

GROWING OLDER WITH THE EPIDEMIC: HIV AND AGING



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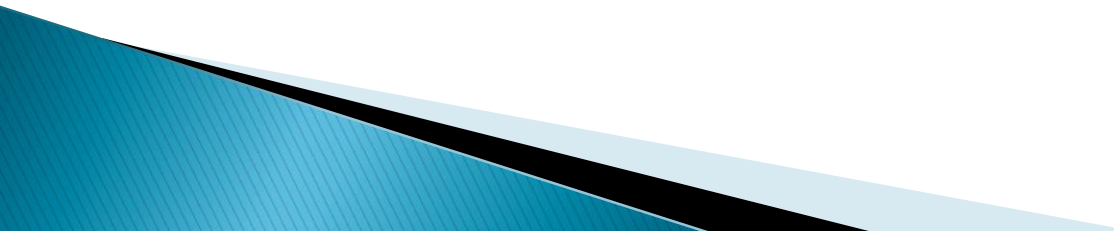
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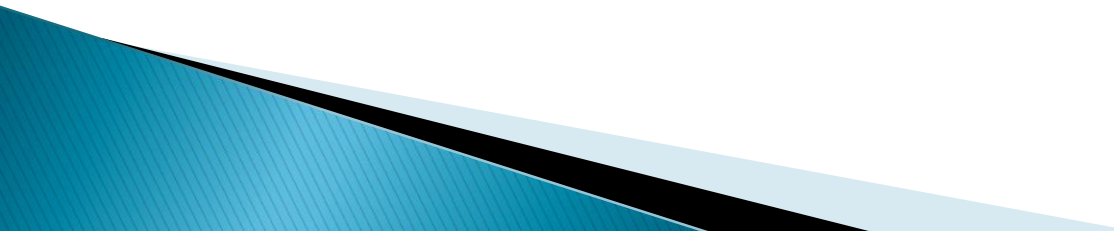
Policy recommendations

- ▶ Epidemiology
 - ▶ Prevention
 - ▶ Prevention and healthcare providers
 - ▶ Comorbidities
 - ▶ HIV and elders in a social context
 - ▶ Older American Act
 - ▶ Social services
 - ▶ Veterans benefits
 - ▶ Healthcare
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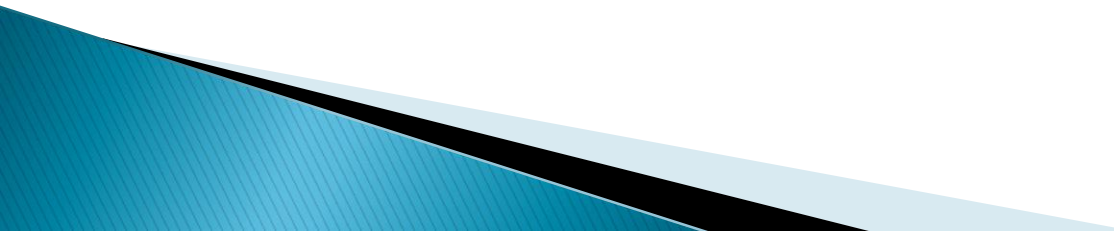
Policy recommendations: Epidemiology

- ▶ 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 re: prevalence of HIV among older gay men, trans women could inform more culturally competent care.

Policy recommendations: Prevention

- ▶ CDC, state and local health departments should target prevention efforts at older adults, including gay men, MSM, women, and African Americans. 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.
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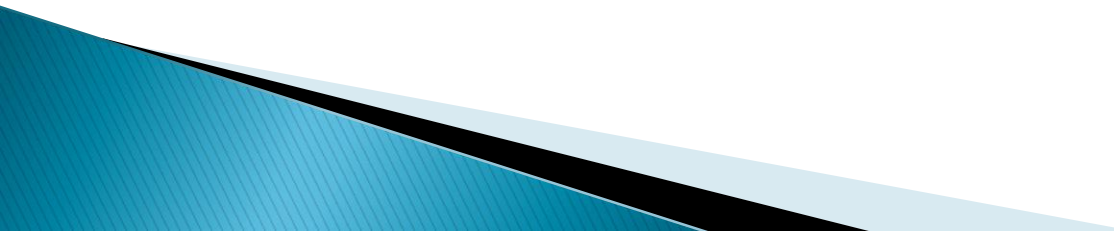
Policy recommendations: Prevention and health providers

- ▶ Healthcare professionals should proactively assess older patients for sexual health risks and test for HIV.
 - ▶ Doctors should be encouraged to talk with their patients regarding sexual behavior/orientation and make clear that such conversations are confidential.
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Policy recommendations: Comorbidities

- ▶ More clinical research with HIV+ 50+
 - Explore how treatments for comorbidities interact with anti-retroviral medication and what effects these interactions may have on older adults.
 - Increase understanding of NARCs among HIV+ 50+.
- ▶ Standards of care for older adults living with HIV should call for screenings for comorbidities.
- ▶ Doctors treating cervical, anal cancer etc. should offer their patients an HIV test.
- ▶ HIV medical providers should screen for depression and refer to mental health treatment.

Policy recommendations: HIV+ elders in social context

- ▶ ASOs, LGBT community centers, other CBOs should encourage community caregiving for elders living with HIV (like “buddy programs”).
 - ▶ Should Ryan White or other funding streams fund caregiving assistance for PLWHA to assist with ADLs?
 - ▶ Staff at nursing homes, long-term care facilities, and senior centers should be trained in the particular experiences and needs of HIV-positive elders to ensure culturally competent and non-discriminatory care.
 - ▶ Home healthcare aides should be trained in the particular experiences and needs of HIV+ elders and LGBT elders to ensure culturally competent and nondiscriminatory care.
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Older Americans Act

- ▶ Funds community planning and social services, research and development projects, and personnel training in the field of aging.
- ▶ Available evidence that senior centers are not adequately serving LGBT elders.
- ▶ Need for staff training re: gay elders, HIV+ elders.
- ▶ The upcoming 2011 reauthorization of the Older Americans Act presents unique opportunities for change that could impact HIV positive older adults.

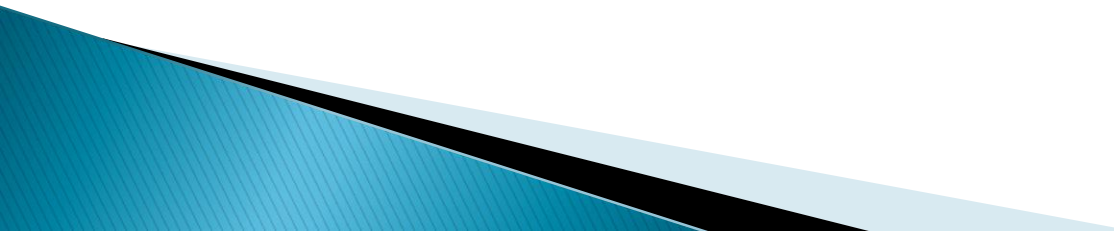
Policy recommendations: Senior services

- ▶ HHS should fund social marketing campaigns that challenge HIV stigma and stigma related to homosexuality.
- ▶ OAA could list HIV+ elders, LGBT elders as vulnerable populations (2011 reauthorization); could identify funding for training, research, targeted services.
- ▶ Researchers should study the experiences of older HIV positive and LGBT populations in congregate living facilities.
- ▶ Senior center staff, volunteers and nurses should be trained on HIV, sexuality, social isolation and other factors that affect older HIV+ clients.

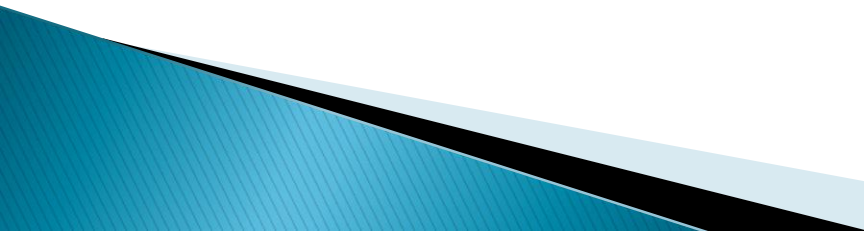
Policy recommendations: Same-sex partners

- ▶ Marriage equality should be enacted to allow same-sex partners access to many health related benefits.
 - In the meantime, Medicaid regulations should be changed to provide same-sex partners the ability to remain in their homes without jeopardizing their partners' right to Medicaid coverage.
- ▶ Same-sex couples should be treated the same as opposite-sex married couples under Social Security policy.

Policy recommendations: Veteran's Benefits

- ▶ VA should expand outreach efforts in order to enroll more veterans and eligible family members.
 - ▶ “Don’t Ask Don’t Tell” policy applies only to those serving active duty, so gay and lesbian veterans can openly access VA benefits.
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Policy recommendations: Healthcare

- ▶ Family Medical Leave Inclusion Act pass to modify 1993 FMLA to allow employees to take unpaid leave to care for same-sex partners; state laws should also be changed (except CA).
 - ▶ Geriatric workforce not at all prepared to accept growing number of older adults living with HIV. Very few medical schools even have a geriatric focus.
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Thank you!

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ACRIA, SAGE, GRIOT Circle

Sean Cahill, Brian Smith, Blair Darnell, Alana Krivo-Kaufman, Robert Valadez and Emily Saltzman from GMHC

Thank you for your work and taking time today

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