

Fighting HIV Stigma Through Photovoice: An Innovative Tool for Patient Education and Empowerment



Monica U. Hahn, MD MPH MS AAHIVS
Interim Medical Director, Family HIV Clinic at Family Health Center/SFGH
BAPAC (Bay Area Perinatal AIDS Center) Physician
Assistant Clinical Professor, UCSF Family & Community Medicine

Introduction

- Many challenges in HIV family care
- HIV stigma is widespread, poses barriers to care, contributes to health disparities
- An opportunity to create a patient education and advocacy project

Photovoice

- Photovoice blends a grassroots approach to photography and social action (Wang & Burris, 1999)
- Roots
 - Documentary Photography
 - Freirian Education for Critical Consciousness
 - Feminist Theory

Photovoice Goals

1. Record and reflect community strengths and concerns
2. Promote dialogue through discussion and photos
3. Mobilize community awareness and social change

Setting/Population

- Recruited small group current and former patients at FHC Family HIV Clinic
- Several patients had been patients at Bay Area Perinatal AIDS Center (BAPAC) and Positive Health Program (Ward 86)
- Several are involved in Positive Reproductive Outcomes for HIV+ Men (PROMEN) group



Advocacy Project Design

- 3 Photovoice sessions held at FHC over 1 month
- Patients given digital cameras
- Introductory photography skills
- Critical reflection and dialogue: sharing photos with personal narratives
- Peer/group health education
- Feedback on health education tools

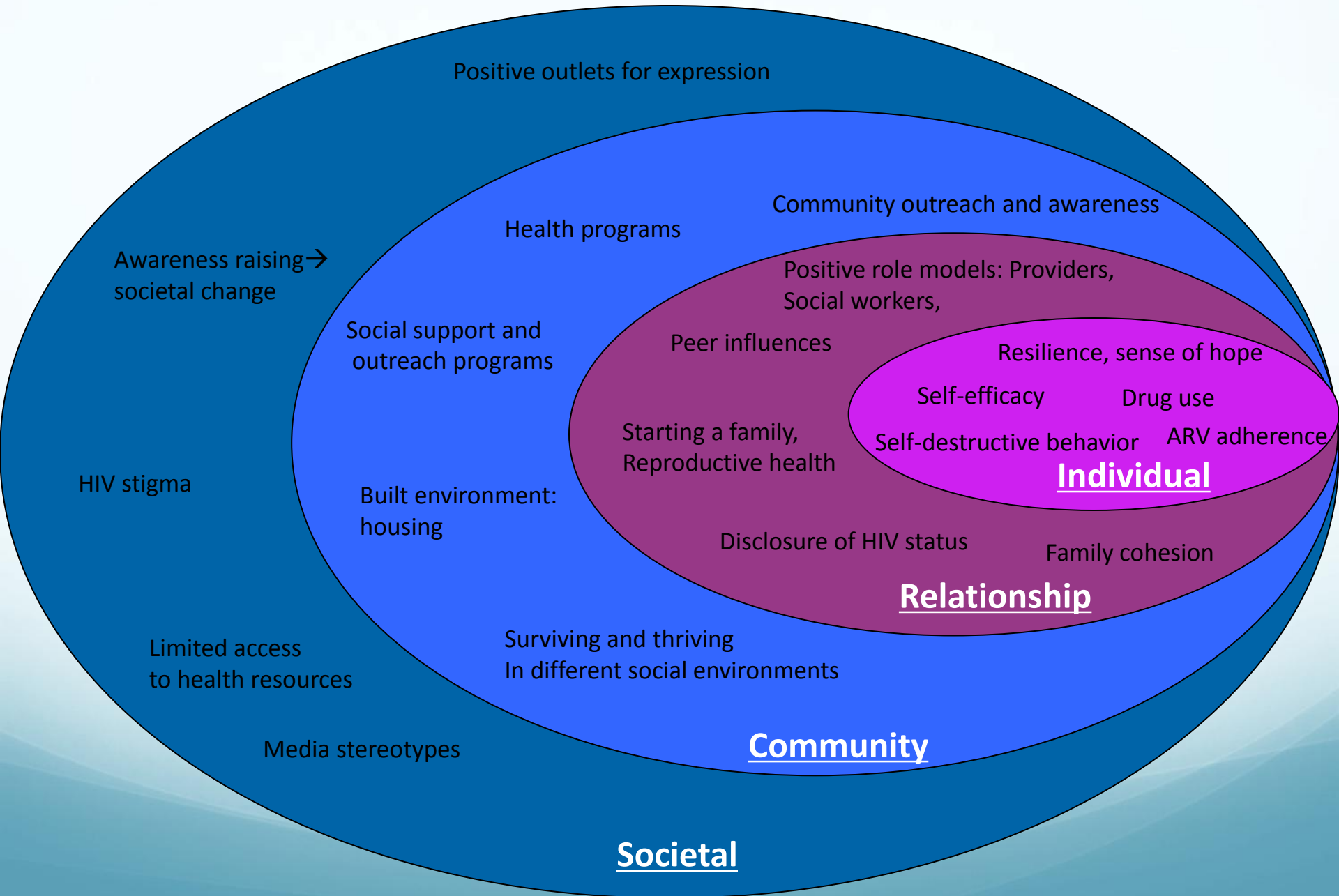


Results: Salient Themes

- Fighting stigma
- HIV diagnosis and disclosing diagnosis
- Medication adherence
- Emotional states – grief and hope
- Resilience in the face of challenges
- Importance of family bonds
- Surviving and thriving
- Social support/health care team – case managers, social workers, health providers



Results: Salient Themes



Examples of photos



“Trash” by Deon Brimmer



“LOVE”

by Deon Brimmer



“Father & Son” by Deon Brimmer



“Staying Healthy” by Caroline Watson



“#hivfreebaby”

By Caroline Watson

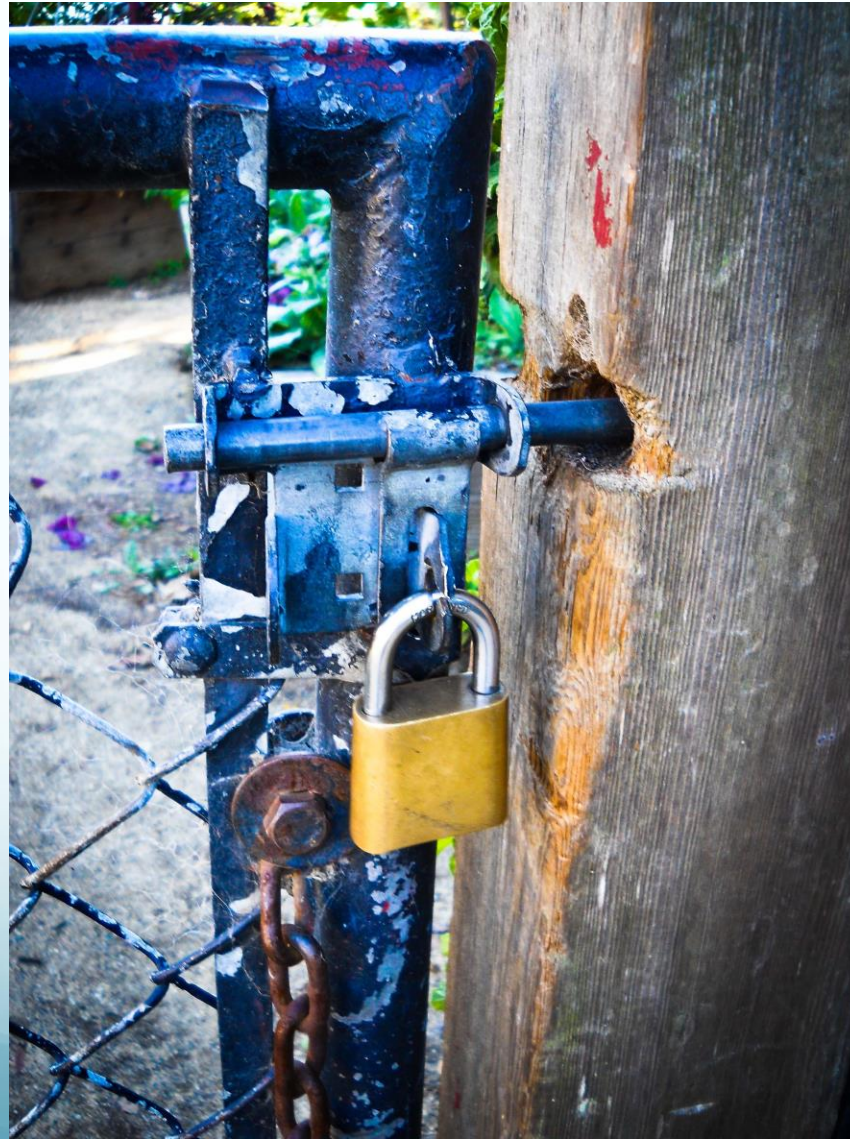


“Shedding the Leaves of Stigma” by Caroline Watson



“Padlocked Doors”

By Angela McGill





“The Paths
We Walk”
-Anonymous

“Phobias” -Anonymous



The Family Health Center HIV Clinic and Positive Health Options for HIV+ Men (PROMEN) invite you to a one-night pop-up art photography exhibit by our clinic patient artists in effort to fight HIV stigma:

**FROM SURVIVING
TO THRIVING:**



LIVING & LOVING WITH HIV



DEAR HIV: NOTES TO THE EPIDEMIC

StorefrontLab Art Gallery

Friday, June 27th 2014

Exhibit 6-9pm

7pm Photovoice patient artist presentations

**Light refreshments will be served*

Art Gallery Exhibition: StoreFrontLab June 2014



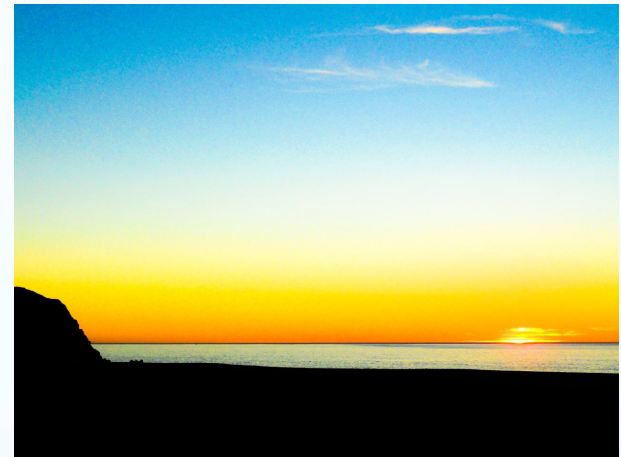
Conclusions

- Photovoice is an empowering experiential process, peer education method
- Photovoice provided emotional wellbeing and empowerment, opportunities for advocacy
- Future directions: Group-based HIV care, strengthening collaboration and coordination of care between Family HIV Clinic, Ward 86, BAPAC, PRO Men



Thank you!

- All participants: Caroline & Deon Brimmer, Angela McGill, anonymous participants
- Rebecca Schwartz MSW
- Shannon Weber MSW, BAPAC & PROMEN
- Mina Matin MD
- Hana Lim MS4
- FHC Family HIV Clinic staff and providers
- Funding: PROMEN for food, FHC AQUILA Advocacy project funding for patient gifts, LoveYou2.org for patient gifts
- Friends and family who loaned cameras, love and patience



“Love You 2” by Caroline Brimmer



“Flowers Bloom Even in Winter”

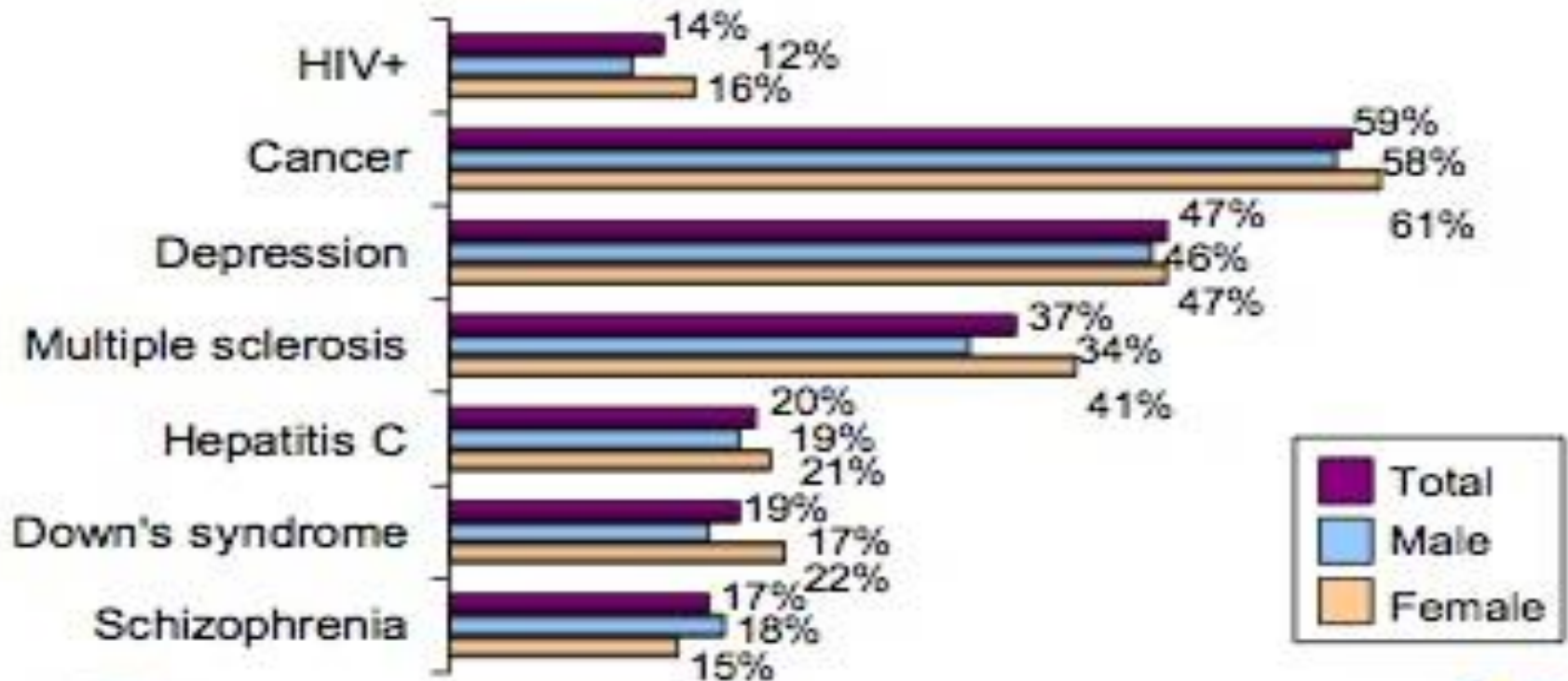
-Anonymous



HIV Stigma

Few Americans believe that HIV+ women should have children.

% Yes



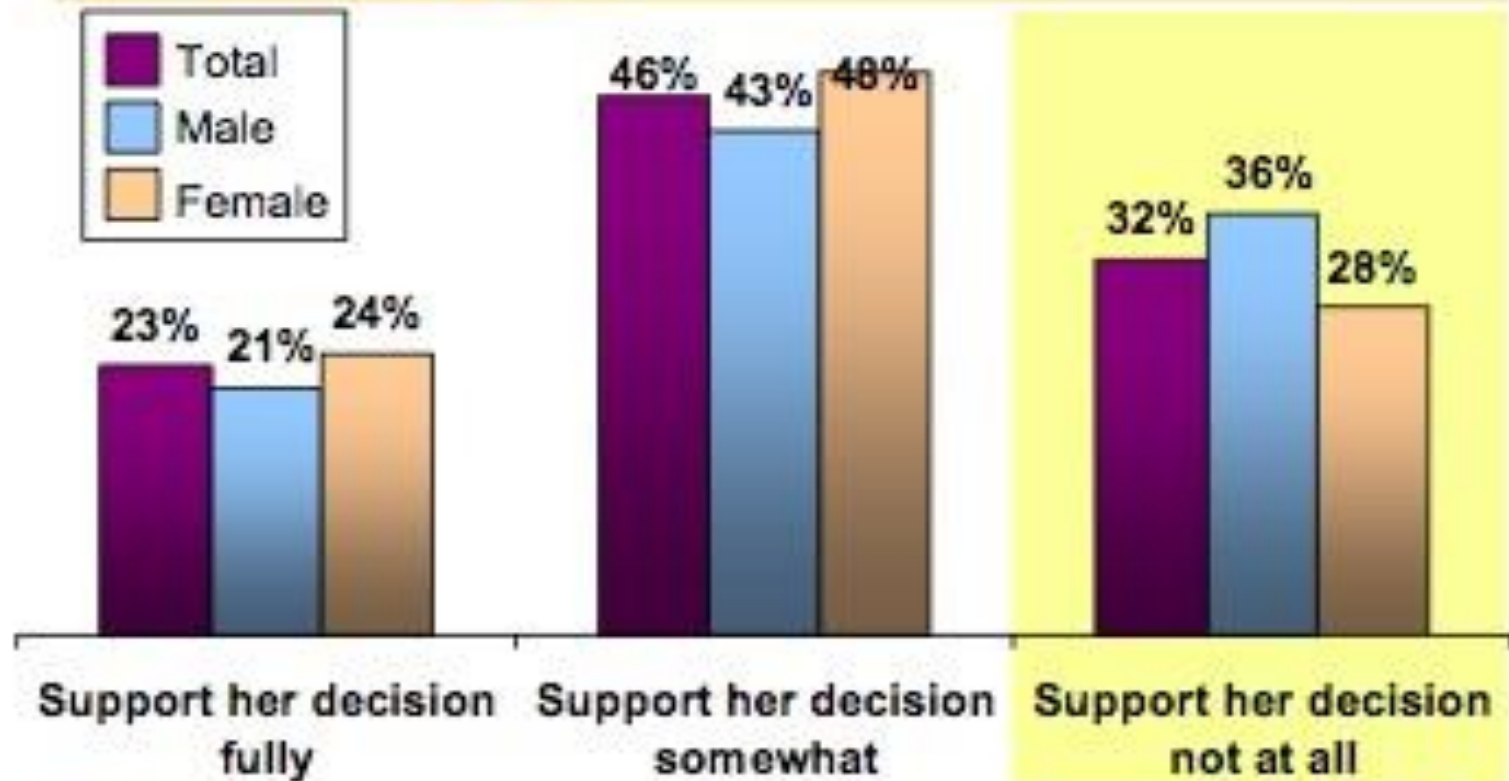
Base: All Respondents* (N= varies)
Q555 In your opinion, should a woman with any of the following conditions have children?
Response Options: 1 = Yes, 2 = No, 3 = Not sure 4 = Decline to answer
*Note: reduced base with "Decline to answer" excluded

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HIV Stigma

If an HIV+ woman made the decision to have a child, one-third of Americans would not support her decision at all



Base: All Respondents (N= 4831)

Q560 If an HIV-positive woman made the decision to have a child, how likely would you be to support her decision?

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Critical Discussion and Dialogue

- P: Describe your PHOTO.
- H: What's HAPPENING in this picture?
- O: Why did you take a picture OF this?
- T: What does this picture TELL us about living with HIV?
- O: How can this picture provide OPPORTUNITIES for us to improve health for HIV positive patients and their families?

“Peaceful Sunset” by Angela McGill

