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# Optimizing Status-Neutral Group Care Models for Equitable HIV Prevention and Care Research

**Presenters: Dr. Maya Green and Akoben Kline**

*Kelsey Urso, Iza Schwartz, Preaksha Garg, Kortez Davis, Chris Balthazar, Aliyah Bocclair, Nala Body, Sabrina Frye, Crystal Patil, Alicia Matthews, Sybil Hosek, Randi Singer*

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# Declaration: Nothing to disclose.



Instagram: @Taskforcechicago\_official



# Key Words

Cultural Safety	Group Care	Status-neutral	Screening	Sex work
Approach that addresses power imbalances; individually determined safety, sense of respect, inclusion, & freedom from discrimination	Care model where participants receive individual clinical services, education, & peer support together in facilitated sessions	An inclusive HIV care model that ensures equitable access & support regardless of HIV status, affirming both prevention & treatment needs	The study process used to assess eligibility & readiness for participation, including behaviors & informed consent	Exchanged oral, anal, vaginal sex for something of value in the last 6 mos



# Background

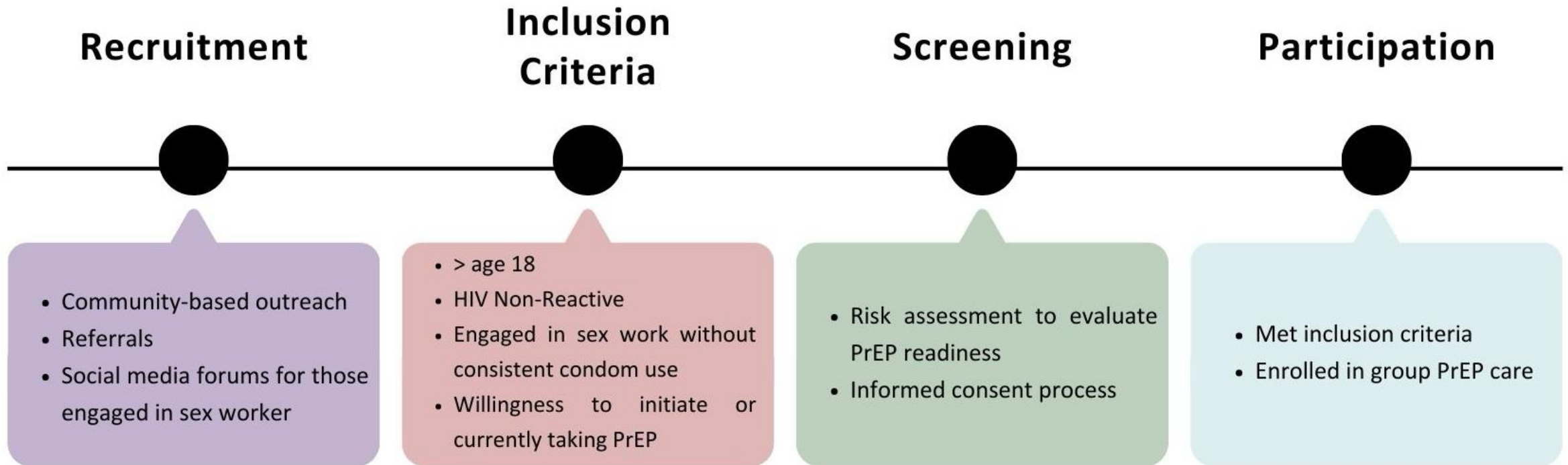
**Exclusion criteria in HIV prevention efforts reinforces exclusive care.**

**Getting to zero requires status-neutral care frameworks.**

- Those at the intersection of living with HIV & engaging in sex work face compounding challenges
  - historically excluded from HIV prevention efforts & progressive research

- Culturally safe HIV prevention efforts, by nature, ensure that programs are status-inclusive

# Methods

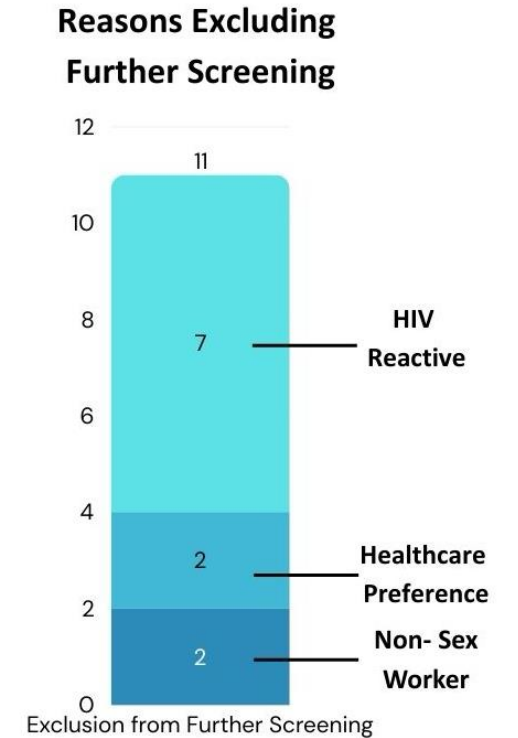
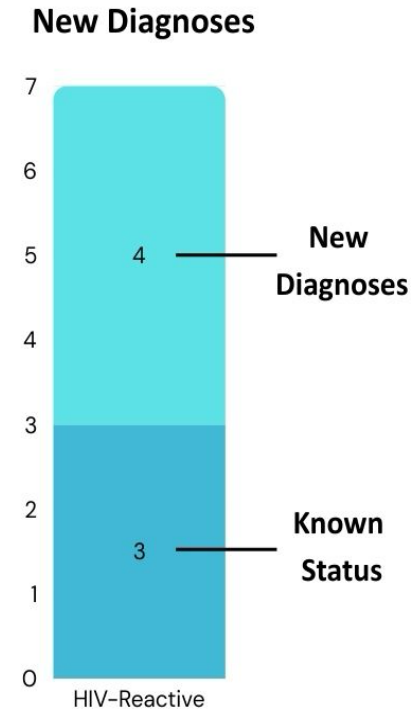
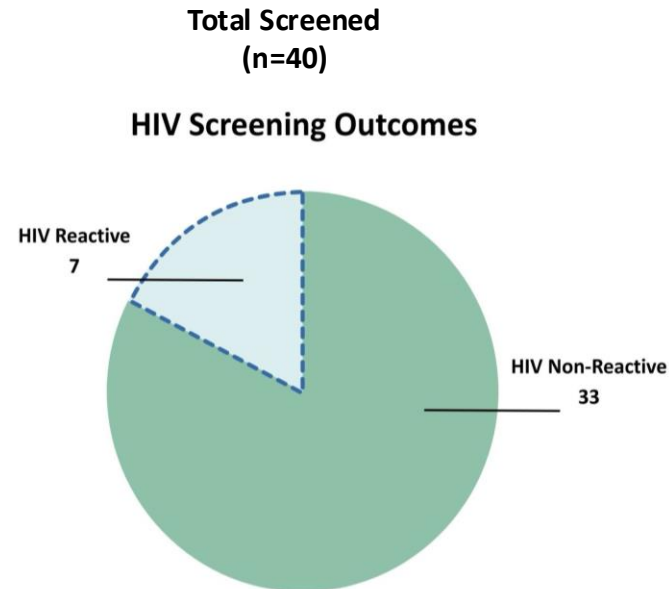




# Results

During Screening:  
**7 prospective participants  
were HIV-reactive**

- 18% of all screened individuals
- 64% of all those excluded from further screening



# Impact vs. Intent



## Unexpected Stress

- Newly HIV-reactive



## Barriers to Community Building

- Through study activities



## Reinforced Existing Barriers

- Exclusion from study's group care & possible benefits



## Perpetuated Economic Instability

- Exclusion from compensation for study participation



## Perpetuated Lack of Inclusion

- Exclusion from option of study's group care as alternative care model



## Reinforced Care Binary

- Status- dependent care reinforced through exclusion

# Conclusion

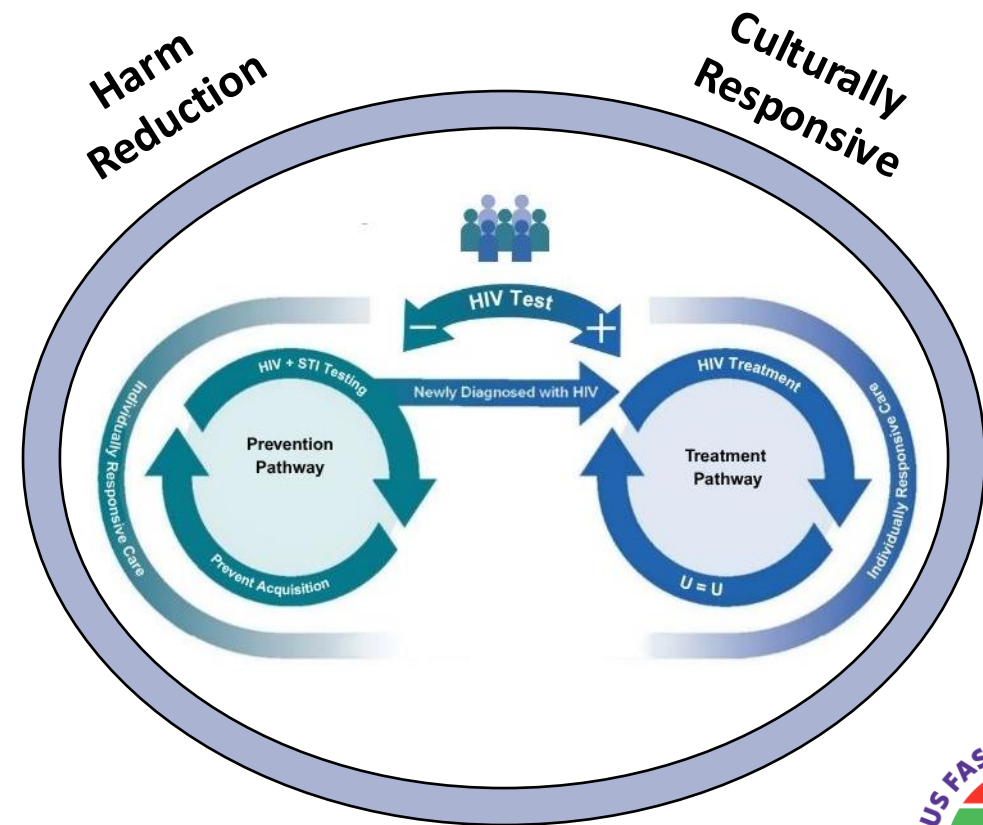
## Integration of Status-Neutral Care

- Requires status-neutral research frameworks to actively work against exclusion & stigmatization of those living with HIV

## Such Frameworks Support:

- Deeper bonds within communities
- De-stigmatization of HIV status
- Inclusion of historically excluded marginalized populations

## Culturally Safe & Status Neutral Care



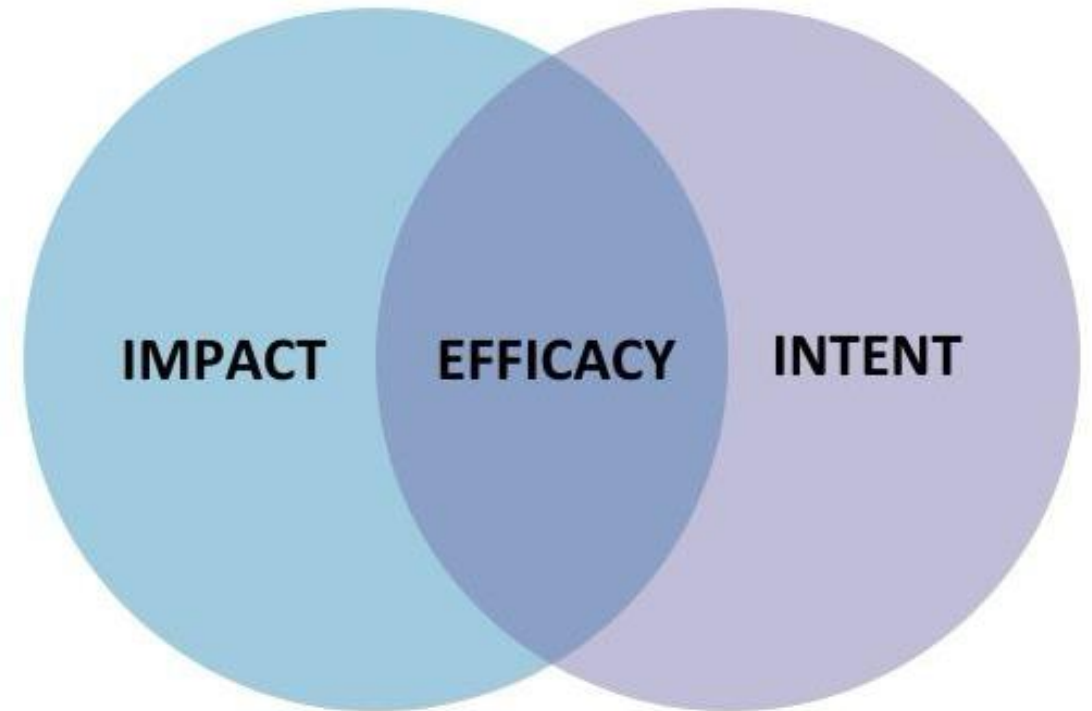
## Primary Care

(Daskalakis, n.d., )  
(Myers et al., 2018)



# Take-home

- Programs are most effective when shaped by the people they serve
- Turn a moment of interest into a moment of opportunity



# Thank you!

Myers, J. E., Braunstein, S. L., Xia, Q., Scanlin, K., Edelstein, Z., Harriman, G., Tsoi, B., Andaluz, A., Yu, E., & Daskalakis, D. (2018). *Redefining Prevention and Care: A Status-Neutral Approach to HIV*. Open Forum Infectious Diseases, 5(6).  
<https://doi.org/10.1093/ofid/ofy097>

Daskalakis, D. C. (n.d.). *The status neutral approach: A whole-person approach to ending the HIV epidemic in the US* [PowerPoint slides]. NACCHO. Retrieved September 7, 2025, from <https://www.naccho.org/uploads/body-images/NACCHO-Status-Neutral-Approach-Daskalakis.pdf>

