An Evidence-based HIV Prevention Intervention for Vulnerable Women in South Africa: Findings and the Need to Scale-up

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1. Introduction

Sexual violence is the most prevalent violence affecting women in any country in the world...[addressed in the report].

While retaining the core elements and key characteristics of the original Women’s Health CoOp in South Africa, the adaptation has been informed by:

- Focus groups,
- In-depth interviews,
- Expert panels, and
- Community advisory boards (CABs).

The initial work started in 1994 as a project for out-of-treatment drug users in Raleigh-Durham, North Carolina (USA). It rapidly became clear that HIV was spreading among drug users in the community, making it uniquely suited to address the present and future needs of South African women and teens.

The Women’s Health CoOp project is poised for large-scale implementation and dissemination, becoming a model for addressing the high burden of HIV in South Africa.

2. History of the Women’s Health CoOp Project

3. Features of the Women’s CoOp Adaptations

- Prevention methods were used to adapt the original Women’s Health CoOp, which is now considered evidence-based.
- While retaining the core elements and key characteristics of the original Women’s Health CoOp in South Africa, the adaptation has been informed by:
  - Focus groups,
  - In-depth interviews,
  - Expert panels, and
  - Community advisory boards (CABs).

4. Results from the Pretoria Women’s Health CoOp Show Sustainable Reductions

- Results from the Pretoria Women’s Health CoOp Show Sustainable Reductions in Alcohol Use, Unprotected Sex, and Visitation at 6-Month Follow-Up

5. Conclusions

- South African women are vulnerable to HIV through the intersection of social and other drug use, gender-based violence, and sexual risk.
- The Women’s Health CoOp project is poised for large-scale implementation, making it uniquely suited to address the present and future needs of South African women.

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4. Protein's Women's Health CoOp RCT Results

Results from the Pretoria Women's Health CoOp Show Sustainable Reductions in Alcohol Use, Unprotected Sex, and Visitation at 6-Month Follow-Up

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