

Sexuality Education Initiative

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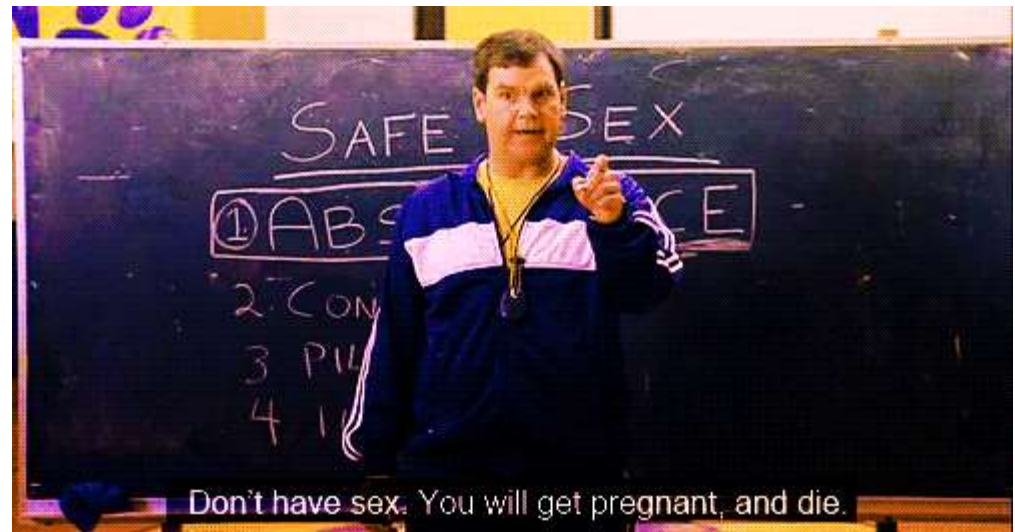
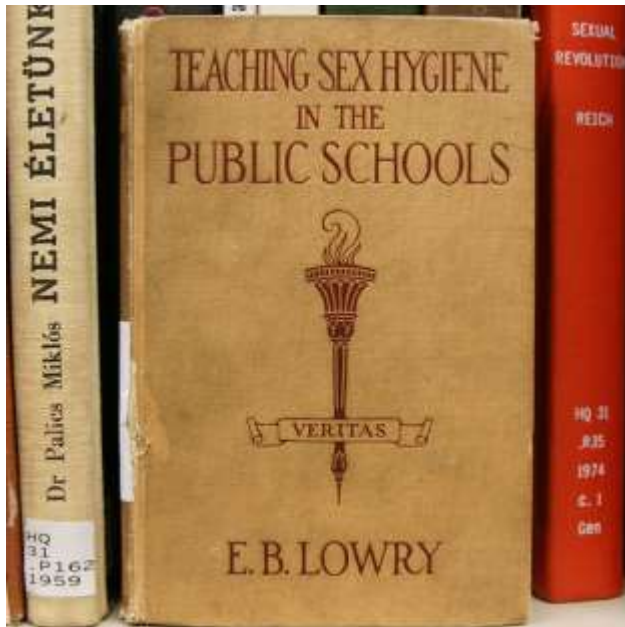
Objectives

By the end of this session, participants will be able to:

- Describe the theory behind the development of a rights-based approach using an ecological model to provide sexuality education in schools.
- Describe the strategies and four components of the Sexuality Education Initiative.
- Discuss success and challenges to implementing this model, including randomized evaluation results.

Pair & Share

What was your school sex ed experience like?



Gender Role Expectations

- Expectations for how to be a woman or a man
- Influenced by culture and society
- Learned
- Change over time



The Gender Box

Classroom Examples



Gender Expectations and Impacts

Men are expected to be in control



Men make decisions about condom use



No discussion or negotiation of protection

Women are expected to be virgins/
inexperienced



Women don't talk about sex, desires, health



Not accessing services, lack of negotiation

What Does the Evidence Say?

Women who internalize traditional ideals of femininity are:

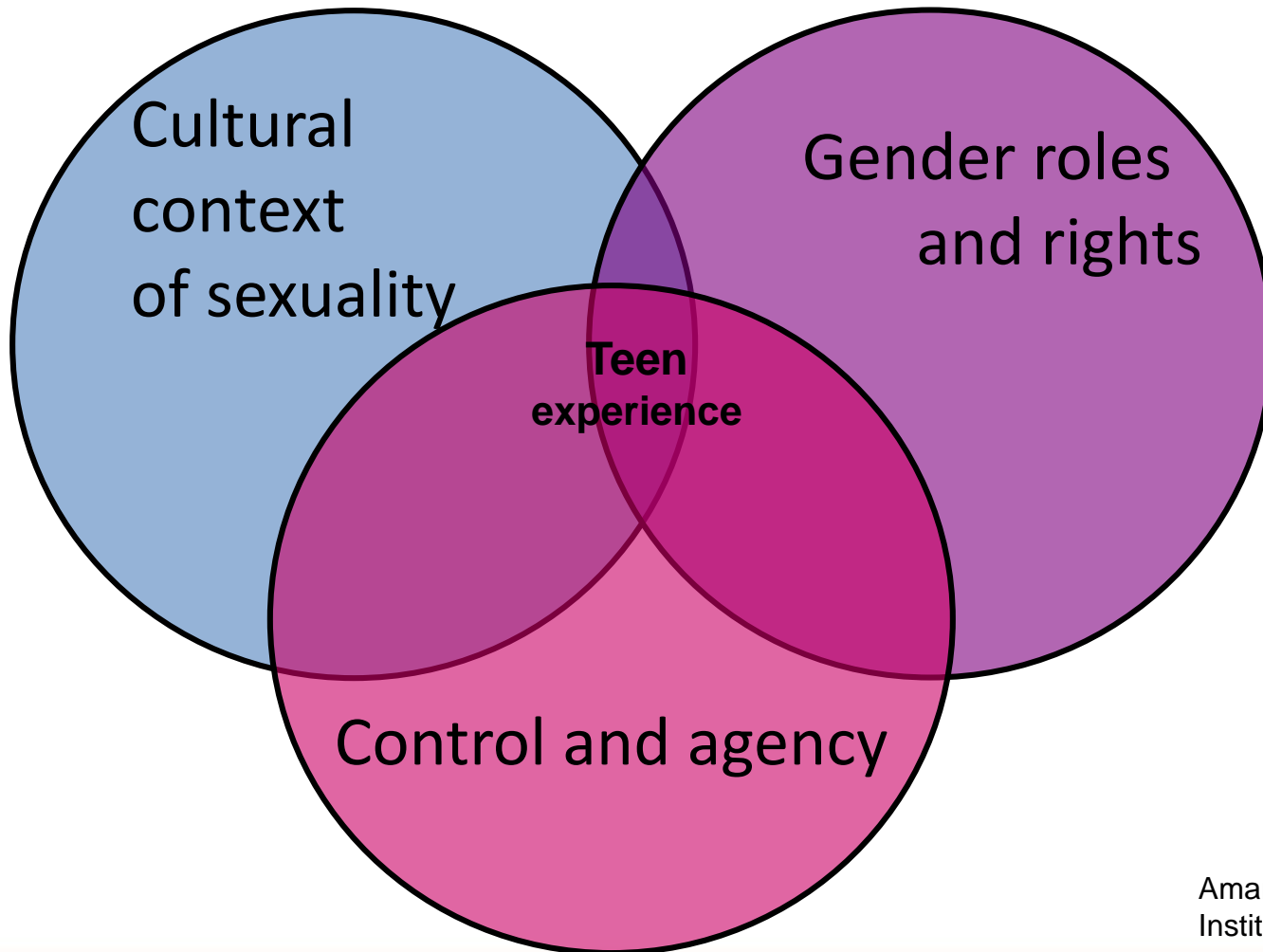
- Less likely to carry condoms
- Less likely to have sexual knowledge or be in touch with their own sexual needs
- Less likely to negotiate condom use
- More likely to have early &/or unplanned pregnancies
- More likely to tolerate male infidelity or IPV

Men who internalize traditional ideals of masculinity are:

- Less likely to use condoms
- More likely to:
 - Have earlier sex & more partners
 - Believe that sex is adversarial
 - Believe that pregnancy validates manhood
 - Engage in IPV or sexual coercion
 - Equate illness with weakness
 - Engage in male to male homophobic violence

National Council on Gender Report, Gender Norms: A Key to Improving Life Outcomes in At-Risk Populations

Teen Experience



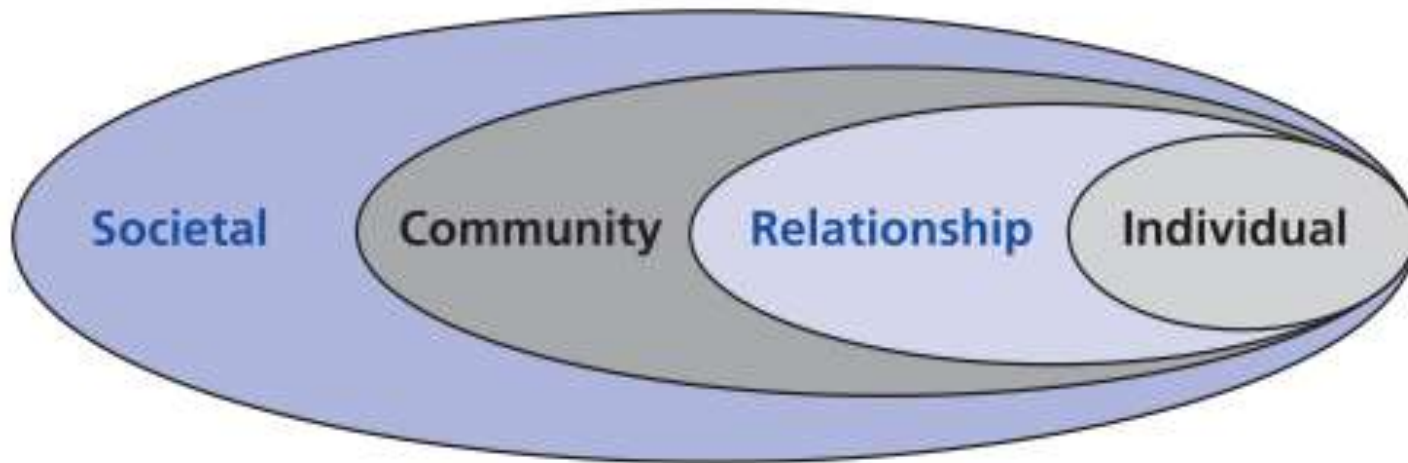
Amaro, 1995
Institute of Medicine, 1994

Mediators of Control and Agency

- Equal rights and responsibilities
- Communication
- Knowledge
- Self-efficacy
- Access and use of services

Sexuality Education Initiative (SEI)

Ecological Model



Focus on Gender and Rights

- Links between adherence to rigidly defined gender norms and negative sexual health outcomes
- From a rights framework, youth ideally enter relationships as equal partners with equal rights and therefore equal power to make decisions and express themselves
- Right to access education and sexual health services

Rights-Based Approach

To enjoy safe and satisfying sexual lives, young people must be able to exercise their basic human rights.

It's All One Curriculum, Population Council
UNFPA

Rights

I have the right to:

1. Say what I need to say.
2. Be respected and treated as an equal.
3. Be myself and have my own space.
4. Say no to something I don't want to do.
5. Abstain from sex or practice safer sex.

I have the responsibility to:

1. Treat my partner with respect.
2. Own up to my actions.



How To Keep Your Man:

- 1) Give him his space.
- 2) Communicate & trust him.
- 3) Love him.
- 4) Do not cheat.
- 5) Don't ask for too much.

How To Keep Your Girl:

- 1) Treat her like a princess
- 2) Compliment her
- 3) Don't ignore her
- 4) Return her calls & texts
- 5) Protect & Respect her.

~~How To Keep Your Man:~~

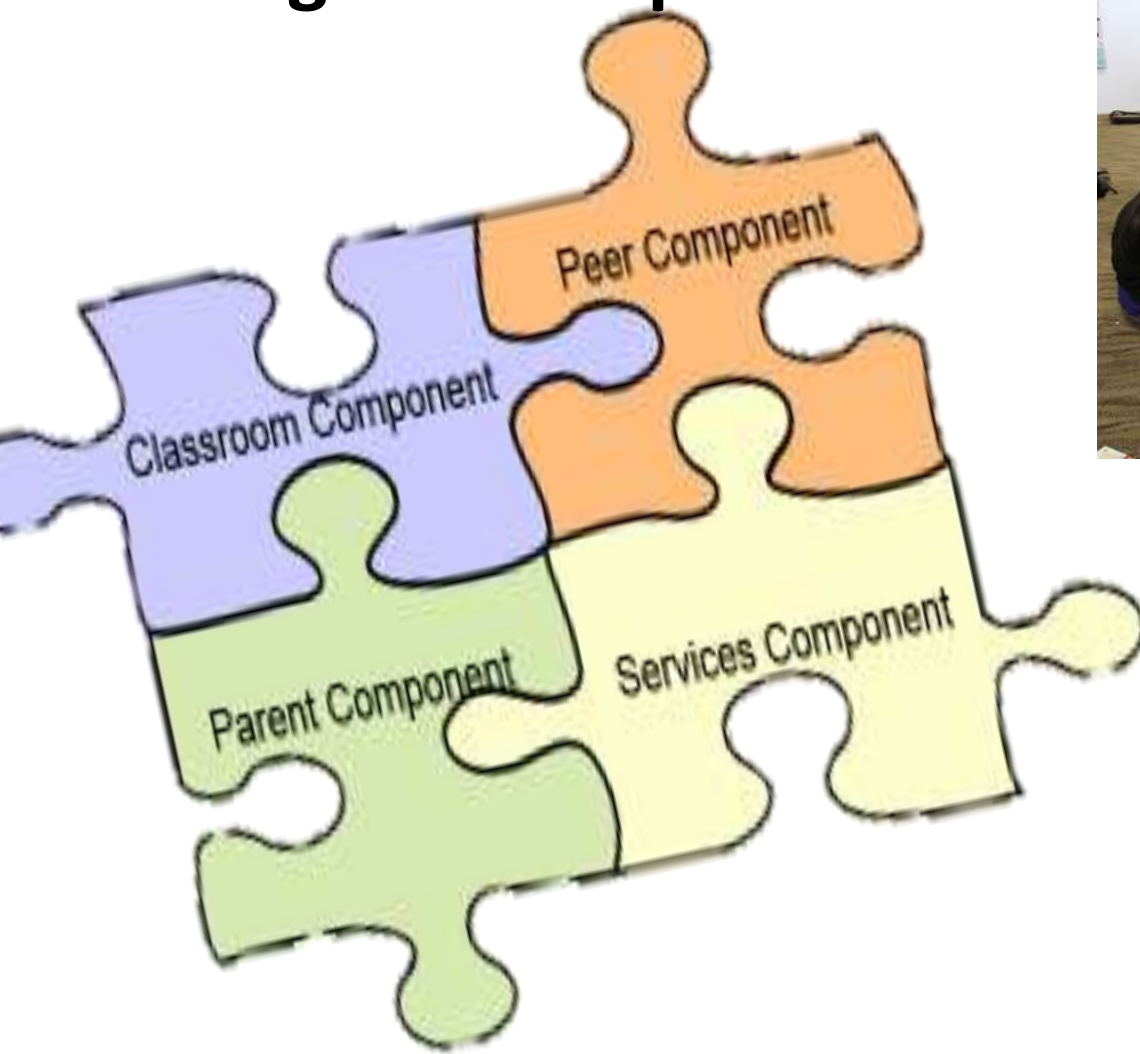
- 1) Give ~~him his~~ ^{each other} space.
- 2) Communicate & trust ~~each other~~ ^{each other}
- 3) Love ~~each other~~ ^{each other}
- 4) Do not cheat.
- 5) Don't ~~ask for too much~~ ^{take advantage of each other}

How to be in a healthy relationship

~~How To Keep Your Girl:~~

- 1) Treat her like a ~~princess~~ ^{equals}
- 2) Compliment ~~each other~~ ^{each other}
- 3) Don't ignore ~~each other~~ ^{each other}
- 4) Return ~~her~~ calls & texts
- 5) Protect & Respect ~~each other~~ ^{each other}

Program Components



Classroom Component

Curriculum Topics

1. Introduction
2. Messages
3. Gender
4. Relationships
5. Sexuality
6. Anatomy
7. Pregnancy
8. STIs
9. HIV
10. Contraception
11. Choice & Coercion
12. Decision Making

Peer Component

Peer Advocate Program Methodology

Discussion

Honor participant experiences
& voices



Creative Exploration

Games, scene creation, telling
your story



Skill-building

Practice answering questions,
rehearsal for real life scenes,
how to serve as a resource



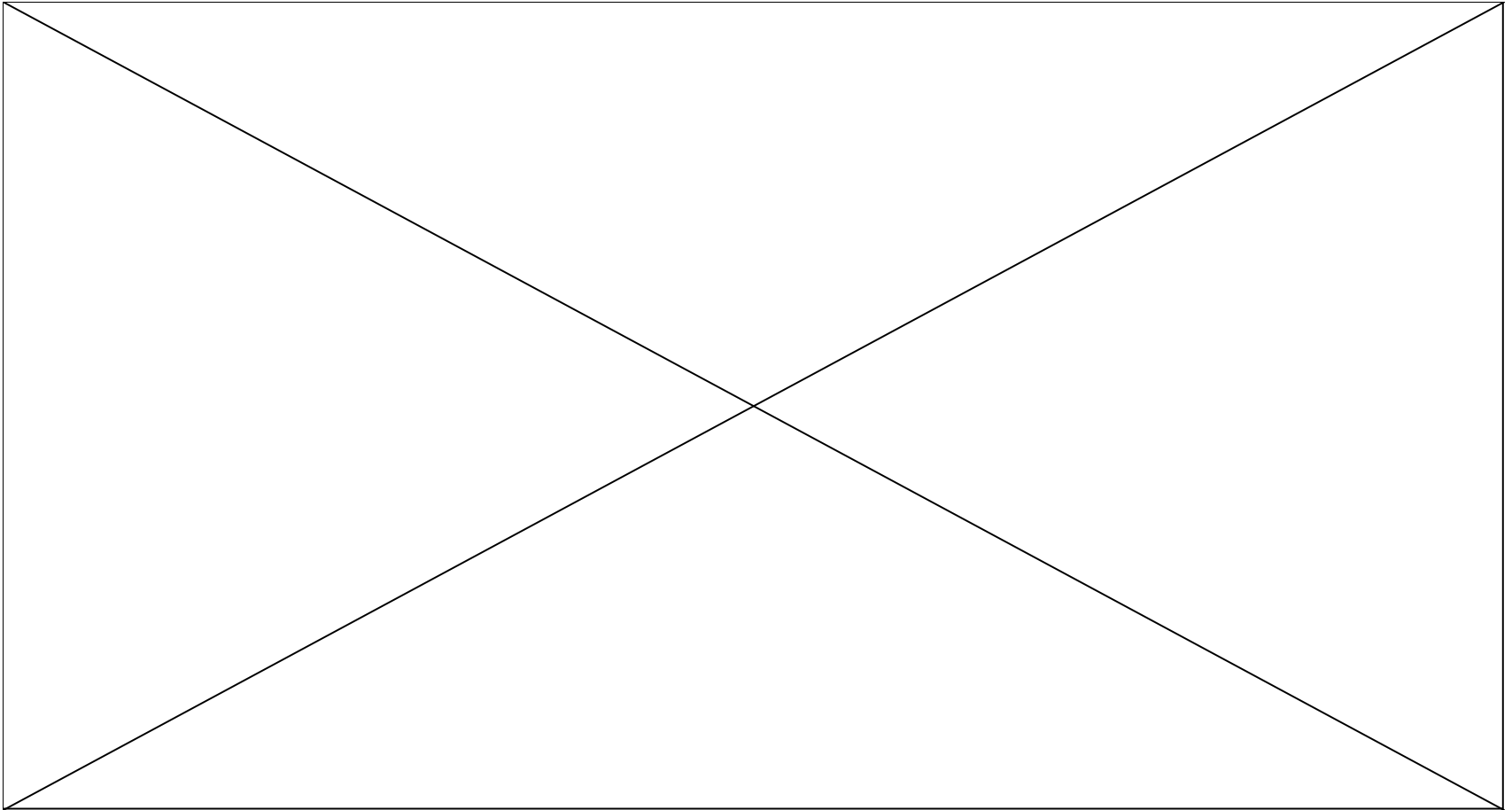
Meaningful Outreach

Video making, events,
one-on-one conversations



Video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cylUJm-N1dg>

Gender Boxes



Parent Component

1. Teen Sexuality: A Guide for Families
2. Raising a sexually healthy adult
3. Anatomy and STIs
4. Teen pregnancy and prevention
5. Helping teens to build healthy relationships
6. Values and communication
7. Parent teen communication (optional)

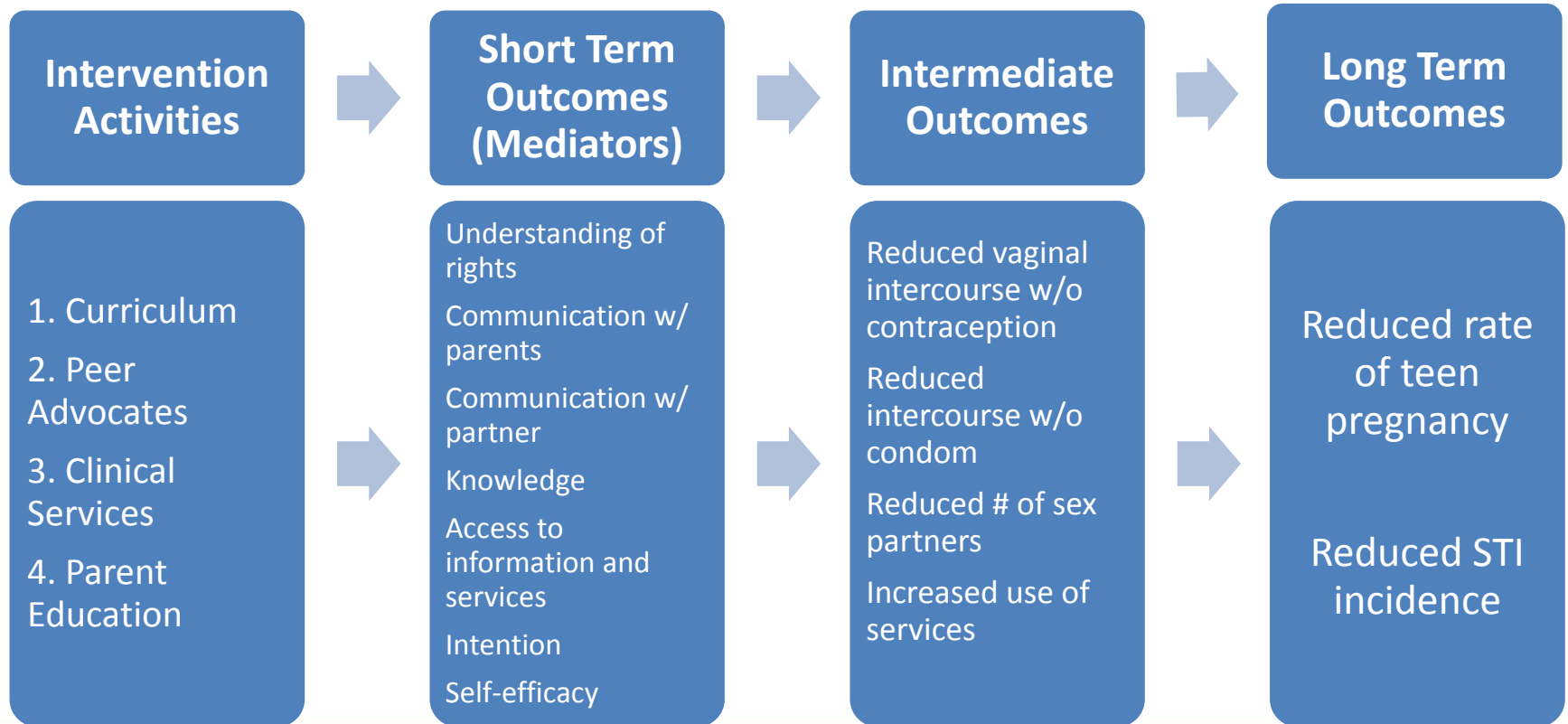
Parent Booklet

Services Component



SEI Logic Model

Goals: To improve sexual and reproductive health among youth at Los Angeles high schools. To improve the ability of youth attending Los Angeles high schools to manage their sexuality respectfully.



SEI Evaluation

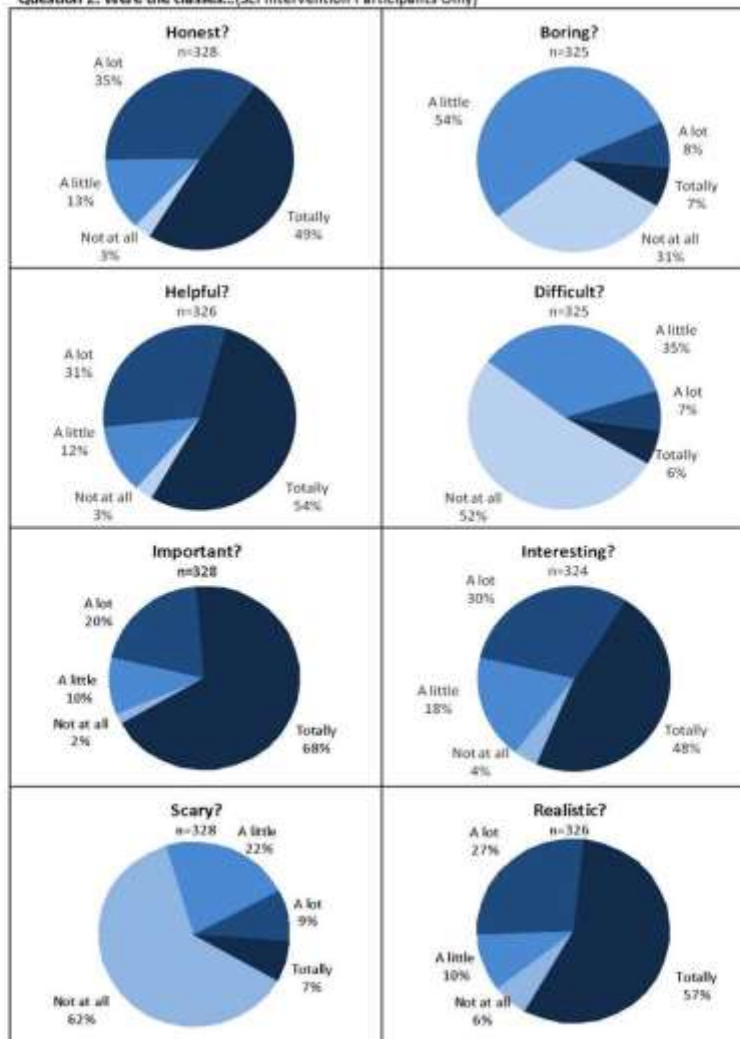
- Formative and developmental evaluation
- Curriculum development (focus groups)
- Pilot testing
- Instrument development and psychometrics testing
- Randomized theory-based outcome evaluation



Year 1 & 2: Randomized Evaluation Numbers Reached

- 2300 9th grade students at 10 schools
- 1,697 parents
- 10,767 outreach contacts by 70 Peer Advocates
- 341 patients & 777 condom requests at on-campus clinics

Question 2. Were the classes...(SEI Intervention Participants Only)



March 25, 2011

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Preliminary Research Results: Short-Term Outcomes

Students who received the SEI program increased:

- Understanding that men and women have equal rights in sexual relationships in both casual and steady relationships
- Communication with parents about relationships, rights and sexuality
- Knowledge about sex, risk and protection
- Access to accurate information about sexual health
- Increased awareness of sexual & reproductive health services
- Self-efficacy to assert sexual limits & manage risky situations
- Likelihood of carrying a condom at the time of the post-survey

*Compared to control group, $p < .05$

Successes

- School support and collaboration
- Parent involvement
- Peer advocates supported by administration and recognized by student body
- Services on campus

Challenges & Lessons Learned

- Limited class time availability
- School schedule changes
- Absenteeism and attrition rates
- Clinical services after-school
- Staff turnover and training
- Implementing the program during an evaluation

Next Steps

- Publication of year follow-up data
- Disseminate evaluation results
- Work with schools to implement program
- Maintain key school partnerships
- Build “Networks of Support” for LA Youth

Thank you!

Questions? Comments?

