

HIV & Aging: From Awareness to Action

Aging with HIV:
Surviving Another Epidemic
A National Webinar for Older Adults with HIV

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HIV & Aging: From Awareness to Action

Today's presentation based on work based on:

- AIDS United's HIV & Aging Project
- Support from Gilead Sciences, Inc.
- Policy paper: "HIV & Aging: Older Adults Living and Thriving with HIV"



https://www.aidsunited.org/data/files/Site_18/Resources/AIDS%20United%20HIV%20and%20Aging%20Policy_EN_Final.pdf

HIV & Aging: From Awareness to Action

Today's presentation:

- Highlight what we know about HIV & aging and older adults living with HIV
- Disconnect between what we know and the real feelings of neglect among older adults living with HIV
- Need for action to enact public policies that strengthen the response to HIV & aging

HIV & Aging: What we know

HIV & Aging Listening Sessions



- Component of AIDS United's HIV & Aging Project
- To hear participants' personal stories and comments to inform the development of a policy paper on HIV & aging and to inform advocacy on HIV & aging issues
- Sessions held in 12 cities, at AIDSWatch 2019, and 2 sessions at USCA 2019

Birmingham

Portland

Columbus

Chicago

San Juan

Milwaukee

New York

Fort Lauderdale

Houston

San Francisco

Miami

New Orleans

What We Heard

- Difficulties in accessing and maintaining health care
- Difficulties in managing HIV care, comorbidities, and polypharmacy issues
- Gaps in health professionals' knowledge, experience, and sensitivity
- Concerns about long-term and nursing care
- “I don't want to see ten different providers in one visit; I'd prefer to see one or two maximum who can take care of all my needs”
- “I have to educate my doctors.”
- “So we've got to think about what are we going to do with the elderly population as far as long term care is concerned.”
- “Is it the HIV or is it just me getting older?”

What We Heard

- Lack of mental health and alcohol and substance use treatment programs for older adults
- Lack of programs that respond to loneliness and social isolation
- Inadequate housing and transportation options
- Stigma & discrimination heightened by ageism
- Concerns over emphasis on ending the HIV epidemic
- “The real epidemic is mental illness as we age”
- “I’ve had more medical appointments than love appointments”
- “Support services are dissolving”
- “We’re seen as the walking dead”
- “...if we're going to end this epidemic, there has to be a plan for the aging community.”

Key Observations

The current group* of older adults living with HIV is significant because we are the first cohort of people aging with HIV

- Listening sessions provided strong verification of concerns and issues that have been expressed previously by OALH and HIV & aging advocates
- Need to acknowledge that many of the concerns are common to all older adults, common to all PLWHAs, and common to all long-term survivors but are heightened for OALH
- Participants demonstrated the resilience of older adults living with HIV

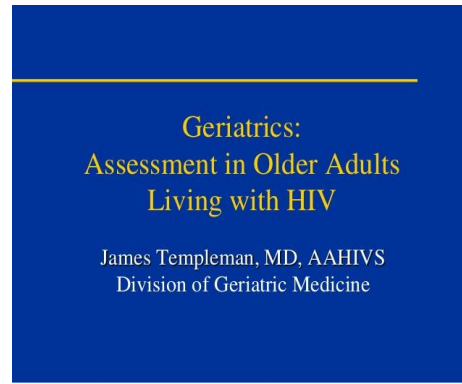
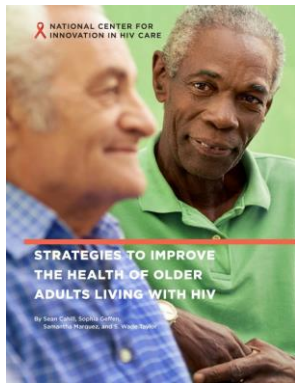
*PLWHAs who were born before or in 1970, the youngest of whom will turn 50 in 2020

Image source: <https://www.hiv.gov/hiv-basics/living-well-with-hiv/taking-care-of-yourself/aging-with-hiv>



Key Observations

- We currently know a great deal about HIV & aging and about the needs of older adults living with HIV
- There are many programs that are serving older adults living with HIV
- Government officials and policy makers are focusing on HIV & aging



Key Observations

Too many older adults living with HIV feel that their needs and concerns are given less attention or ignored. Older adults living with HIV are a “forgotten majority”*

**OLDER ADULTS WITH HIV
ARE THE MAJORITY
BUT ARE OVERLOOKED.**

70% by 2020



HIVaging.org

* Tez Anderson

Key Observations

Disconnect between what is known about HIV & aging and the reality that not enough is being done—the reality that older adults living with HIV feel neglected



Need for sustained, focus, and collaborative advocacy to end the disconnect

Moving Forward: Sustained Action

Goals

- Inclusion of policies, programs, and research that address HIV and aging and the needs and concerns of older adults living with HIV in the broader response to HIV and efforts to end the HIV epidemic.
- Recognition HIV prevention, care and treatment, and research as a routine component of physical and mental health care for older adults and a routine component of social support services for older adults.

Moving Forward: Sustained Action

Priorities:

- Medical care
- Mental health and substance and alcohol use disorders
- Workforce development, education, and training
- Housing, transportation, and other support services
- Stigma and discrimination
- Ending the HIV epidemic
- Intersection of HIV policy and older adult policy and advocacy

Development of new models of care and service delivery

Moving Forward: Sustained Action



Image source: <https://www.poz.com/blog/still-advocating-senior-hiv-health>

Advocacy on (examples):

- Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program and legislation
- Medicaid, including Medicaid expansion
- Medicare, including the Part D prescription drug coverage
- HOPWA
- Older Americans Act and programs and services for older adults
- Health care education and training

Public policies and funding levels that address HIV & aging and the needs and concerns of older adults living with HIV

Moving Forward: Sustained Action

Vision



All people living with HIV in the United States will receive the care and support needed to age successfully, having achieved and maintained good physical, mental, and sexual health and overall well-being.

“We want to live a positive, healthy, free life.”

All people living with HIV are aging with HIV

HIV & Aging and SARS-CoV-2

The SARS-CoV-2 pandemic has changed nearly all of the landscapes in which we live, including the response to HIV and what it means to live with and age with HIV.

COVID-19 has changed the world.*

*Comment made by Peter Piot in the Keynote Address during the Closing Session of AIDS 2020

HIV & Aging and SARS-CoV-2

AIDS 2020 & COVID-19 Conference:

- Social determinants of health and underlying medical conditions can impact vulnerability of people living with HIV, including older adults.
- COVID-19 has shown impact of disparities and inequities
- COVID-19 has interrupted care and treatment of chronic conditions, including HIV.
- Response to and advocacy on COVID-19 can be informed by HIV response, advocacy, and activism

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Voting is HIV & aging action

Image sources: <https://www.marylandattorneygeneral.gov/Pages/votingFAQ.aspx>

<https://www.pewresearch.org/politics/2020/08/13/election-2020-voters-are-highly-engaged-but-nearly-half-expect-to-have-difficulties-voting/>

Thanks and acknowledgements

- Thanks and much appreciation are given to the men and women who gave their time and shared their stories in the listening sessions in the summer of 2019, at AIDSWatch 2019, and at two sessions at the 2019 U.S. Conference on AIDS (USCA).
- Thanks to the current and former staff of AIDS United: Jesse Milan (CEO), Carl Baloney, Jr., (Vice President for Policy and Advocacy)
- Thanks to the member organizations of AIDS United's Public Policy Council that hosted the listening sessions.
- Thanks to Gilead Sciences for support to AIDS United's HIV and Aging Project
- Thanks to Moises Agosto and NMAC for offering the sessions at USCA (now USCHA).
- Thanks to Jules Levin, Executive Director, National AIDS Treatment Advocacy Program who shared invaluable resources and insight.
- Thanks to and gratitude for the older adult men and women living with HIV, long-term survivors of HIV and our allies and advocates.

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Questions

Comments

Feedback