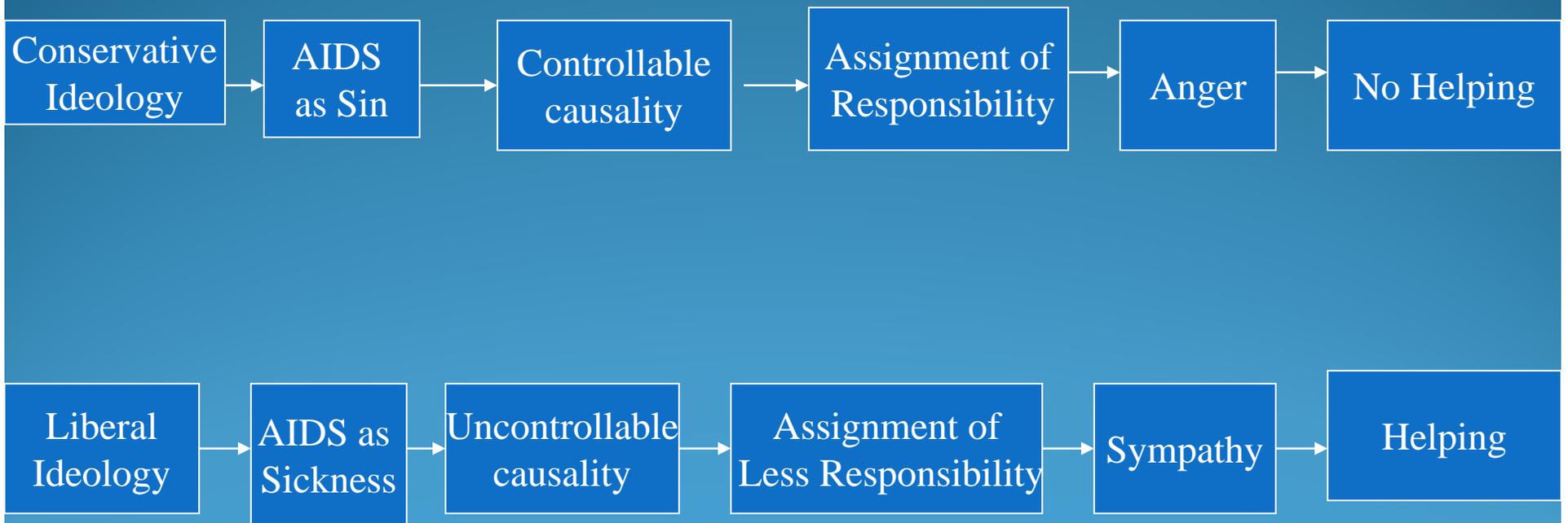
Barriers

- Asked the question: “Why was there a lack of involvement by African American ministers?”
- What were the barriers?
 - Lack of knowledge/Education
 - Conservative thinking/Doctrine
 - Personal biases
 - Perception: sin or sickness

Research Model

- Attribution theory is based on the belief that perceptions of causality are central to determining affective reactions to an event and eventually subsequent behavior. (Weiner, 1993)
- event \Rightarrow causal controllability \Rightarrow assigned responsibility \Rightarrow emotion \Rightarrow behavior

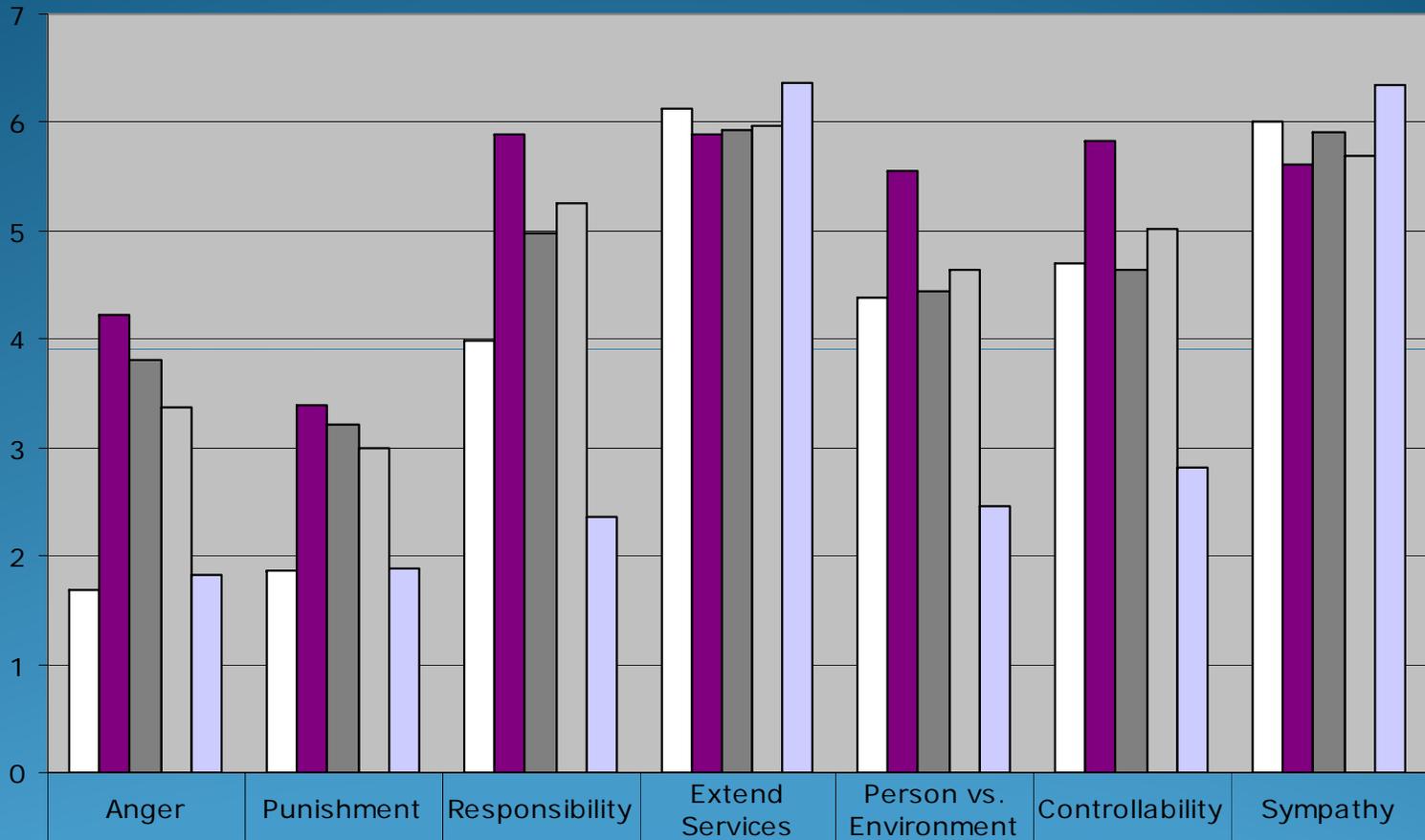
Emotional Path



Who Participated

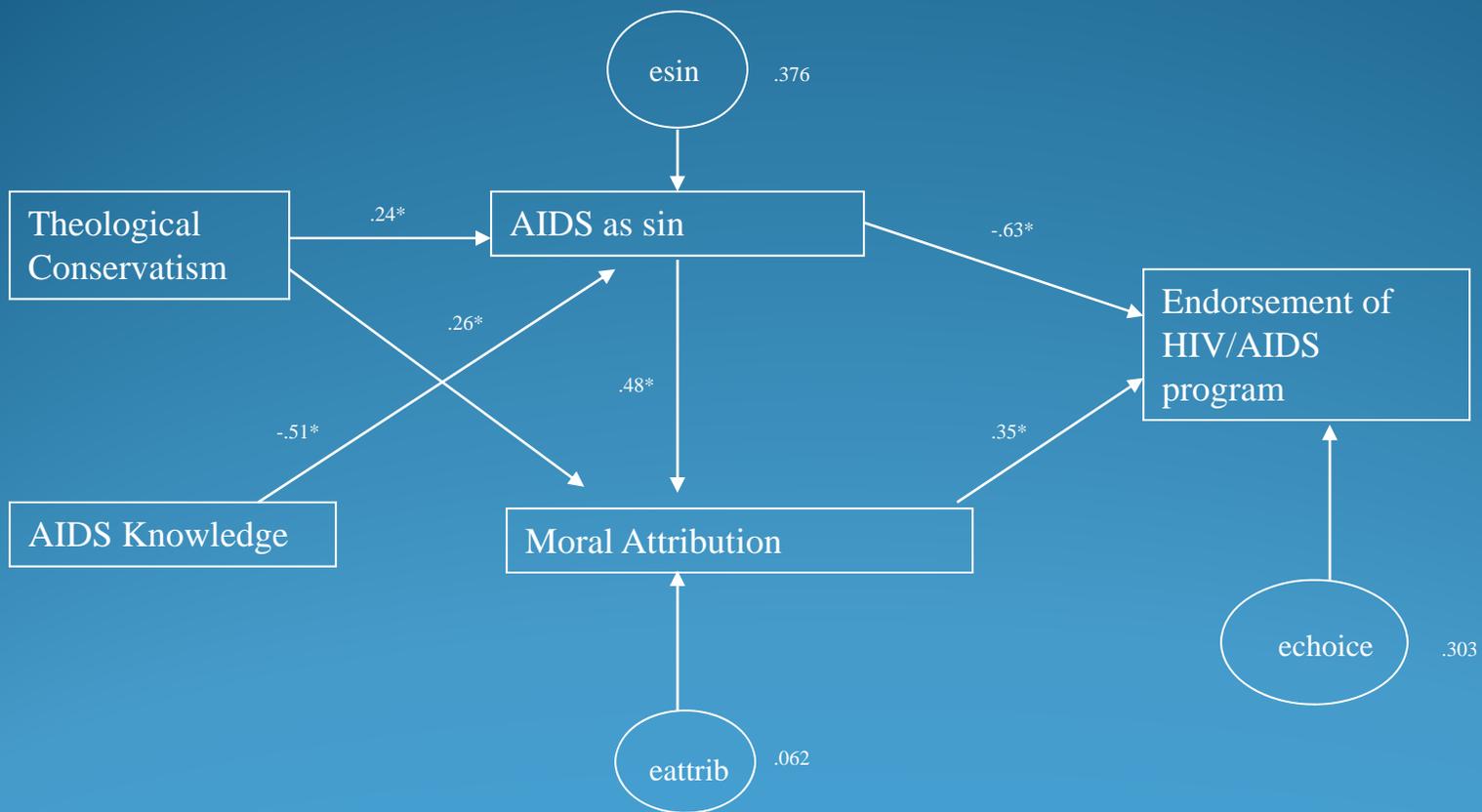
Variable	N=77	%	SD
Mean Age	49.3	Range: 28-81	11.21
Gender			
Male	58	75	
Female	19	25	
Marital Status			
Married	53	68.8	
Separated	3	3.9	
Divorced	15	19.5	
Never Married	6	7.8	
Education			
High School Diploma/GED	4	5.2	
Some College	16	20.8	
AA/AS	7	9.1	
BA/BS	22	28.6	
MA/MS	20	26.0	
Ph.D. or equivalent	8	10.4	
Denomination			
Baptist	24	31.2	
AME	14	18.2	
CME	12	15.6	
Pentecostal	9	11.7	
Church of Jesus Christ	2	2.6	
Newer Denominations	12	15.6	
Methodist	4	5.2	

Mean Ratings of Attributions Across Story Type



■ No cause	1.68	1.87	3.99	6.13	4.39	4.69	6.01
■ Homosexual	4.22	3.40	5.88	5.89	5.56	5.83	5.62
■ IV Drug Use	3.81	3.22	4.97	5.92	4.44	4.65	5.91
■ Heterosexual	3.38	3.00	5.25	5.96	4.65	5.01	5.70
■ Blood Transfusion	1.83	1.88	2.36	6.36	2.46	2.81	6.34

Adjusted Path Model



Results

- The way in which an AIDS victim contracted the disease did impact their attributional judgments
- Age and education did not have much influence on outcome but HIV knowledge did
- Conservative ministers were more like to perceive AIDS as a sin and have higher moral attributions
- Attitudes about AIDS (sin or sickness) was a distinct mediator from attributional judgments
- Moral attribution unexpectedly positively predicted level of endorsement of HIV/AIDS programs

What is Needed

- Expand the study to survey additional ministers
- Create a comprehensive training tool for ministers on how they can discuss the issues around HIV/AIDS with their congregation and with their peers that is comfortable to them
- Curriculum should include scripts to help ministers develop the comfort level to properly engage those who come with issues around HIV/AIDS (above the notion that God will make it all right or that it is a sin that you got the disease).
- Assist ministers in developing a dialogue with their congregation and with the general public about HIV/AIDS

Grace United Methodist Church

Using HIV/AIDS
Ministry as
Community-Level
Intervention



History of Grace UMC HIV/AIDS Ministry

- First meeting held April 18, 2009
 - Created after conversation between pastor and HIV+ congregant
 - Congregant was concerned about limited spiritual empowerment resources for HIV-positive community



Mission Statement



*The mission of the Grace United Methodist Church HIV/AIDS Ministry is to support and create projects which **promote spiritual empowerment, educational awareness, emotional well-being, and physical healing** for persons who are living with or at risk of contracting HIV/AIDS, both in the Los Angeles area and Africa.*



Ministry Projects

Imani Unidos



Support HIV food pantry at Faith UMC



Strength for the Journey



Provide “scholarships” for HIV+ campers to attend spiritual retreat

Project H.I.P. H.O.P.



Produce 30-second HIV prevention PSA targeting youth



Quarterly Speakers Series



Host educational forums and interactive workshops



Quarterly Speaker Series: A Model for Community-Level Intervention



Quarterly Speakers Series

National Observance

Corresponding Ministry Forum

- September 2009: AIDS Walk for Life Week  “HIV/AIDS: What Every African American Should Know”
- December 2009: World AIDS Day  “I’m HIV-Positive and I’m HIV-Empowered”
- March 2010: National Black Church Week of Prayer for the Healing of AIDS  “HIV/AIDS and the Black Church”
- June 2010: National HIV Testing Day  “Family Matters: How Families Can Prevent and Adapt to HIV/AIDS”

Quarterly Speaker Series

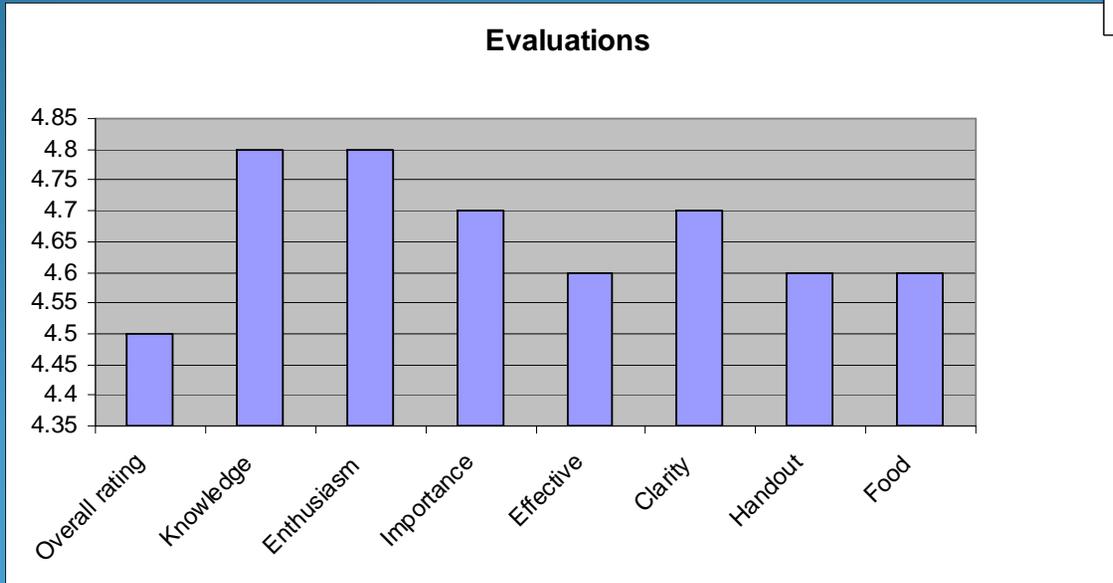
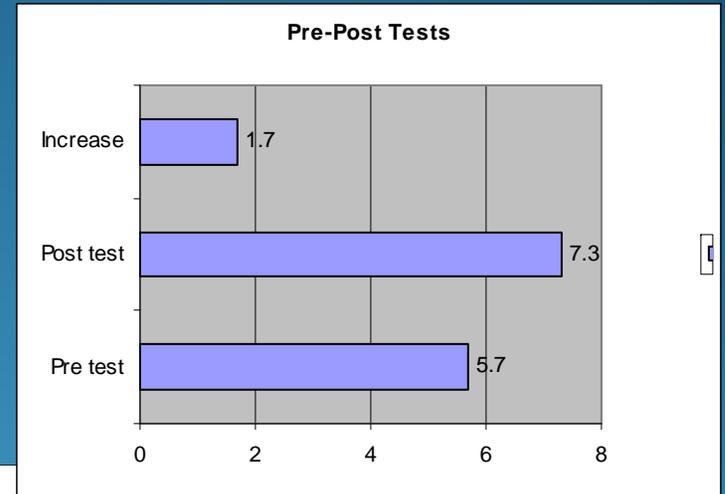
National Observance

Corresponding Ministry Forum

- September 2010: National Grandparents Day ⇒⇒⇒ “Sexual Health and Seniors: The Truth About HIV/AIDS”
- December 2010: World AIDS Day ⇒⇒⇒ “Hip Hop Café”
- March 2011: National Black Church Week of Prayer for Healing AIDS ⇒⇒⇒ “Can We Talk?: Communications Skills-Building Workshop”

(9/09) "HIV/AIDS: What Every African American Should Know"

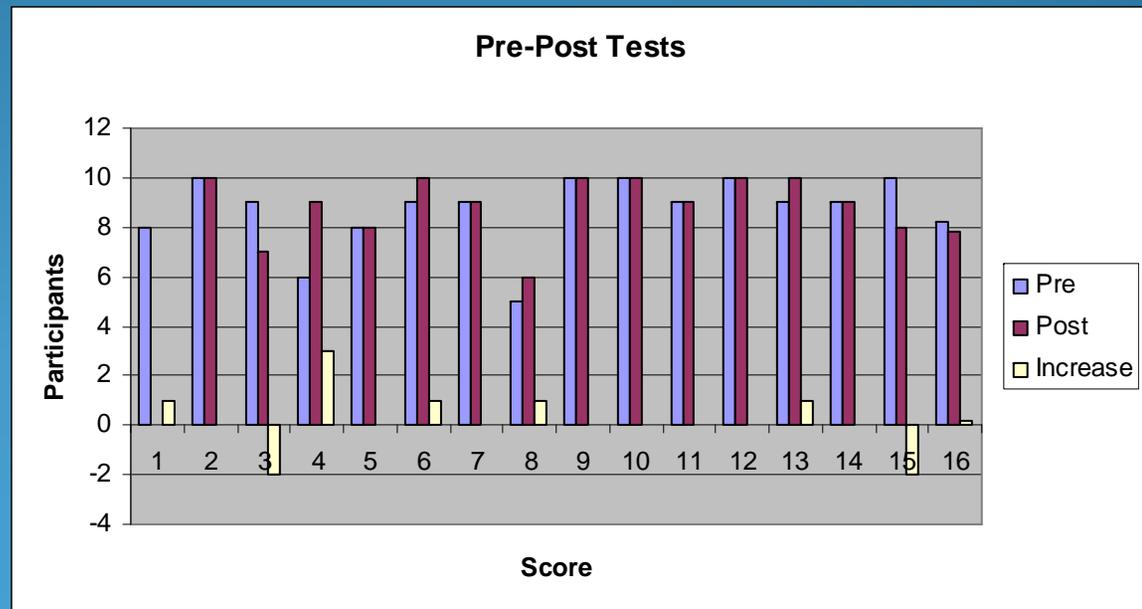
- HIV 101 presentation



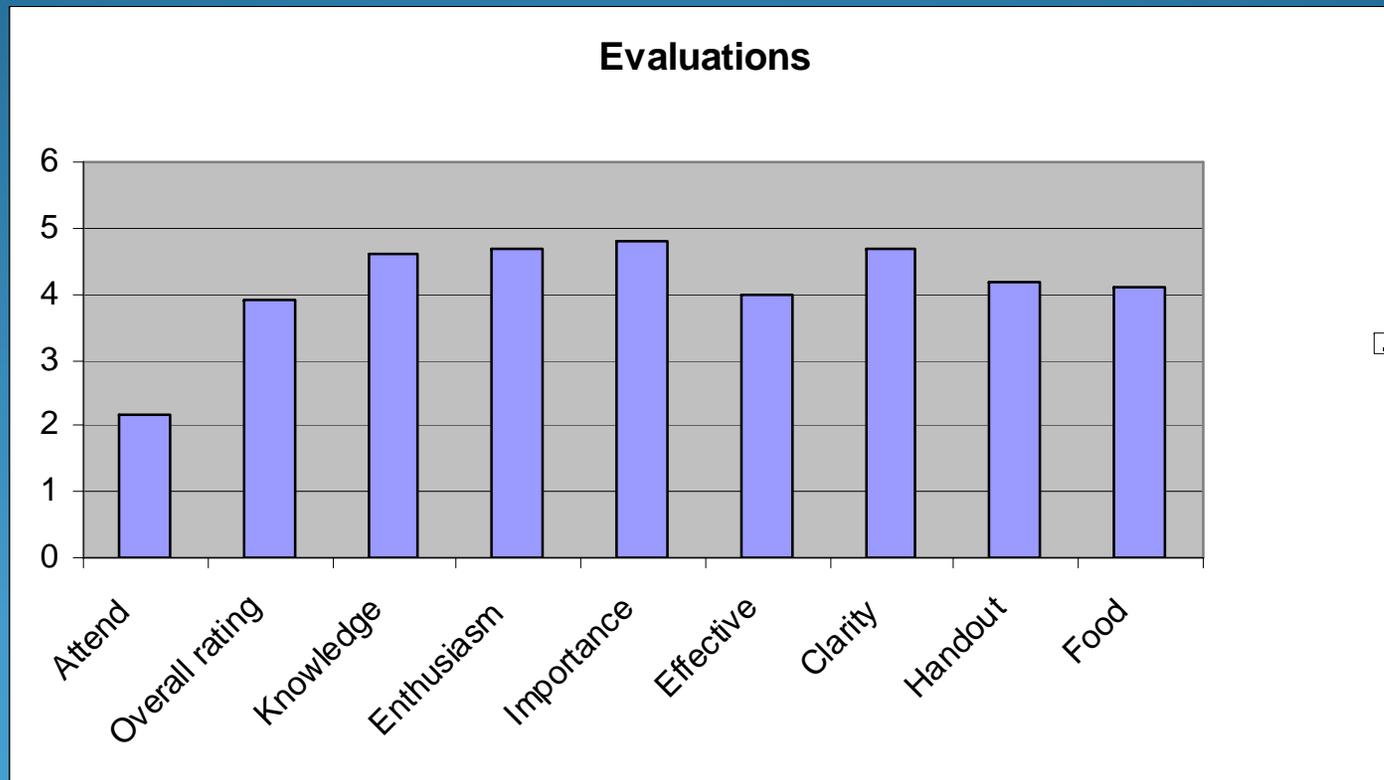
(12/09) “I’m HIV-Positive and I’m HIV-Empowered”

- HIV 101 presentation, panel discussion w/ HIV-positive consumers, play about AIDS in Africa

Demographics		
		N
Gender	males	22
	females	15
Age	21-35	4
	36-50	14
	51-66	11
	over 60	4
Ethnicity	African American	37
	Caucasian	1
Tested	Yes	21
	No	17



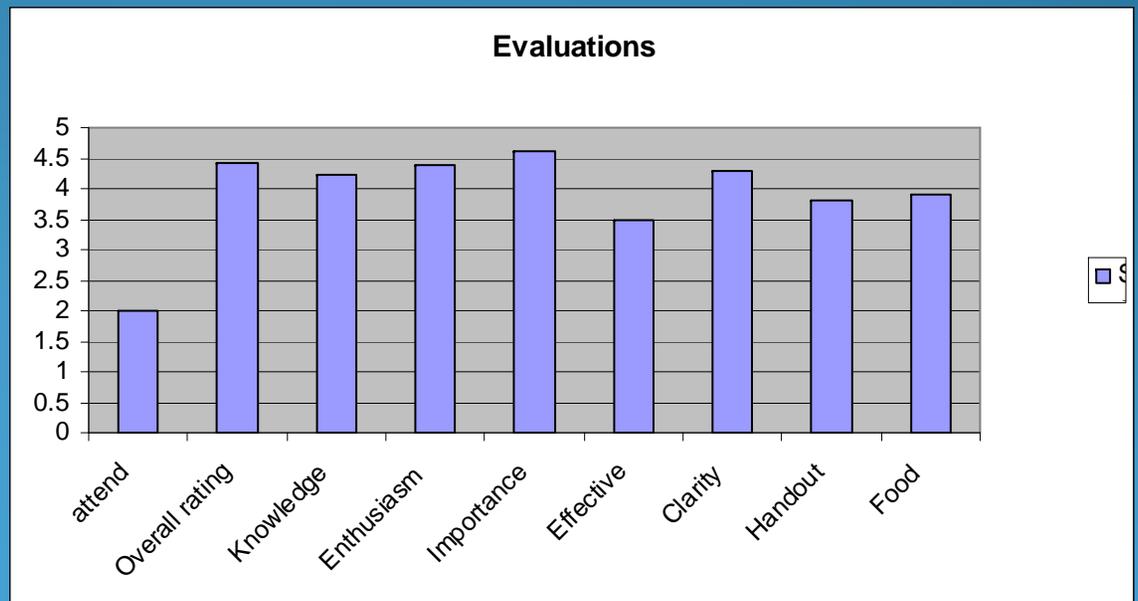
(12/09) "I'm HIV-Positive and I'm HIV-Empowered" (continued)



(3/10) “HIV/AIDS and the Black Church”

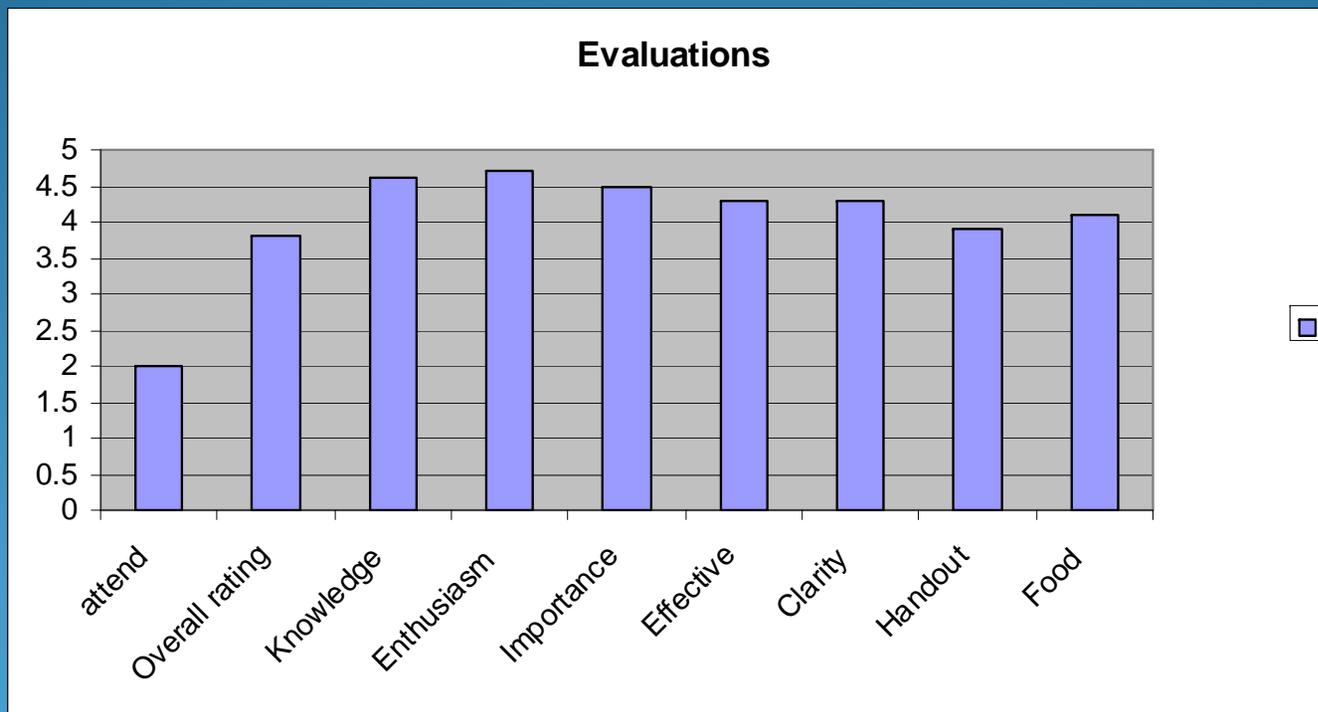
- HIV 101 presentation and panel of ministers

Demographics		
		N
Gender	males	10
	females	15
Age	15-20	1
	21-35	3
	36-50	7
	51-66	8
	over 60	4
Ethnicity	African American	23
	Caucasian	2
	Latina	2
Tested	Yes	14
	No	11



(6/10) "Family Matters: How Families Can Prevent and Adapt to HIV/AIDS"

- HIV 101 presentation and panel of "family" members



(9/10) “Sexual Health and Seniors: The Truth About HIV/AIDS”

- HIV 101 presentation and panel discussion
- NO DATA COLLECTED



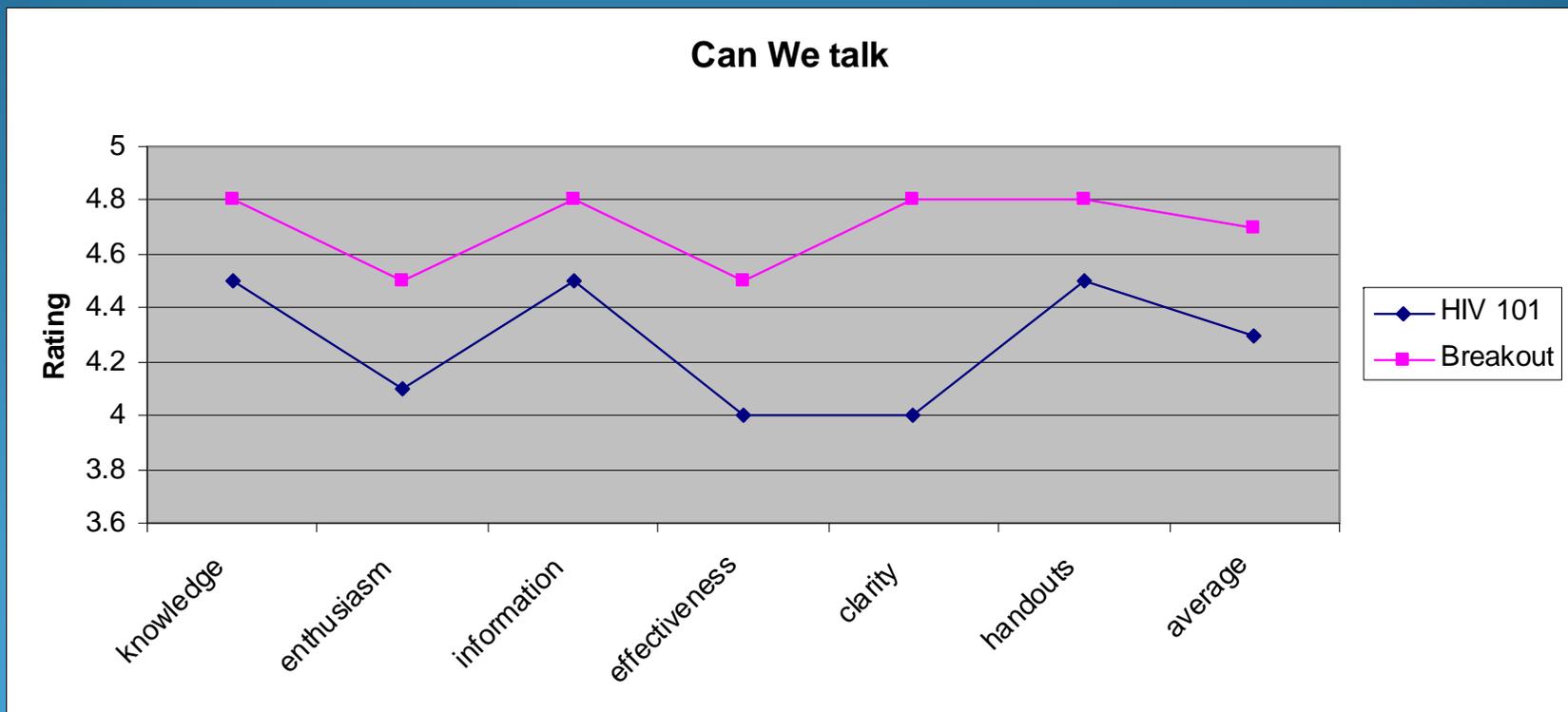
(12/10) “Hip Hop Café”

- HIV 101 presentation and prevention messages conveyed through rap, spoken word, gospel and skits
- NO DATA COLLECTED



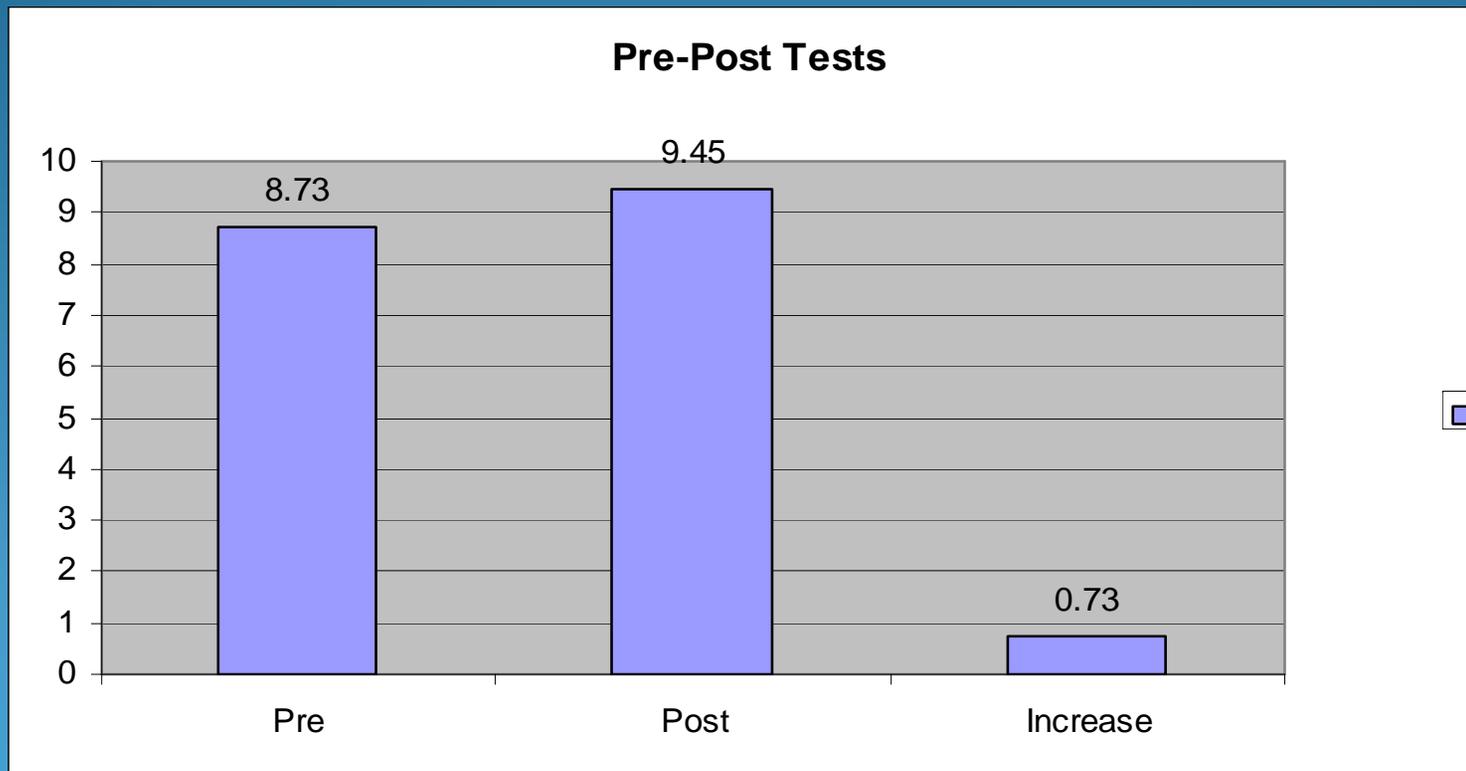
(3/11) “Can We Talk?: Communication Skills-Building Workshop”

- HIV 101 presentation and Skills-Building breakout session



(3/11) “Can We Talk?: Communication Skills-Building Workshop” (continued)

- HIV 101 presentation and Skills-Building breakout session





Lessons Learned

Building the Ministry



- Problem #1: Misconceptions about HIV made congregation reluctant to embrace ministry
- Solution: Three-pronged approach
 - Educate congregation ...
 - ... coupled with “putting a face to the disease”
 - ... while supporting HIV+ community

Building the Ministry

- Problem #2: Lack of resources/lack 501 (c)(3)
- Solution: Develop collaborative partnerships
 - Pharmaceutical companies
 - Mini-grants
 - Community partners
 - Other ministries
 - Other churches

Building the Ministry

- Problem #3: Lack of technical expertise (e.g., data collection, statistical analysis)
- Solution: Collaborate with academicians and other professionals

Next Steps

- Continue to find innovative ways to increase understanding of HIV and increase spiritual support for HIV-positives
- Collaborate with researchers to effectively evaluate the success of trainings
- Involve and invite more HIV-positive persons to share their stories
- Involve and invite more churches to attend events
- “Export” trainings to other churches
- Develop standard curriculum for other churches to replicate

THANK YOU!

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