Synergizing HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis B Programs to Increase Access in Hard-to-Reach Populations

Q: Which of the following do Hep B and HIV have in common?

Disproportionate Impact on A&PI Sexual Contact Preventable Risky Behavior Mother to Child Vaginal Fluid Chronic MSN Blogd Treatment Available FierCing Virus Semen Color Blind Needle Stick

A: ALL! Somehow, Hep B enjoys relatively little stigma among hard-to-reach A&Pls while HIV is highly stigmatized.

Q: How do we know this through our work?

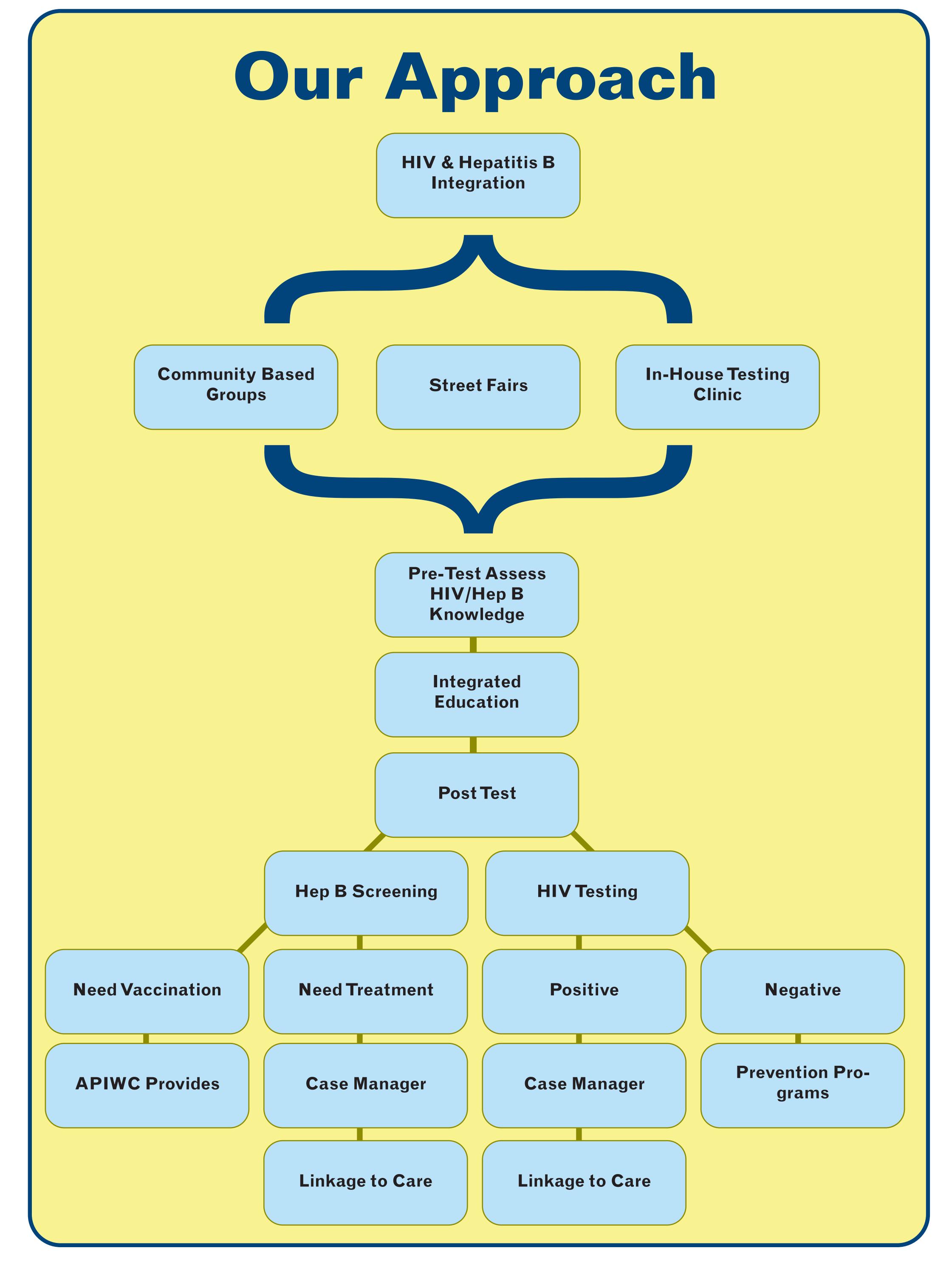
HIV:

- People walk away when we approach them about HIV
- A&Pls aren't really getting tested
- A&Pls don't consider themselves (or their family and friends) at risk
- Most are embarrassed or ashamed to talk about HIV with their family and friends, despite the common risk factors with Hep B
- Due to late testing, those who do test positive often show symptoms and are in later stages of disease progression
- People don't really want to learn about HIV and available resources in the community
- People see HIV as a death sen tence

Hep B:

- When we approach people at community events, most people know about Hep B and are open to talking about it
- A&Pls are getting screened and protected
- A&Pls consider themselves (and their family and friends) at risk
- A&Pls are seeking treatment when necessary
- A&Pls are talking about it within their households
- Most people know a family member or friend who has Hep B
- Campaigns targeting A&Pls, like SF Hep B Free, are effective
- People do not fear Hep B and see it as treatable

- **Q:** Given these facts, how can we strategically reduce HIV stigma, and increase awareness and testing in hard-to-reach A&PI communities?
- A: By using Hep B as a gateway to educating A&Pls about HIV and its common risk factors

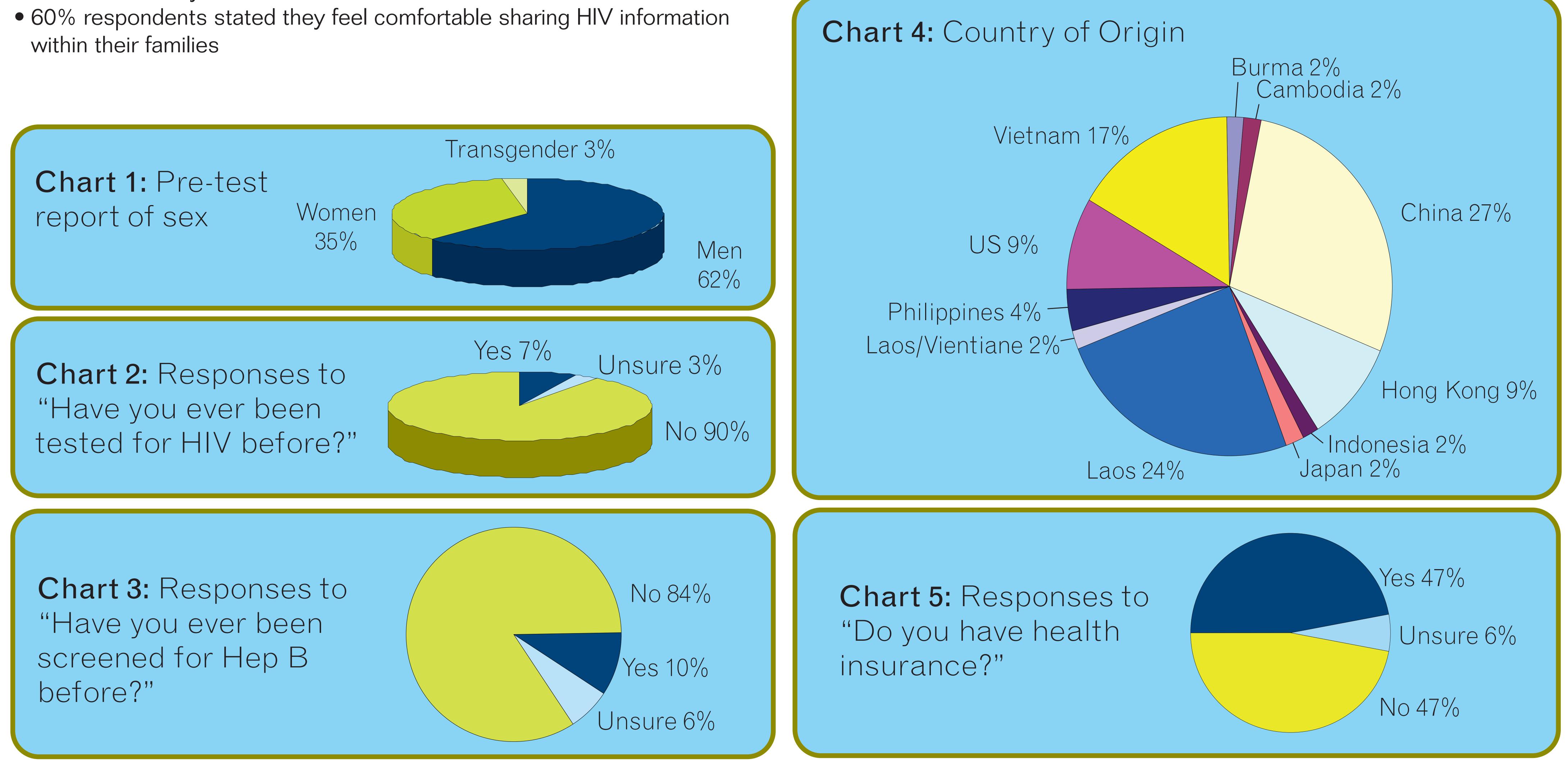


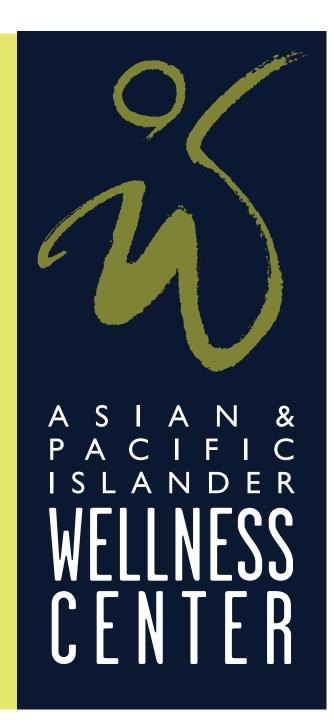
Data from Hep B Screening: June 2007 – **Sept 08 (n= 252)**

- Number of Hep clients that then tested for HIV on site: 35 (13%), 90% haven't been tested for HIV before
- Number of HIV Positive: 3 (8%)
- Number of Hep clients that were referred to an HIV testing Clinic: 206 (88%)
- Number of Hep B Positive: 37 (15%)
- Number of Hep B Vaccination: 65 (25%) (Completed 3 shots)

Results of the post screening surveys (n = 210) indicate that:

- 80% respondents stated they were not aware of the risks of HIV.
- 75% did not know how HIV is spread.
- 70% surveyed didn't know the benefits of being tested against HIV
- 75% stated they will be interested in be tested for HIV in the future
- within their families





Outcomes:

Increase Awareness/knowledge of HIV/AIDS

 Individuals will have a deeper understanding of their own risks and find ways to mitigate those risks;

 A&PI elders are targeted to deliver messages. Elders are highly respected and are caregivers in A&PI communities, and because of these reasons we believe that they can deliver effective messages in a manner that will encourage information to be readily passed down to younger generations for whom HIV may be at a greater risk.

Increase Access to testing

 They will also understand the HIV testing process and the availability of testing services.

Reduce Stigma

 It is our belief that if people understand that the two diseases are transmitted in similar ways and can have equally life-threatening consequences, the fear and stigma toward HIV will begin to lessen.