

# HIV Transmission Game

Do not tell participants the name of the game. Just tell them that they will be playing a game. **The purpose of this game is to increase awareness about how quickly HIV can be spread and how the spread can be stopped, as well as the effects of peer pressure.** This game is best played with at least 20 participants. You will need any one kind of candy, bean or other marker with enough for approximately 10 per person, a second kind of candy, bean or other marker approximately 10 pieces in all, small bag one per person, and a small piece of paper one per person.

## Planning the Game

*(Use #1 and 2 at your own discretion. See Procedure #10 and 11 for result.)*

1. Mark the bottom corner of two pieces of paper with a small "C". Place each paper in a different bag with about 10 of the first kind of candy, bean, or other marker.
2. Mark two other small pieces of paper with a small "IC". Place each paper in a different bag with about 10 of the first kind of candy, bean, or other marker.
3. Write on a fifth small piece of paper: "Do not participate. When asked, tell anyone who wants to exchange candy, "I do not want to exchange hugs and kisses." Place the paper in a bag with about 10 of the first kind of candy, bean, or other marker and write an "A" on the bottom of the bag.
4. Write on two separate small pieces of paper: "Do not participate with anyone other than your partner. When asked, tell anyone (other than your partner) who wants to exchange candy, "I do not want to exchange hugs and kisses with anyone other than my partner." Place each card in a different bag with about 10 of the first kind of candy, bean, or other marker and write "M" on the bottom of each bag. Give these two bags to the two participants who are willing to sit in the front of the room.
5. In one participant's bag, place 10 of the second kind of candy, bean, or other marker and a blank small piece of paper. Draw a star ( \* ) on the bottom of the bag.
6. In each of the remaining bags, place a blank small piece of paper along with about 10 of the first kind of candy, bean, or other marker.

## Procedure

1. Ask for two participants who are willing to be partners and sit in the front of the room throughout the entire exercise. Give each of these two participants a bag marked with an "M".
2. Hand out the other bags/kerchiefs to the remaining participants. Explain that each participant is receiving a bag with candy, bean, or other marker and a small piece of paper. Ask each participant to pull the paper out of his/her bag and follow the instructions on it (if there are any) and to keep secret any instruction on his/her card.
3. Tell the participants that they are to exchange candy, bean, or other marker and that they should write on their paper the name of everyone with whom they make an exchange.
4. Give participants about 5 minutes to exchange their candy, beans, or other markers and to write down names. Then, have everyone return to his/her seat.
5. Find out who got the most signatures.

6. Ask the person whose bag has a star ( \* ) on the bottom to stand up. Explain that this was the person who started out with the second kind of candy, bean, or other marker and that, for the purpose of this exercise, those markers represent HIV infection.

7. Ask the others to look at the contents of their bags. Then, ask anyone who has the second kind of candy, bean, or other marker in his/her bag to stand up. Explain that, because they exchanged the first kind of markers for the second kind of markers, they too are infected with HIV.

8. Ask anyone else with the name of the person with the star ( \* ) on his/her paper to stand up.

9. Ask anyone who is still seated to check their paper for the name of anyone who is standing. Ask participants to stand up if they see the name of someone on their paper that is standing. Continue to ask participants to stand until everyone except the three participants with the “M” and the “A” on the bottom of their bags are standing.

*(Use # 10 and 11 at your own discretion)*

10. Ask the participants with “C” written on their cards to sit down. Explain that the “C” means they always used condoms or clean needles and protected themselves from HIV infection. They are not infected with HIV.

11. Ask people with “IC” written on their cards to sit down. Then, ask them to stand right back up. Explain that these people used condoms and/or clean needles each time, but they used them incorrectly. They are infected with HIV.

### **Discussion Questions**

- Did anyone notice who did not stand up? Introduce the “abstinent” participant (the one with an “A” on the bottom of his/her bag) and the “married” partners (the two with an “M” on the bottom of their bags). Ask the how they felt about not playing. How did the others feel when these people refused to exchange candy/markers with them?
- Why is it difficult not to participate when everyone else is participating?
- How did the person with the second markers (HIV infection) feel?
- The one person whose bag had a star did not know he/she was “infected” with HIV. How could we have known ahead of time?
- What does this game teach us about HIV transmission?

*Reprinted with permission from Guide to Implementing TAP, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, Washington, DC: Advocates for Youth, 2002.*



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