



**Integrating Substance
Abuse/HIV Prevention
for Women & Families**



- Substance abusing women: disproportionate risk for acquiring HIV.
- 90% of female HIV cases and 75% of AIDS cases in Jacksonville are in women of childbearing age (15-44 years old).
- 87% of AIDS cases and 80% of HIV cases in African American women.
- 40% of the female HIV cases reported during the last 18 months involved pregnant women.



- Impact on birth outcomes (FIMR findings)
- Limited effectiveness of Healthy Start in serving substance abusing women
- Pregnancy: “window of opportunity” to address substance abuse, unprotected sex, other risk taking behaviors



- Year-long planning process (CSAP grant)
 - Treatment providers
 - HIV programs
 - Healthy Start, public health
 - Women in recovery
 - Protective services system
 - Law enforcement, judicial reps
- Perinatal Community Integration Meeting
- Needs assessment, strategy development



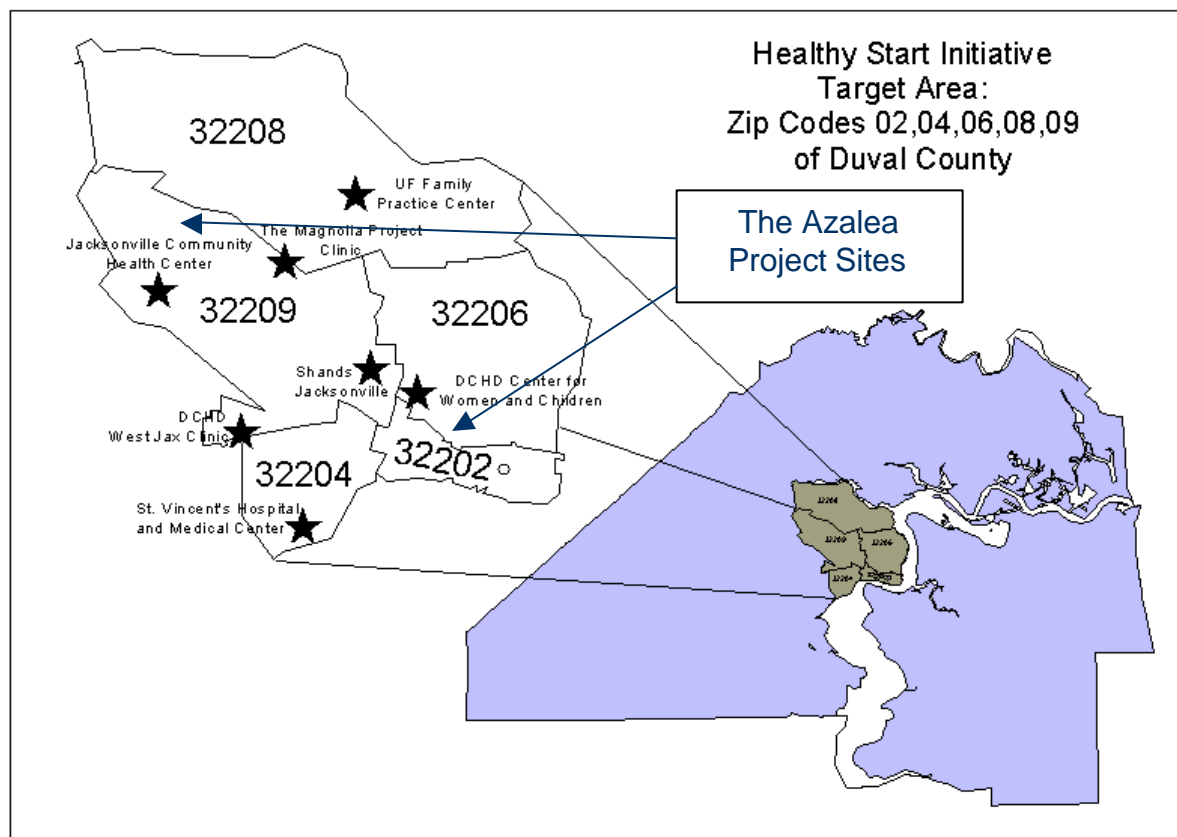
- Recommendations

- Expand Healthy Start: specialized team
- Develop family inclusive services to address inter-generational risks
- Increase provider training & screening of pregnant women
- Improve linkages among community providers



- SA/HIV Prevention Grant from SAMHSA/CSAP in 2002; focus on minority communities
- Multidisciplinary team to serve pregnant and parenting substance abusing women and children (10-14) in household
- Integrates substance abuse and HIV prevention strategies into case management services

The Azalea Project



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- Collaborating partners
 - HS Coalition
 - River Region Human Services
 - Minority AIDS Coalition
 - The Bridge
 - Gateway Community Services
 - DC&F
- Staff co-located at community sites





- Model Components
 - Outreach & casefinding
 - Assessment & referral
 - Intensive case management, risk reduction and group education and support activities
 - Youth development

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- Outreach & casefinding
 - Street contacts
 - Information dissemination
 - Condom distribution
 - Collaboration with Ryan White Title III
 - Assist in maintaining participants in care
 - Group activities





Outreach Activities

February – September, 2003

Community Contacts	734
Distribution of Safe Sex Info	570
Distribution of SA, HIV Prevention Info	603
Condoms Distributed	3014



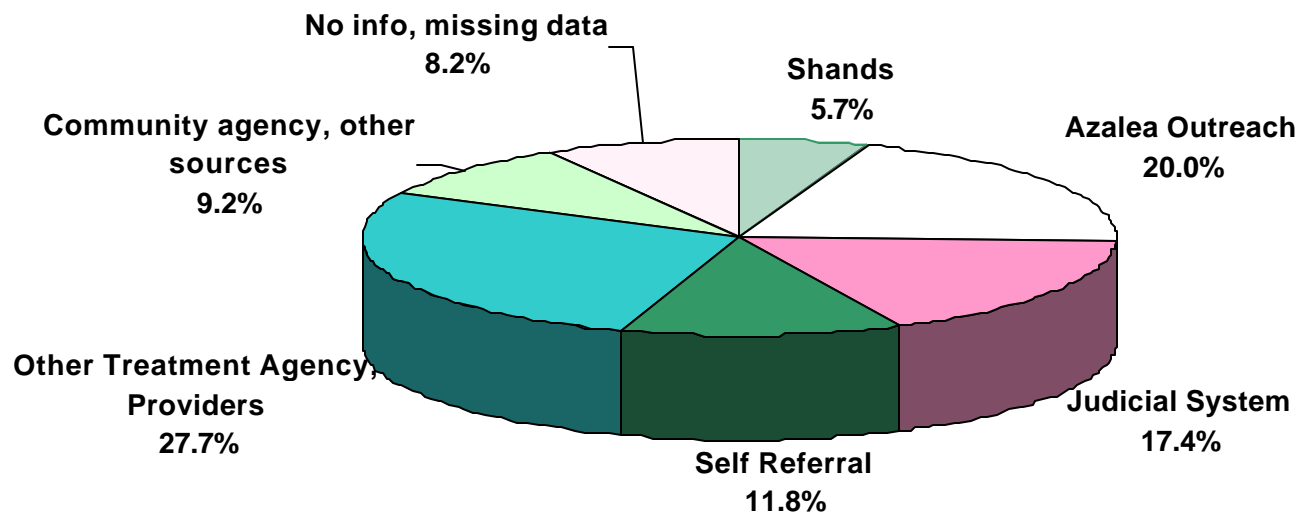
- Assessment & referral
 - Women Intervention Specialists (WIS)
 - Linkages with tertiary care center, ER, jail, court system, Healthy Start & Healthy Families
 - Referrals to Azalea, other agencies, programs



Azalea Participants By Referral Source

February - September 2003

(n=195)



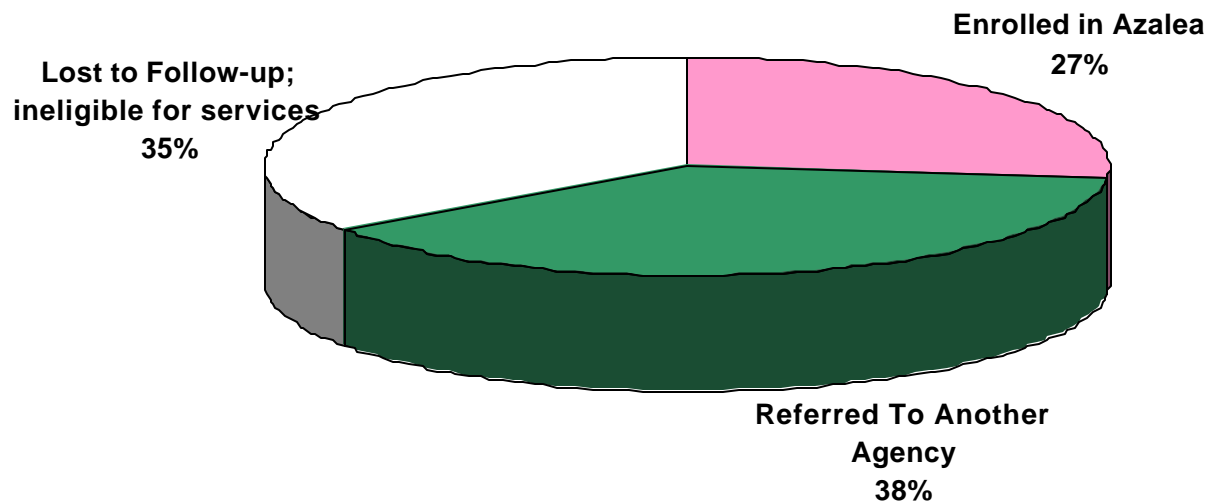
Source: Azalea Project database, UNF Center for Community Initiatives, 2003.



Disposition of Azalea Referrals

February - September, 2003

(n=195)



Source: Azalea Project database, UNF Center for Community Initiatives, 2003.

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- Case management & risk reduction
 - Intensive services
 - Focus: achieve, maintain sobriety & improve knowledge, decision-making skills
 - SA/HIVP activities integrated in model
 - One-on-one and group activities (SISTA plus)
 - 18 month duration



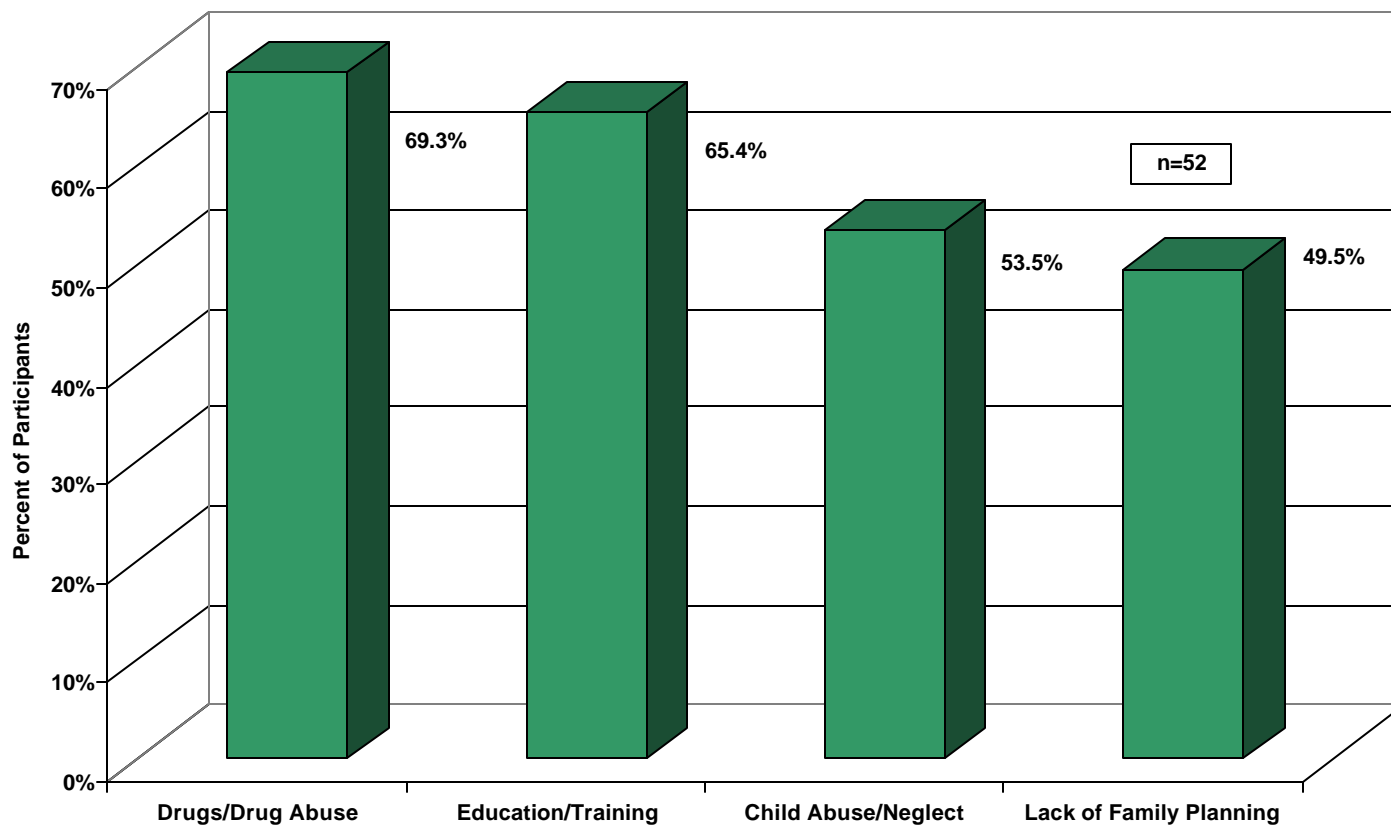
- Participants
 - 88.4% African American
 - 81.8% single
 - < 1/3 pregnant at the time of enrollment
 - Average age: 28.9 years old
 - Only 16 of the 52 enrollees reported income (mean income= \$2,037); the remainder had no regular source of support



- Azalea Project participants had an average of 17.7 risks/problems (9.9 current and 8.8 history of) at enrollment
- 40% of participants reported having sex against their wills; 25% were sexually abused as children



Most Frequent Problems, Risks
Azalea Project Adult Participants, February - September 2003.





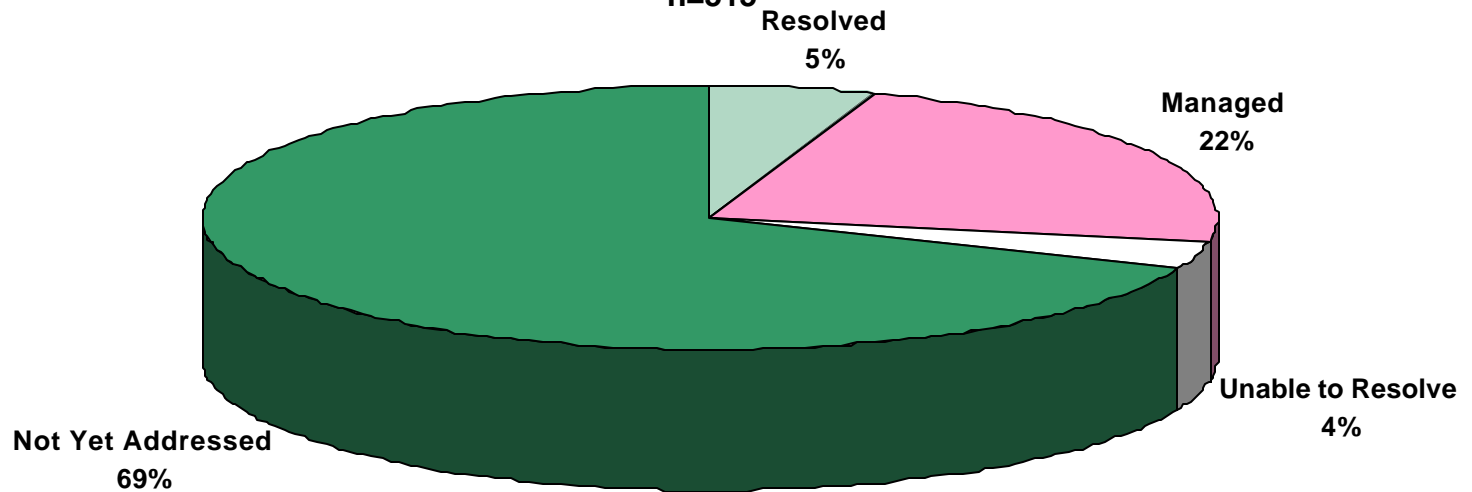
Services Provided to Women Participants

February – September, 2003

INTERVENTION	PARTICIPANTS	ENCOUNTERS	ENCOUNTERS/ PARTICIPANT
Case Management	50	277	5.54
Risk Reduction & Assessment		60	
Other Counseling, Education		74	
Skill building, training Group education	12	29	2.42

Current Status of Risks/Problems
Azalea Project Adult Participants, September 2003

n=515



Source: Azalea Project database, UNF Center for Community Initiatives, 2003.

The Azalea Project



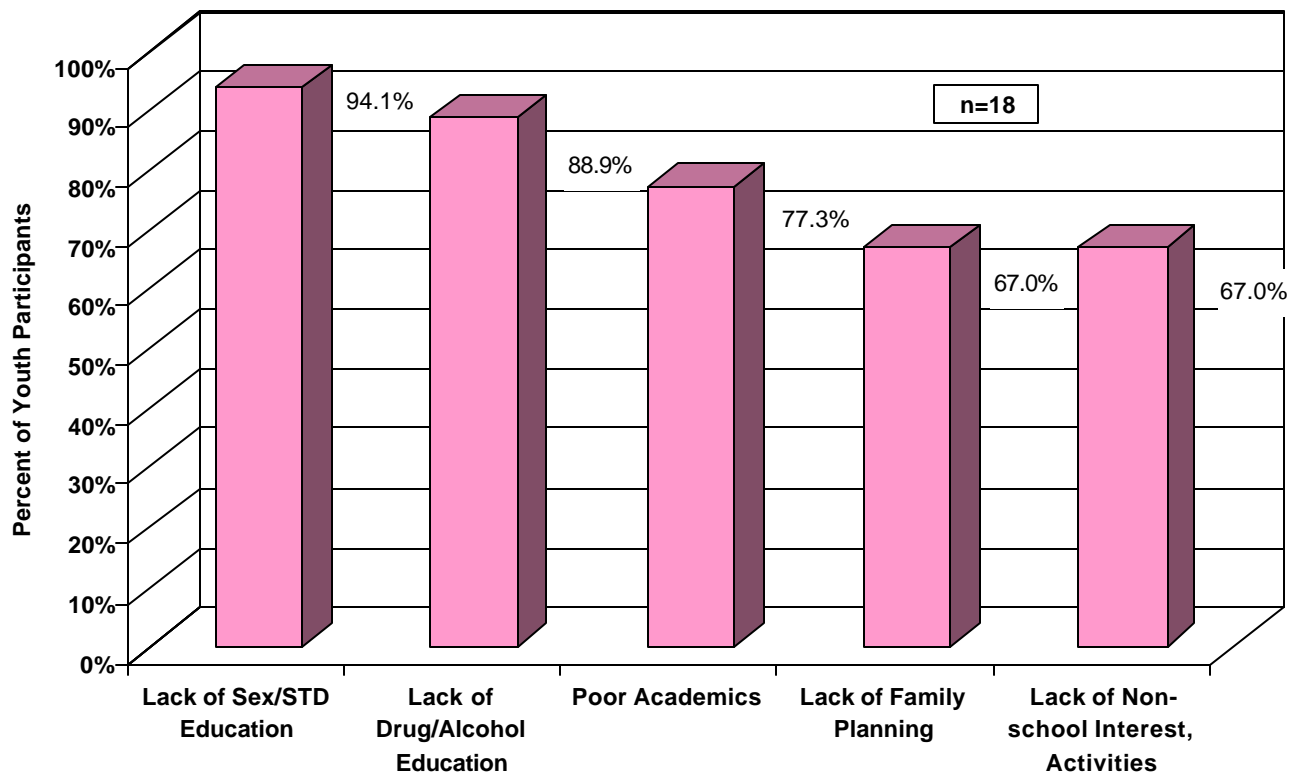
- Youth development
 - Children, particularly girls, in household exposed to SA, other risk taking behavior
 - Focus: increase resiliency, protective factors
 - Case management, education and group activities



- Youth participants
 - 85% female
 - 80% black
 - Average age: 12.4 years old
- Youth participants had an average of 18.77 problems or risks (12.77 current, 5.88 history of) at enrollment



**Most Frequent Risk Factors/Problems,
Azalea Project Youth Participants, February - September, 2003**



Source: Azalea Project database, UNF Center for Community Initiatives, 2003.

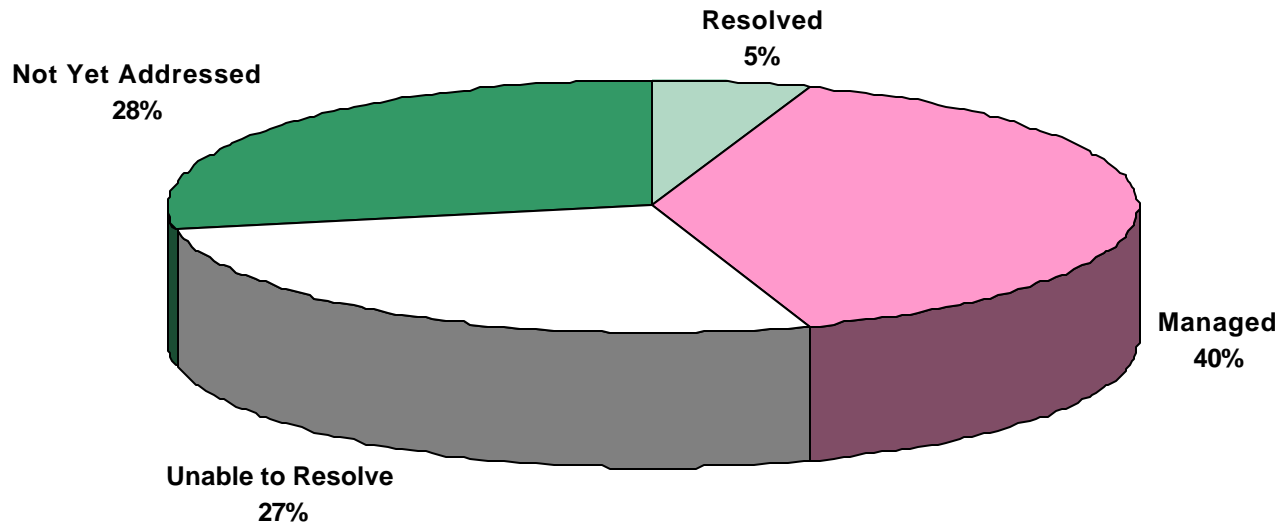


Services Provided to Youth Participants

February – September 2003

INTERVENTION	PARTICIPANTS	ENCOUNTERS	ENCOUNTERS/ PARTICIPANT
Case Management	16	211	13.19
Risk Reduction & Assessment		35	
Skill building, training, group education	12	56	4.66

Current Status of Risk Factors/Problems
Azalea Project Youth Participants, September 2003
n=232



Source: Azalea Project database, UNF Center for Community Initiatives, 2003.

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- Outcomes to date
 - 20 babies born to participants
 - 14 normal-weight babies
 - 5 low-birth weight
 - 1 very low birth weight
 - 4 substance-exposed (methadone) babies
 - 0 (zero!) HIV positive babies



● Lessons Learned

- Collaboration (including shared resources) is challenging BUT it is the best way to deliver SA/HIV prevention services
- Specialized, competent staff is critical
- Success in serving those at highest risk requires an “out-of-the-box” approach
- Hard work & vision guarantee success



OUR GOAL!

