
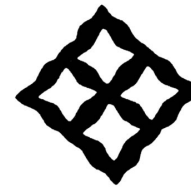
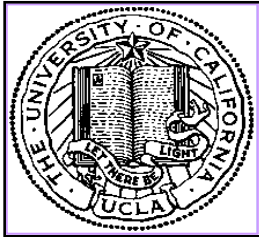


The Role of Women and MSMs in each other's lives

Gail Wyatt, Ph.D.
UCLA Health, Hope, & Healing (H³)/BGRG
Summit
January 14, 2015
Atlanta, GA





Eban II



Being Stolen

For almost 400 years & their descendents were not allowed to:

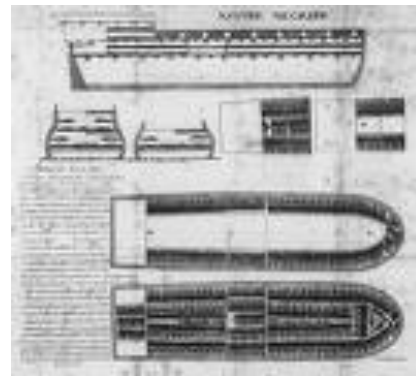
Behaviors	Consequences
1. Control their sexuality	Externalized Control (someone made decisions for you)
2. Avoid sexual abuse	Normalization & Depersonalization (1 in 3 HIV-negative women, 1 in 4 HIV-negative men)
3. Avoid physical abuse/corporal punishment	Normalized as a sign of strength
4. Protect each other	Helplessness (observe and not act)
5. Talk to each other directly & have eye contact	Indirect/Poor communication (Secretism)

Being Stolen

For almost 400 years & their descendents were not allowed to:

Behaviors	Consequences
1. Express anger, or break rules	Punishment, Torture, Isolation (over 40% incarcerated populations are Black)
2. Marry without permission	Tolerance for non-marital unions (51% Black women non-married)
3. Select sexual partners	Breeders, baby daddies and mamas
4. Learn to read and write	50% of Black men are high school dropouts, 40% of unemployed Black men are 16-24 years old
5. Have control over health (Slave & Surgeon)	African Americans do not know their HIV status, get less care and die sooner than Whites

Stolen



Splitting



An illustration of a slave auction in Virginia before the Civil War.

Punishment



Helplessness





Today Behaviors are the best HIV prevention strategies

Unresolved grief, depression and
trauma was overlooked



“Mary Don’t You Weep...”

“I Been Rebuked and I Been Scorned”

Examples of Coping

- Their survival was enhanced by Religiosity and Spirituality
 - ***“Didn’t My Lord Deliver Daniel?”***
- Communication through Religion
 - ***“Steal Away...”***
 - ***“Swing Low, Sweet Chariot”***

Examples of Coping

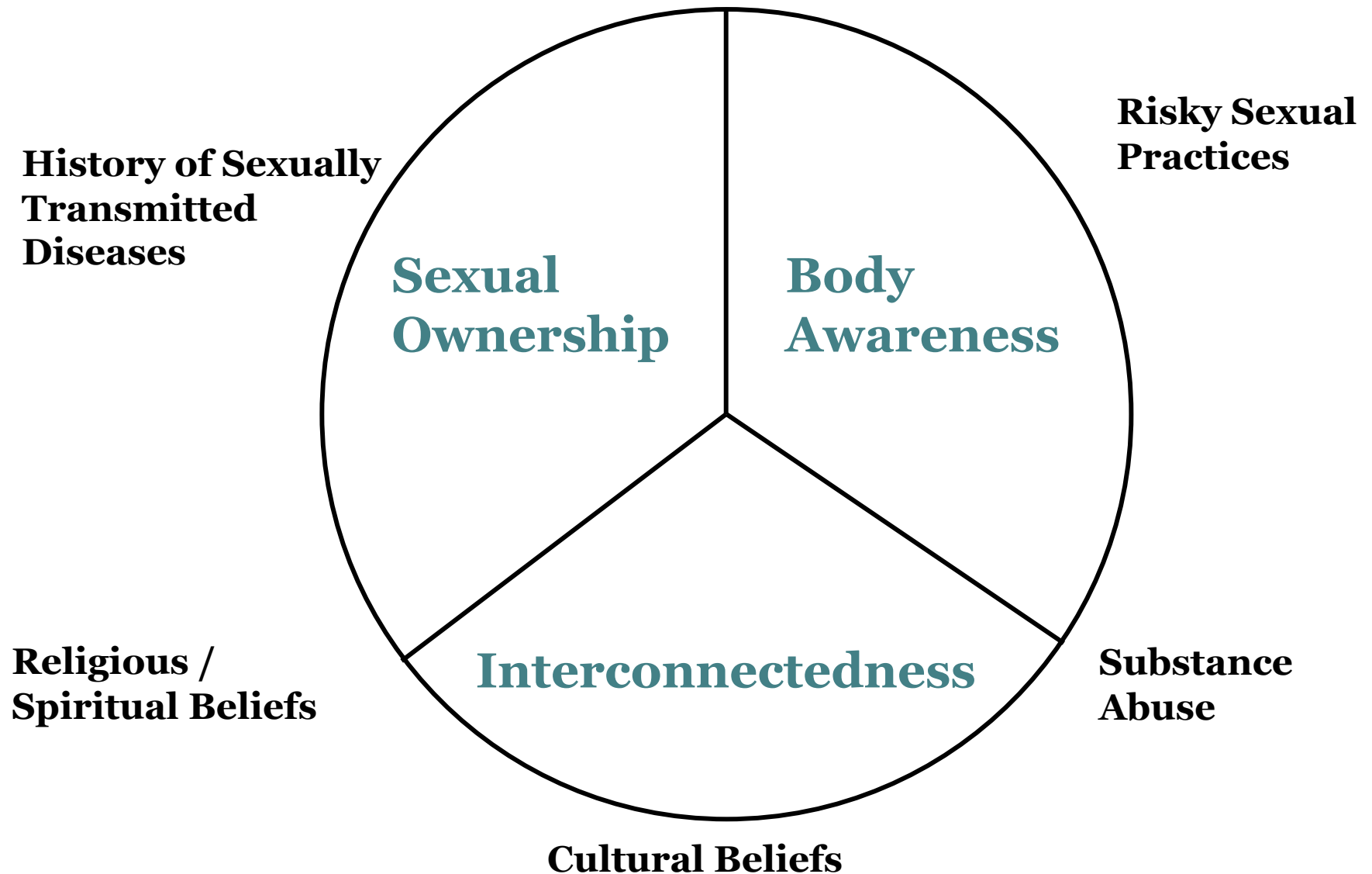
- Interconnectedness
 - Valuing relationships over self




What is the Aftermath?

1. Segregated, inner-city housing and social networks breed sexual risk-taking
2. Black men with high school education – 30% chance of incarceration versus Black men without high school education – 60% chance of incarceration
3. Mate unavailability for women – Power/Prestige imbalance in relationship
4. Depression/Trauma/Grief
5. Teen Pregnancy – Baby mama/daddy
6. Secrecy/Poor communication about sex – Homophobia
7. MSMs still have a vital role to play in families, work, and communities

Sexual Health Model





The Sexual Health Model is a conceptual framework to acknowledge these values and to reframe them within an HIV prevention context.

Interconnectedness addresses the common belief that being in a relationship with one's group or having a family defines and enhances personal value. However, personal health along with family ties and social networks is promoted, regardless of relationship status.*

*Wyatt, GE (2009). Enhancing cultural and contextual intervention strategies to reduce HIV/AIDS among African Americans. *American Journal of Public Health*, In press.

Change is Real Now.



Just as most of us still can't believe our eyes, just think how every young black boy in America now sees himself, for the rest of his life, with the election of someone who's hair looks like his...brings tears to your eyes. That's why we have to save them now from destroying themselves.

This a recent photo of a little boy visiting the White House. He wanted to feel Obama's hair because he wanted to know if the President's hair felt just like his. Obama obliged. Priceless.

Example of Interconnectedness

Principle	Women	Men
If you can't love the one you want, love the one you're with.	Love the one you want.	Love the one you're with.

Body awareness...

... addresses cultural and religious prohibitions about body touching, condom and contraceptive use and some sexual practices. Knowledge about how the body works, diet and exercise for a healthy body image, mind-body health, and skills to identify and articulate problems that require treatment are provided.*

*Wyatt, GE (2009). Enhancing cultural and contextual intervention strategies to reduce HIV/AIDS among African Americans. *American Journal of Public Health*, In press.

Sexual ownership...

... addresses historical and personal patterns of externalized control and promotes skills to prevent these experiences by assessing risky people, risky behaviors and risky circumstances that can limit self protection. Personal responsibility for sexual and physical health and communication about sexual orientation is emphasized.*

*Wyatt, GE (2009). Enhancing cultural and contextual intervention strategies to reduce HIV/AIDS among African Americans. *American Journal of Public Health*, In press.



Conflicts that Women Encounter

- The Nurturer
- The Last to Know
- The Hostage



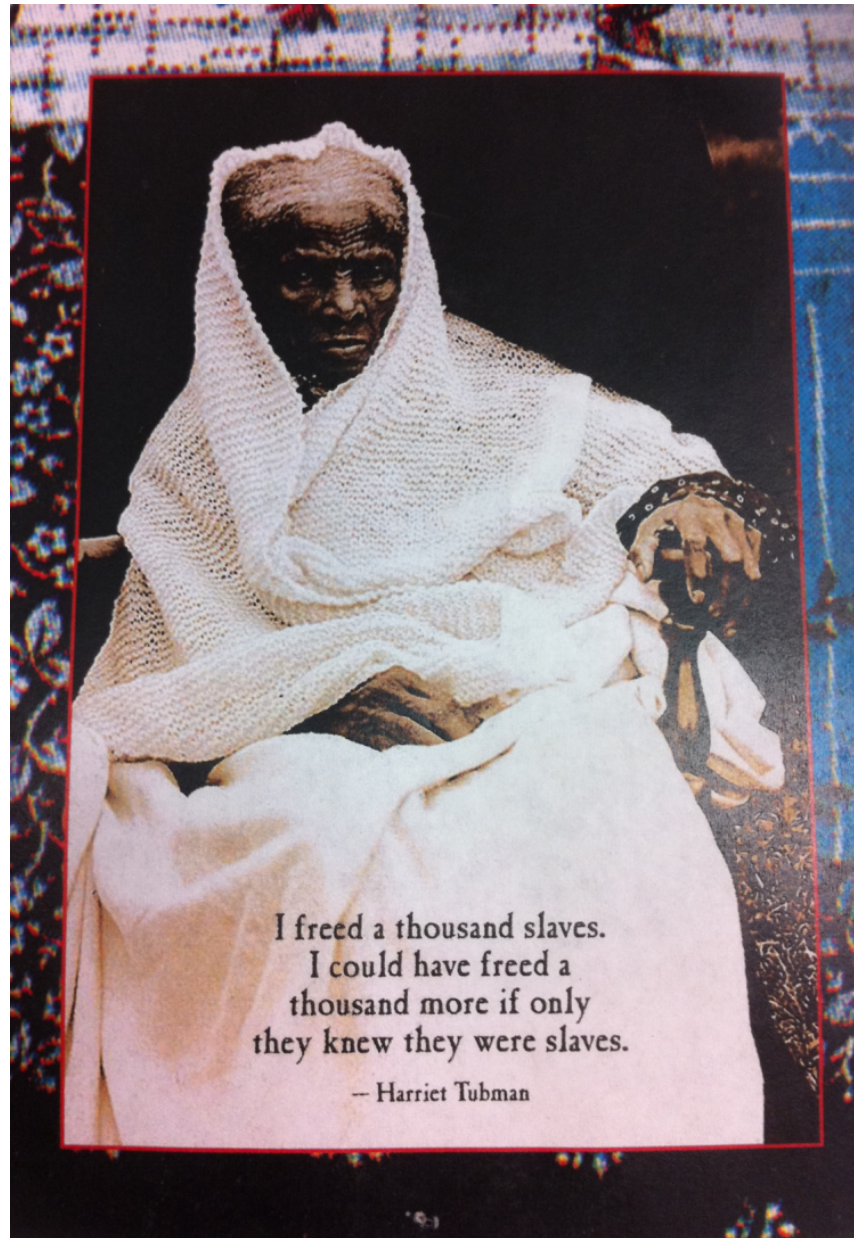
Six Steps to where we go from here?

1. Redefine interconnectedness so that non sexual relationships can engender respect, trust and honesty.
2. The best practice of disclosing sexual orientation or behaviors to someone who does not know about their partner is to encourage the person with the secret to disclose themselves
3. Advocate for HIV prevention for women



Six Steps to where we go from here?

4. Women and men need to better understand their realities, accept them and get support for who they are
5. Retain anatomical descriptions and discussions of how men and women become HIV infected- you never know who may be listening and need to know
6. Understand what the personal, psychological and health related costs of secrecy and decide to advocate for HIV in our communities. Change needs to come from within



I freed a thousand slaves.
I could have freed a
thousand more if only
they knew they were slaves.

— Harriet Tubman