THE AIDS INSTITUTE

2012 United States Conference on AIDS
HIV/AIDS Over Fifty: A Targeted Outreach
Program Working with the Department of Veterans Affairs
Tuesday, October 2, 2012
4:30PM – 6:00PM
Workshop Objectives

- Discuss the issues around HIV/AIDS and older adults:
  - HIV awareness, prevention, stigma, HIV status, linkage to care and treatment
- Demonstrate a targeted outreach effort working with the Department of Veterans Affairs.
Workshop Agenda

- Topics Covered:
  - I. The State of Care for Veterans with HIV/AIDS
  - II. Veteran’s Aging Cohort Study (VACS)
  - III. Collaborations to address HIV among Older Adults
  - IV. HIV/AIDS Awareness Event at James A Haley Veteran’s Hospital, Tampa, Florida
The State of Care for Veterans with HIV/AIDS

- Veterans Health Administration (VHA) is the largest single provider of HIV care in the US
- 64,000 Veterans with HIV have received care
- Over 23,000 HIV infected Veterans were seen by VHA clinicians
- 21 Veterans Integrated Service Networks
- 5.6 million Veterans were treated by VHA
- 1 in every 250 Veterans in care at VHA is living with HIV/AIDS
Typical Veteran Receiving HIV/AIDS Care from VHA

- Male (97%)
- Nonwhite (majority)
- Black (50%)
- 53 years old (median)
- Receiving antiviral medications to treat HIV (80%)
Changing Landscape of Veterans

Age distribution of HIV infected Veterans in VHA care
- Younger Veterans entering care
- More HIV infections occurring in younger people

Emphasizes the need for VHA to reach new generations of Veterans with HV prevention and treatment services.
Changing Landscape of Veterans

- Unknown impact of HIV disease on the long term management of other chronic conditions common in the elderly (and vice versa)
- VHA is in a great position to learn about these issues
Opportunities

- Increased access to HIV testing
- Education and training
- Targeted outreach
- Increase awareness
Veterans Aging Cohort Study

- The Veterans Aging Cohort Study (VACS) is a prospective, observational cohort study of HIV positive and an age/race/site matched control group of HIV negative veterans in care in the United States.

- The study’s aim is to understand the role of comorbid medical and psychiatric disease in determining clinical outcomes in HIV infection.
Veteran’s Aging Cohort Study

- VACS is funded primarily by the National Institute on Alcoholism and Alcohol Abuse, National Institutes of Health.
- Special focus is on the role of alcohol use and abuse in determining clinical outcomes.

For more details about the study:
- [www.vacohort.org](http://www.vacohort.org)
History

The AIDS Institute launched National HIV/AIDS and Aging Awareness Day on September 18, 2008
Goals of NHAAAD

- To raise HIV/AIDS awareness among the aging population through educational efforts and awareness campaigns

- To highlight the complex issue related to HIV prevention, care, and treatment for aging populations in the United States

- To emphasize the need for prevention, research, and data targeting the aging population regarding HIV

- To increase the medical understanding of the aging process as it relates to HIV/AIDS

- To increase quality of life for those living with HIV/AIDS

- To reduce the stigma surrounding HIV/AIDS among the aging population

- To increase HIV/AIDS testing in the aging population
Target Audience

- People living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHAs) who are aging with the disease or already over 50 at the time of their initial diagnosis
- Increasing percentage of the population that needs to protect itself from HIV infection, including the growing baby boomer population
- Increasing number of grandparents becoming the primary guardians for children who have lost their parent(s) to HIV/AIDS
NHAAAD National Objectives

PREVENTION
- To increase media coverage, measured by number of media hits, surrounding NHAAAD
- To increase NHAAAD pre-registered events nationwide

TESTING
- To increase HIV testing (blood, oral, finger stick) among 50+ by participating organizations
- To increase access of NHAAAD materials available through the sponsoring organization websites

EVALUATION
- To increase number of completed online post-event surveys
HIV/AIDS Awareness Event

Quick stats:

- 145 attendees
- 50% were Veterans
- 50% were employees and or from the community organizations
- The majority of the attendees were in the 46-60 age range
HIV Testing Poll

Please select which of the following best applies to you:

- [ ] I have been tested for HIV and I know my status
- [ ] I am committing to getting an HIV test
HIV Testing Poll

Participants

- I have been tested!
- I will get tested!
HIV/AIDS Awareness Event Photos

The AIDS Institute staff and interns provided educational materials, brochures, fact sheets, policy and advocacy information.
The exhibit booths ranged from “ask the experts” to specific departments and programming the VA provides. Community partners were also invited to provide additional resources and referrals services.
Opportunities for Collaboration

- Host a free HIV screening fair. Encourage and promote HIV testing among older adults.
- Host a health fair – cholesterol, blood pressure, body mass index. Provide HIV prevention and education messages to older adults.
- Presentation by a physician, health care provider – answer/question session.
- Encourage older adults to practice safer methods to prevent HIV/AIDS and other Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STD’s).
- Organize a public forum or town hall meeting held to discuss the impact of HIV/AIDS in the older adult community.
Opportunities for Collaboration

- Host a press conference with public officials to discuss the challenges of HIV/AIDS in your community
- Ask your community leaders to issue a proclamation recognizing the Awareness Day
- Encourage radio stations to air public service announcements
- Host a cultural or faith-based event with speakers who can promote awareness of HIV/AIDS among the aging population
- Talk to an older adult in your family about getting tested
- Engage leaders in the faith-based community to participate in local, regional, or national events on or around NHAAAD
Resources

General resources for HIV/AIDS or the older adult population
- http://www.TheAIDSInstitute.org
- http://www.NHAAAD.org
- http://www.aoa.gov/
- http://www.va.gov
- http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/

All presentations will be available online at:
http://www.theaidsinstitute.org/USCA2012
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