



Project Encuentro: A Binational Harm Reduction Intervention for People who Inject Drugs



Authors Julia Lechuga, PhD., John Saucedo, PhD., Natasha Ludwig-Barron, PhD., Jorge Salazar, MD., Luisa Ramos, BA., Alejandro Ortiz, MPH, Maria Elena Ramos, LSW

Affiliations Hunter College, The University of California San Francisco, Programa Compañeros, A.C.

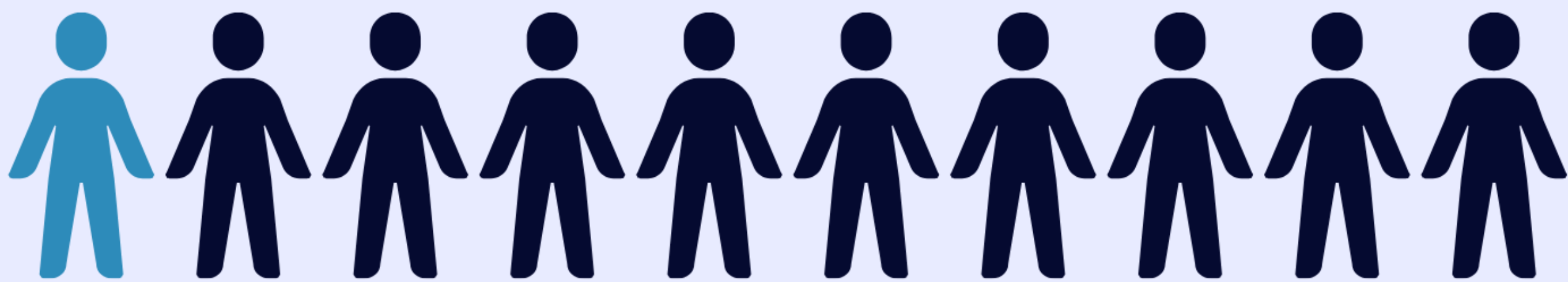
INTRODUCTION

Globally, 1 in 10 people who inject drugs (PWID) acquire HIV and 18% are living with HIV[1]

HIV prevalence among PWID is highest in Latin America[2] where coverage of harm reduction programs is low[3]

Critical to reducing HIV among PWID is implementing harm reduction interventions in settings with low coverage

Figure 1: Number of HIV cases among PWID globally

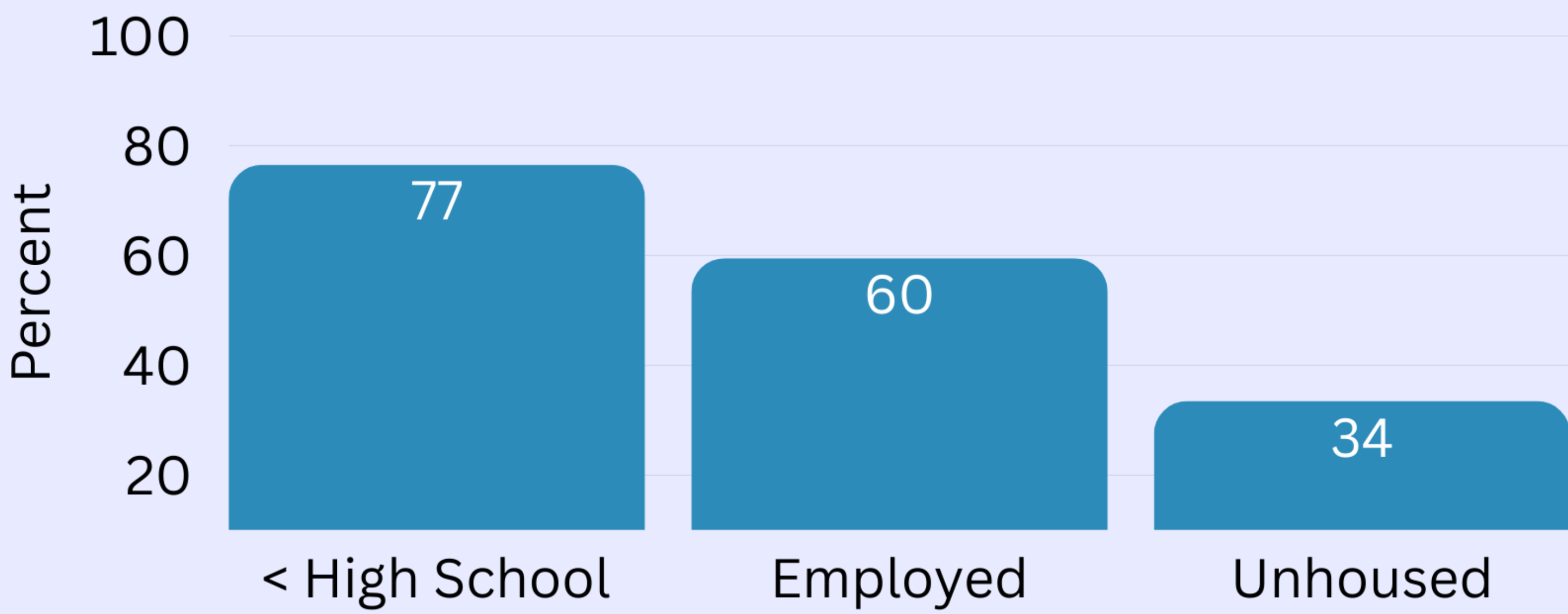


RESULTS

Participants

630 PWID (74% male) residing in both cities with a mean age of 42.11 years (SD = 11.53, range 18-55 years)

Figure 1: Other Demographic Characteristics.



3 generalized linear mixed equations showed reduction in

- Drug use days (M = 14.26 vs M = 17.49, $\beta = -3.23$, $p < .05$);
- Frequency of syringe sharing (M = .68 vs M = 1.21, $\beta = -.53$, $p < .01$);
- Engagement in preventative behaviors (M = 3.65 vs M = 2.52, $\beta = 1.13$, $p < .01$);

among participants exposed to 2 components (1&2) vs none.

CONCLUSION

Findings suggest that the intervention was effective in promoting engagement in harm reduction behaviors in a binational setting.

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OBJECTIVE

To evaluate the effectiveness of a binational harm reduction intervention implemented on the US-Mexico border in the cities of Ciudad Juarez, Mexico and El Paso, Texas USA

METHODOLOGY

A Multi-Level Intervention with 3 Components

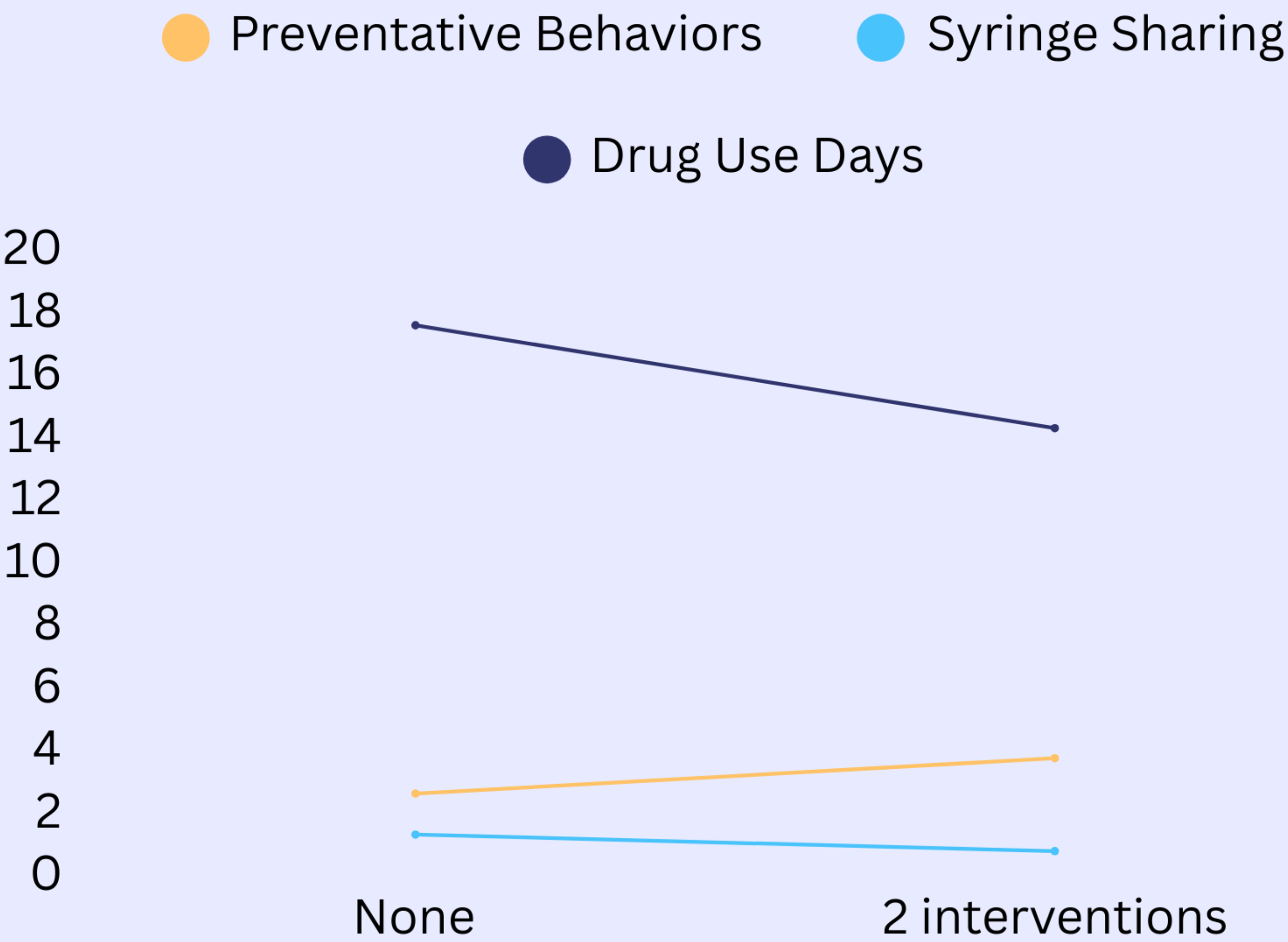
1. Social network HIV testing with contingency management
2. Peer-led harm reduction skill building sessions
3. Human rights advocacy events

The Evaluation Methodology

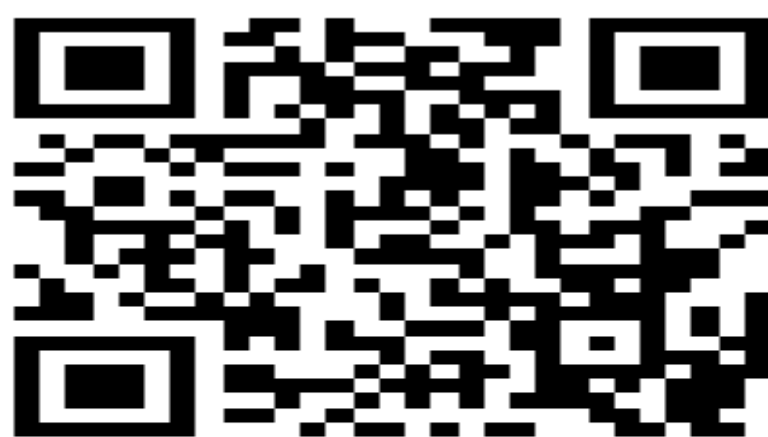
Quasi-experimental with cross-sectional surveys at baseline and at two time points 6-months apart after the sequential implementation of each intervention component.

Measures of Behaviors Enacted in the Last 30 Days	
Substance Use	No of days in a month
Condomless Sex in Exchange	No sex acts
Preventative Behaviors	No of Preventative Behaviors

Figure 2: Results of General Linear Mixed Model Comparing Intervention Exposure



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