

SAME GENDER CONVERSATIONS

Purpose: To have participants identify and explore a range of issues related to childbearing, communication, and birth control in a single-gender setting.

Materials: Samples of birth control methods, 2 LCD Projectors and 2 laptop computers (optional), PowerPoint Handouts: *Man Talk about Sex and Birth Control* and *Woman Talk about Sex and Birth Control*

Time: 35 minutes

Planning Notes:

1. In this activity men and women meet in separate groups to discuss issues related to pregnancy planning. You'll need two rooms so each group can have privacy. Ideally, you'll have a male facilitator to work with the men's group and a female to be with the women's group.
2. There are notes within the PowerPoint presentation to guide the discussion in your small groups. The idea is to have an informal, lively, and free-flowing discussion. The PowerPoint is included only to provide visual aids and to be a guide for the discussion. **If you don't have access to two LCD projectors or don't want to use PowerPoint, then you will need to print out the PowerPoint handouts so participants can have access to the visuals.** We recognize that some nonprofit organizations will not have this equipment.
3. Review the PowerPoint presentations. Be sure to study the notes that accompany the slides, so you can see the open-ended questions and additional comments that will help you facilitate the activity. Plan how you will present the information being sure to tailor your comments for your population.

Procedure:

1. Introduce this activity by making the following points:
 - In our society, men and women sometimes have different opinions and perspectives about sex, birth control, and having children.
 - This activity will give you a chance to communicate with members of your own gender and explore your experiences and opinions.
 - You will get into separate groups and do some straight talk, woman to woman and man to man.
2. Divide the group by gender. Each facilitator should lead a discussion using the facilitator notes in the PowerPoint presentations. The goal is to create safe space with same gender groups so participants can talk frankly.
3. Time the small group discussion very carefully and be sure to coordinate with your co-facilitator so you end at the same time. Allow no more than 35 minutes. Check in with each other to make sure that you're on schedule before reconvening the large group.