

# VOICES / VOCES

## Video Opportunities for Innovative Condom Education and Safer Sex FACT SHEET AND AGENCY READINESS SELF-ASSESSMENT

### Program Overview

Health educators convene groups of 4-8 clinic patients in a room that allows privacy for discussions. VOICES/VOCES is based on the theory of Reasoned Action, which explains how people's behaviors are guided by their attitudes, beliefs, and experiences as well as by how they believe others think they should act in a given circumstance. Groups are gender-and-ethnic specific, so that participants can develop prevention strategies appropriate for their culture. Information on HIV/STD risk behavior and condom use is delivered by viewing a culturally-specific video. Skills in condom use and negotiation are modeled in the videos, then role-played and practiced by participants during the facilitated group discussion that follows. A poster board is used to present features of various condom brands in English and Spanish. At the end of the single, 45-minute session, participants are given samples of the types of condoms they have identified as best meeting their needs.

### Core Elements

The core elements of VOICES/VOCES include:

- Viewing culturally-specific videos portraying condom negotiation;
- Conducting small group skill-building sessions to work on overcoming barriers to condom use;
- Educating program participants about different types of condoms and their features; and
- Distributing samples of condoms identified by participants as best meeting their needs.

### Target Population

The VOICES/VOCES program targets heterosexual African-American and Latino adult men and women clinic clients.

### Program Materials

- Preview Guide of materials for agency administrators
- Bilingual (English/Spanish) planning and implementation manual
- Bilingual (English/Spanish) condom poster
- Five videos to target both African American and Latino participants:
  - *Do It Right* is aimed at African American, heterosexual men and women.
  - *It's About You* is a telenovela (soap opera)-style video aimed at English-speaking or bilingual, heterosexual Latino men and women.
  - *Se Trata De Ti* is a telenovela-style video aimed at Spanish-speaking, heterosexual Latino men and women.
  - *Porque Sí* targets Latino men and women.
  - *Safe in the City* consists of three soap-opera style vignettes and two animated clips. The characters in this video are more ethnically diverse (African American and Latino).
- Penile Model and Sample Condoms

### Research Results

After the VOICES/VOCES intervention, the following results were displayed:

- Participants increased knowledge about the transmission of HIV and other STDs.
- Participants had a more realistic assessment of their personal risk.
- Participants had a greater likelihood of getting condoms and intending to use them regularly.
- Participants presented fewer repeat STDs.

### For More Information on VOICES/VOCES

To place your name on a list for a future training, please visit our website [www.effectiveinterventions.org](http://www.effectiveinterventions.org). If you do not have access to the web, you may also call (866) 532-9565 or email [interventions@danya.com](mailto:interventions@danya.com).

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O'Donnell, C.R., O'Donnell, L., San Doval, A., Duran, R., Labes, K. (1998). Reductions in STD Infections Subsequent to an STD Clinic Visit: Using Video-based Patient Education to Supplement Provider Interactions. *Sexually Transmitted Diseases*, 25 (3), 161 – 168.

## AGENCY READINESS SELF-ASSESSMENT

The following is a brief self-assessment intended to assist agencies (e.g., CBOs) to determine if they currently possess the capacity, or can build the capacity, to adopt and implement the VOICES/VOCES intervention. Please read each item and then place a check mark (√) in only one response option.

Capacities and Resources Needed for VOICES/VOCES	Yes, we have this capacity (1)	We do not presently have this capacity, but can build the capacity (2)	No, we do not have this capacity (3)
1. Available personnel skilled at facilitating group discussions (or personnel who can be trained in facilitation)			
2. A television and a DVD player/computer that plays DVDs			
3. The ability to work with clients in a private/quiet area without disrupting other agency services			
4. African-American and Latino heterosexual clients at risk for HIV/STDs			
5. The resources to obtain a variety of condoms for distribution			
6. Client flow that would allow for this 45-minute intervention			

If all of your responses were in column 1 (“Yes, we have this capacity”) or column 2 (“We do not presently have this capacity, but can build the capacity”), your agency is likely “ready” for VOICES/VOCES.

*For more information, or to sign up for a training, visit:*

[www.effectiveinterventions.org](http://www.effectiveinterventions.org)