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Gay Men’s Health Crisis

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HIV Infection Today

Median age of POZ today: 44 years

Percentage of HIV infections for Older: 11%

Percentage of Sexually-Active Adults over 60: 38–80%

Percentage of Non-partnered Older using condoms: 9%
Over half of deaths are from Non–Communicable Diseases (NCD’s) and Non–AIDS Malignancies

- Cardiovascular Disease / Diabetes
- Liver Disease / Renal Disease
- Frailty / COPD / HIV–AIDS Neurocognitive Disorder (HAND)

HIV has a clear role in increasing susceptibility to a myriad of conditions (treated and untreated).

Judith Schouten: POZ over 65 yrs: 2 NCDs
Medical providers must speak with patients about risk factors.

39% of NYC gay/bi men have not disclosed their sexual orientation with their doctors.

- Huge racial differences:
  - Overall: 39%
  - White: 19%
  - Black: 60%
  - Hispanic: 48%
  - Asian: 47%

Men who disclose their sexual behaviors are 2x as likely as those who did not to have been tested for HIV (63% vs. 36%).
Prevention with older adults

No prevention interventions have been created specifically with or for older adults.

Need for more HIV prevention research that clarifies risk behaviors and best practices for outreach.
III. Prevention with older adults
Prevention with older adults

elderssexual


Over 25% of people ages 57 to 85 still have sex—and are still at risk for HIV.

To find out more about our 50+ LifeLong program, call 800 243-7692 or check out gmhc.org.
The CDC should:

- Improve epidemiological surveillance systems and data collection to provide specific data delineated by age and risk category.
- Collect data on gender identity in addition to transmission categories. This would provide national level data on HIV among trans people.
- Better knowledge regarding prevalence of HIV among older gay men, trans women could inform more culturally competent care.
Policy recommendations:
Prevention

Develop prevention and intervention efforts on older adults, including MSM. They should also target high-risk sexual behaviors (such as unprotected anal, vaginal sex) whether between opposite-sex or same-sex couples.

Both HHS and the CDC should fund social marketing campaigns challenging HIV stigma and anti-gay stigma especially for older adults.
Healthcare professionals should proactively assess older patients for sexual health risks and test for HIV.

Doctors should be trained to talk with their patients regarding sexual behavior/orientation (CME) and make clear that such conversations are confidential.
Policy recommendations: Comorbidities

More clinical research with HIV+ 50+

- Explore how treatments for comorbidities interact with anti-retroviral medication
- DAIDS and the NIH must expand research on this population

Standards of care for older adults living with HIV should call for screenings for comorbidities.

HIV medical providers should screen for depression.
Policy recommendations: HIV+ elders in social context

ASOs, LGBT community centers, other CBOs should encourage community caregiving for elders living with HIV.

Staff at nursing homes, long-term care facilities, and senior centers should be mandated to become culturally competent in the needs of HIV-positive and/or LGBTQIA elders.
The Older Americans Act

- Signed into law – July 14, 1965
- Established the Administration on Aging
- Primary vehicle for the organization and delivery of social and nutrition services to older adults and their caregivers
- Authorizes programs through:
  - 56 State agencies on Aging
  - 629 Area Agencies on Aging
  - Nearly 20,000 service providers
  - 244 Tribal organizations
  - 2 Native Hawaiian organizations
Policy recommendations: Senior services

HHS should fund social marketing campaigns that challenge HIV stigma and stigma related to homosexuality.

OAA should list HIV+ elders, LGBT elders as populations of “greatest social need” (2012 reauthorization); could identify funding for training, research, targeted services.

Senior center staff, volunteers and nurses should be trained on HIV, sexuality, social isolation and other factors that affect older HIV+ clients.
Geriatric workforce not prepared for growing number HIV-positive older adults.

AMA must expand Geriatric Medical Training Act to include Infectious Disease
Notable events

- Medicare announces coverage of HIV tests (Dec 2009)
- White House official meeting on HIV and Aging (Oct 2010)
- CDC re-examining data collection and surveillance regarding older adults (Jan 2012)
- CDC contemplating routine testing for ALL adults (currently recommend 13–64) or a provider’s assessment of individual risk factors (Jan 2012)
Thank you!

To: MAC AIDS Fund

ACRIA, SAGE

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