Addressing Health Disparities & Social Stigma:

Health Promotion with Crack Smokers
Why Health Promotion with Crack Smokers

Context
Crack Smoking & Health

- Oral Sores

- Burns

- Respiratory Injuries & Infections

- HIV & accelerated disease progression

- HCV, HCB

- STIs
Health Disparities & Stigma

Context
Local Health Disparities

Synergistic Factors:

- Addiction
- Illegality
- Poverty
- Stigma
- Public Health & Criminal Justice Systems
- Pervasive demonization
  - Sexism
  - Racism
  - Classism
Local Health Disparities

- Crack smokers & IDUs
  - high-risk
  - marginalized
- Syringe Access Programs for IDUs
  - Accessible
  - Short-term incentive
  - Significant, long-term benefits
    - direct & ancillary
    - to the individual & to the general population
- And for Crack smokers?
Hypothesis

- Obvious need
  - Risk-reduction
  - Increased engagement
  - Expanded service provision
- material distribution to crack smokers addresses these needs, so
- should be significantly expanded
Local Context

- Harm Reduction Programs
- Glide Health Services
- San Francisco, Tenderloin District
Our Neighborhood
Crack Kits

ROCK SAFETY
Tips for Safer Crack Smoking

Use your own pipes and mouthpieces.
Infections can easily spread from person to person through cuts and burns on your mouth.
If you must share, clean the mouth piece with alcohol wipes.
Metal pipes are the safest option; avoid using metal or plastic.
Methods

- Mixed methodology
  - Survey Instrument
  - Participant Observation
- Attitudes about notional crack pipe distribution
- Harm reduction among crack smokers
  - Views, experiences, responses
Results

- Crack kit distribution routinely elicits requests for crackpipes
- Would come to our exchange if we provided crackpipes
Results

- Crack kit distribution catalyzes health promotion opportunities
  - Conversations about health promotion & harm reduction strategies
  - Knowledge validation
  - Requests for condoms & lubricant, wellness & treatment information
Conclusions

- Distributing harm reduction materials to crack smokers creates opportunities
  - To engage
  - To educate

a high-risk, underserved population
Conclusions

- Crackpipe Distribution
  - Directly address associated health risks
  - Further incentivize interaction with harm reduction services
  - Augment & increase these interactions
  - Facilitate ancillary benefits harm reduction participation