

## Semi-Structured Interview Guide - HIV Negative/HIV Unaware BME Women

**Theme 1: General Sexual and Reproductive Health Experiences and Networking**

- 1. What does the phrase ‘safer sex’ mean to you? What makes you feel safe in a sexual encounter?** Does this differ depending on who your partner is? Why or why not? If not yet addressed, ask about any methods used to prevent pregnancy/STIs and what input partner(s) may/may not have
- 2. How did you develop this definition of ‘safer sex?’** What discussions have you had that influenced your understanding of safer sex? And with whom? When you need information about safer sex practices (especially biomedical strategies), where/to whom do you go? Why do you choose these places/people?
- 3. What concerns, if any, did you have during your last sexual encounter?** Which concern was most significant? Why? Did you have any other concerns? Was x concern the most significant for you in a different sexual encounter (either at a different time or with a different partner?) If you didn't have any concerns, why not? Have you had any concerns in the past?

**Theme 2: Experiences with HIV**

- 1. What comes to mind when you hear the words HIV?** What do you know about HIV/AIDS and where did you learn it? Do you ever talk about HIV/AIDS with other people (sexual partners, family, friends)?
- 2. Who is at risk for HIV in your community? What puts them at risk?** If not specifically addressed, probe as to what puts women in the community at risk for HIV. Do you think that these women are aware of their risk? Why or why not?
- 3. How do people around you or from your community discuss HIV?** Who discusses it and what do they generally say? What is said about people who are living with HIV/AIDS?
- 4. Can you describe any personal experiences with HIV (friends or family)?** Do you know anyone who is HIV positive? If yes, who? How did you find out that they were HIV positive? How did you react when you found out? Do you know if they've told anyone else? Do you know how these other people reacted?

**Theme 3: Personal Experiences with Testing**

- 1. Can you describe any experiences you have had of HIV testing?** When was the last time you were tested and why did you decide to get tested? What were some things that made you hesitant about testing for STIs or HIV? Did you discuss this decision with anyone? Have you been tested for STIs or HIV other times? Did you get your result? Did you discuss this result with anyone?
  - a. If participant has never had a HIV test: Have you ever considered getting tested for STIs or HIV? Why or why not?**
- 2. What are some events or circumstances that would cause you to want to get tested for HIV?** If the participant can't think of a situation in which she would get tested, ask if there are any circumstances in which she would encourage a female friend to get tested.

**Theme 4: PrEP**

1. **What have you heard about Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP)? What have you heard about pills that a person who is not infected with HIV can take to prevent themselves from becoming infected?** Probe for any specific details. Do you think this is a good idea, etc. if needed,
2. **Who around you or in your community do you think would benefit from a daily pill that could prevent HIV infection?** If not mentioned spontaneously, probe as to whether or not any women they know could benefit from PrEP.
  - a. If participant identifies community members who would benefit from PrEP: **Do you think these people would be willing to take PrEP?** Why or why not?
3. **Is PrEP something you would consider taking?** If yes, what information about PrEP would you want to know before starting to take it? Is there any information you've heard about PrEP or that we've discussed today that has made you interested in learning more about it? With whom would you want to discuss this decision (health professionals, HIV testers, people who have used PrEP previously, etc.)? If no, why not?
4. **If you decided to start taking PrEP, what could make it difficult? What could make it easier?** If the participant doesn't know/can't imagine taking PrEP, ask the same questions about a hypothetical woman in her community.

## Semi-Structured Interview Guide - HIV Positive BME Women

**Theme 1: General Sexual and Reproductive Health Experiences and Networking**

- 1. What does the phrase ‘safer sex’ mean to you? What makes you feel safe in a sexual encounter?** Does this differ depending on who your partner is? Why or why not? If not yet addressed, ask about any methods used to prevent pregnancy/STIs and what input partner(s) may/may not have
- 2. How did you develop this definition of ‘safer sex?’** What discussions have you had that influenced your understanding of safer sex? And with whom? When you need information about safer sex practices (especially biomedical strategies), where/to whom do you go? Why do you choose these places/people?
- 3. What concerns, if any, did you have during your last sexual encounter?** Which concern was most significant? Why? Did you have any other concerns? Was x concern the most significant for you in a different sexual encounter (either at a different time or with a different partner?) If you didn't have any concerns, why not? Have you had any concerns in the past?

**Theme 2: Personal Experiences with HIV**

- 1. Could you tell me about your experiences living with HIV?** How long have you known that you are HIV positive? Did you learn anything about HIV/AIDS that surprised you after you were diagnosed? Where did you learn it?
- 2. Could you tell me about the first time you tested positive for HIV?** What were some reasons you decided to get tested? What were some things that made you hesitant about testing for HIV? Did you discuss this decision with anyone? Had you been tested for HIV before this? Have you been tested since? Why or why not?
- 3. Before you tested positive, what did you think were your chances of contracting HIV?** Looking back now, what do you think put you at risk? What advice would you give your past self, if you could? What would you have wanted to know?
- 4. Who, if anyone, have you told that you are HIV positive?** Why did you decide to tell these people? How did they react when they found out? Have you discussed anything related to HIV outside of your diagnosis with other people? If participant has not told anyone about her diagnosis, ask why she makes this decision.

**Theme 3: Personal and Community Risk Assessment**

- 1. Who is at risk for HIV in your community? What puts them at risk?** If not specifically addressed, probe as to what puts women in the community at risk for HIV. Do you think that these women are aware of their risk? Why or why not? What would you want to say to a woman in your community who was worried she was at risk for HIV?
- 2. What advice would you give to a woman in your community who was thinking about getting tested for HIV?** Which women around you/in your community, if any, should get tested for HIV? Why these women?

3. **How do people around you or from your community discuss HIV?** Who discusses it and what do they generally say? What is said about people who are living with HIV/AIDS?

#### **Theme 4: PrEP**

1. **What have you heard about Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP)? What have you heard about pills that a person who is not infected with HIV can take to prevent themselves from becoming infected?** Probe for any specific details. Do you think this is a good idea/is needed in your community?
2. **Who around you or in your community do you think would benefit from a daily pill that could prevent HIV infection?** If not mentioned spontaneously, probe as to whether or not any women they knew could benefit from PrEP.
  - a. If participant identifies community members who would benefit from PrEP: **Do you think these people would be willing to take PrEP?** Why or why not? Do you think PrEP is something you would have considered taking before you tested positive? Why or why not?
3. **If a woman in your community decided to start taking PrEP, what could make it difficult? What could make it easier?** Only probe if the participant can't think of anything.