

Supplemental Materials

Exit Interview Guide

Pre-Interview Phone Script

Hi [*insert participant name*], I'm calling from [**masked**], and I wanted to talk about your experience in the study you recently completed. First off, I want to sincerely thank you for making such a valuable contribution to our research; we deeply appreciate it. Also, I want to ask you some questions about your experience in the study. These questions will take about an hour to answer and will ask you for your feedback and suggestions. We can pay you \$60 for going through with the interview. Are you interested in participating?

[Note to interviewer: If participant doesn't want to go through with the interview, ask them if they feel like sharing their reasons for not doing so and if they want to be added to the future contact database. Thank them again for their participation in the intervention and end the call.]

Okay, great. As I said, the interviews can take up to an hour. Would you be able to participate now, or is there a better time for us to speak?

[Note to interviewer: If the participant schedules for another time, make an event for it on Outlook and make sure a staff member can call them back at that time.]

Now, before we begin, I'm wondering if we can audio-record this phone call so that our information is as accurate as possible. All of the recorded information will be kept in a password-protected database on our secure server, which no one will have access to other than study staff, and nothing you share during the conversation will be made public or published in connection to your name. Do you consent to having our conversation audio recorded?

[Note to interviewer: If participant doesn't consent to being recorded, ask them if they feel like sharing their reasons for not doing so and if they want to be added to the future contact database. Thank them again for their participation in the intervention and end the call.]

Okay, now just a few final things to keep in mind as we go through the interview. First, your name will not be linked to the information you provide, and all of it will be kept completely confidential—unless you tell me of your intent to harm yourself or others, in which case I'd have find professional help for you. Second, some of the questions I'll ask might make you feel embarrassed or uncomfortable, or might remind you of difficult past experiences you've had. You always have the option of refusing to answer a question by stating something like, "I do not wish to answer this question." Lastly, because of the audio recording, I ask that you do not share your name or any other personally identifying information, such as your address or friends' names, during this call to help keep your information confidential. In the event that you accidentally reveal any personally identifying information during the interview, it will be removed in the transcription. The audio recordings will be kept in a password-protected folder in

our database, which no one will have access to other than myself and the research staff. The audio recordings will be kept for three years after the study is completed, at which point they will be destroyed.

Do you have any questions at this point?

Do you still consent to participate in the interview and have it audio recorded?

[Note to interviewer: If participant doesn't consent, ask them if they feel like sharing their reasons for not doing so and if they want to be added to the future contact database. Thank them again for their participation in the intervention and end the call.]

Interview Questions (Potential Follow-Up Questions in Italics)

Now, as we go through the questions, don't feel like you're telling too much or too little. We're just trying to capture your most honest and accurate impressions of the study and will ask follow-up questions if necessary. My introductory questions are going to be about your initial and overall impressions.

1. Introductory Questions Study Participation

1. What is your understanding of the study? *What is it that we were studying?*
2. Why did you choose to participate in our study?
3. Was this study what you thought it would be? *Any surprises?*

Now, I want to ask about your experience with some specific procedures and aspects of the study.

2. Study Procedures

1. How did you find out about the study?
2. What was it like to interact with our study staff at first? *How easy was it to set up a time for your phone interviews at the beginning of the study?*
3. How many of the group counseling sessions did you complete? *If participant did not complete all sessions, ask: what do you think prevented you from completing all of them?*
4. What things helped or interfered with you showing up to the sessions? *What things helped you to make it to the sessions and what things made attendance more difficult?*
5. How did you feel about the number of sessions in total? *Was 10 too many, just right, not enough?*
6. How did you feel about how often the sessions occurred? *Was once a week too much, about right?*
7. How did you feel about the length of the sessions?
8. How easy or difficult was it to participate in the actual sessions? *What things helped you get through the sessions and what things made participation more difficult?*
9. How did you feel about coming to Fair Haven Community Health Center and the Fair Haven neighborhood? *Are there any things that made this location more or less convenient for you?*

10. How would you feel about doing this study somewhere else? *Would another site have been preferable?*
11. How did payments for the pre- and post-study tasks influence your decision to join and remain in the study? *Were payments for tasks before and after the study more than necessary, just right, or not enough?*
12. How did our payments for travel influence your decision to attend (or not attend) sessions? *Was the payment more than necessary, just right, or not enough?*
13. In what language would you have liked the group to run?

Okay, now I want to focus on the impact of those sessions on you. This is the longest set of questions.

3. Experience and Impact of Group Sessions

1. What was your favorite part of the group sessions? *What were the main benefits of the sessions?*
2. What was your least favorite part of the group sessions? *What were the main drawbacks of the sessions?*
3. What did you learn in the sessions? *What were the primary things you learned?*
4. How did the sessions affect your thoughts about yourself?
5. How did the sessions affect your feelings and emotions? *What about your mood?*
6. How did the sessions affect your behavior?
7. How did the sessions influence how you cope with stress?
8. How did the sessions influence your health and mental health overall? *How did this study influence your mental well-being, your lifestyle, your outlook on life, or the way you feel about yourself?*
9. How did the sessions influence your sexual health behavior, such as condom use, talking about HIV status with your partners, sexual compulsivity, thinking about PrEP, talking to your doctor about your sexuality?
10. How did the sessions affect your drug and alcohol use?
11. How did the sessions influence the way you see yourself as an LGBTQ person?
12. How did the sessions influence the way you see yourself as a person of color?
13. How did the sessions influence your experience as an LGBTQ person of color in New Haven? *What about in your specific neighborhood and community?*
14. How did the group impact your decision to live openly as LGBTQ? *Have you come out to anyone as a result of your group participation?*

Thank you for all your responses so far. Just two more short sets of questions left. Now, I want to focus specifically on your experiences in the group counseling sessions.

4. Group Dynamics

1. What did you think about the group dynamics? *How did people get along? How did you feel about the other group members?*
2. How did you feel about the group therapist [insert name of therapist]?
3. How comfortable were you being your authentic self in the group?
4. Did you form any new relationships as a result of this group?

5. How did previous relationships with other participants, if any, influence your experience in this intervention?
6. What, if any, was the impact of participating as a group and hearing from and sharing with other group members?
7. What new things did you learn about LGBTQ men of color?

Thank you for sticking with this. I just have one short final set of questions regarding suggestions for future research.

5. Suggestions for Future Research

1. How do you think we should change this study in the future, if at all?
2. What other topics would you like to have discussed in the sessions?
3. How could we have made this study more appealing or beneficial to LGBTQ people of color in your community?
4. What should we know about doing research in this community? *What should researchers keep in mind when working with LGBTQ populations of color in [city masked]?*
5. Who else could benefit from this study and how can we find them?
6. How should we incorporate this ESTEEM program into LGBTQ men's healthcare?

Post-Interview Phone Script

Those are all the questions I have today. Thank you so much for sharing your words and time with me, and thank you for everything that you put into our study. We're so grateful for your efforts to help our team continue working with LGBTQ people of color in this area. Please don't hesitate to reach out with any more questions or concerns and I will submit your payment by [insert date]. Before I go, would you like to be added to our future contact database so that we can reach out to you if we have new studies that you might be eligible for?