



commonground

The Westside Community Center *Working Together to fight HIV*

PREVENTION FOR WOMEN OF COLOR

The power to speak, the power to prevent.

HIV/AIDS was the leading cause of death among African American women age 23-35 and the fourth leading cause of death among Latinas ages 35-44 in the United States. In California, African American women were over 3 times, and Latinas were 1.3 times more likely to test positive for HIV, than White women.

Rates of HIV infection among women are rising rapidly. Women of color have been especially hard hit and represent the majority of new HIV and AIDS cases among women, and the majority of women living with HIV/AIDS.

In 2002 Common Ground piloted a sexual health/HIV intervention program, "The Power to Speak, The Power to Prevent". It is a peer-led intervention that educates the community about sexual health and encourages women to communicate with their partners, children, family and friends about sociological

factors that put women at heightened risk for HIV.

Based on a research-based program that was implemented in several other countries including Haiti, Bangladesh and Uganda, the program targets Latina and African American women and their male sexual partners living on the west side of Los Angeles.

For more information about The Power to Speak program, visit www.commongroundwestside.org.

“Now I feel more open to speak about sex and because of this program, I can now talk about anything (having to do with sex) without feeling ashamed. Before I joined this program, I could not do this. The program has made me open.”

~ Beatriz, 30 years old

