Addressing HIV Stigma in Older Women

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Objectives

• Identify some of the known barriers to HIV prevention, treatment, and care services for older women
• Examine the impact of stigma and discrimination on older women, with special emphasis on women of color
• Develop strategies for reducing HIV stigma in older women
• Review resources available that address HIV stigma in older women
Question

Why is it important to talk about HIV in older women?
Diagnoses of HIV Infection Among Adults Aged 50 Years and Older in the United States and Dependent Areas 2011–2016

Persons aged 50 years and older accounted for:

- 17% of all new HIV diagnoses in 2016
  - More than 1 in 4 of those diagnoses were in women.
- 47% of persons living with diagnosed HIV infection in the United States at the end of 2015
Extracted from Table 2a. Diagnoses of HIV infection among adults aged 50 years and older, by year of diagnosis, age group, and selected characteristics, 2011–2016—United States

* The CDC Report recommends using caution when interpreting data for older Native Hawaiians/Other Pacific Islanders because the numbers are small.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Females aged 50-64 at diagnosis by Race/Ethnicity</th>
<th>2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black/African American</td>
<td>1,012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multiple races</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander *</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hispanic/Latino</td>
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<tr>
<td>American Indian/Alaska Native</td>
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<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>323</td>
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<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Implications

- People 50 years and older account for a substantial number of HIV diagnoses.
- Understanding the burden of HIV among different subgroups of older persons can help HIV programs to focus on populations and areas at greatest need for HIV prevention, care and treatment services.
Known Barriers to HIV Prevention, Care and Treatment Services for Older Women

- Stigma
- Social barriers
Group Exercise

Go to **www.menti.com** and use the code **68 20 93**

1. Grab your phone
2. Go to www.menti.com
3. Enter the code 68 20 93 and vote!
What words have you heard that are associated with a person living with HIV?
Group Exercise

What words have you heard that are associated with a person living with cancer?
Let’s Define Stigma

What is HIV Stigma?
HIV stigma is defined as prejudice, discounting, discrediting and discrimination directed towards persons perceived to have HIV or AIDS.

“Stigma is like air. You can't see it, but you can feel it.”

Naomi Harris Tolson (@naomihtolson)
September 6, 2018
Types of Stigma

- **Enacted** stigma - the extent to which an individual experiences prejudice and/or discrimination from others.

- **Internalized** stigma - the extent to which those negative attributes and beliefs about people living with HIV are endorsed and accepted internally.

- **Anticipated** stigma - the extent to which a person living with HIV expects to experience enacted stigma.

Social Factors that are also Stigmatizing for Older Women of Color

- Poverty
- Racism
- Gender Inequality
Effects of HIV Stigma

• Stigma can cause older women to be more reluctant to get tested for HIV or disclose their HIV status. This could affect their health care treatment or prevent them taking precautions to reduce transmission.

• Stigma results in social isolation, either through rejection by social network members or self-protective withdrawal, leading to loneliness and depression.

Effects of HIV Stigma (Cont.)

Stigma can also result in:

- Loss of income
- Loss of hope
- Loss of reputation in the family and community
Panel Discussion

When women living with HIV speak out and share their stories, it helps to **humanize** the magnitude of the epidemic and the challenges that they experience.
Panel Members

Geneva Galloway
Joyce Johnson
Janet Kitchen
Alelia Munroe
Strategies for Reducing HIV Stigma in Older Women

- Provide HIV-related **education**, prevention, and outreach targeting older women
- **Engage** communities, community-based organizations and social service providers in outreach, mental health and social support
- **Educate** medical providers to be proactive in discussing sexual health, substance use and issues related to mental illness with women over 50
Strategies for Reducing HIV Stigma in Older Women

- Engage and empower PLWH women over 50 to understand and advocate for their healthcare and identify unique needs
- Educate the community on the importance of the language they use when talking about HIV
National HIV/AIDS and Aging Awareness Day (NHAAD) September 18th

Goals
• Increase the quality of life for people living with HIV (PLWH).
• Reduce stigma surrounding HIV/AIDS among the aging population.
Available Resources

NATIONAL HIV/AIDS AND AGING AWARENESS DAY
SEPTEMBER 18TH
A national campaign highlighting the complex issues related to HIV prevention, care, and treatment for aging populations in the United States

GOALS
- Increase the quality of life for people living with HIV
- Reduce stigma surrounding HIV among the aging population

DID YOU KNOW?
In 2016, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reported persons aged 50 and older accounted for approximately 47% of persons living with HIV.

1 in 6 new diagnoses in the U.S. were in people aged 50 and older

AGE IS NOT A CONDOM.
Americans aged 50 and older have many of the same HIV risk factors as younger Americans. Educate yourself. Get tested for HIV.

Find HIV Testing Near You:
- Send a text message with your ZIP code to KNOWIT (568543)
- Visit gettested.cdc.gov
- Visit locator.hiv.gov
- Contact 1-800-CDC-INFO (1-800-232-4636)

National HIV/AIDS and Aging Awareness Day
September 18th
Visit www.NHAAD.org for more information.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT WWW.NHAAD.ORG
Additional Resources

• The AIDS Institute
  www.theaidsinstitute.org
• National HIV/AIDS and Aging Awareness Day (NHAAD)
  www.nhaad.org
• HIV.gov
  www.hiv.gov
• The ACRIA Center on HIV & Aging
  www.acria.org/hiv-aging
• HIV and Aging Toolkit
  www.nursesinaidscare.org/i4a/pages/index.cfm?pageid=4792
• The Well Project
  www.thewellproject.org/hiv-information/why-language-matters-facing-hiv-stigma-our-own-words
Thank You!

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To view the presentations and associated handouts, please visit: www.theaidsinstitute.org/USCA2018