

Have You Missed Diagnosing HIV Among The Aging Population? Learn From The Experience of Washington, D.C.

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Older Adults Are Sexual

“Our findings, based on nationally representative data ... indicate that the majority of older adults are engaged in spousal or other intimate relationships and regard sexuality as an important part of life. The prevalence of sexual activity declines with age, yet a substantial number of men and women engage in vaginal intercourse, oral sex, and masturbation even in the eighth and ninth decades of life.”

A Study of Sexuality and Health among Older Adults in the United States; Stacy Tessler Lindau, M.D., M.A.P.P., et al.; New Engl J Med 2007; 357:762-774; August 23, 2007

Prevalence of Sexual Activity – By Gender and Age

		Gender	57-64 yrs.	64-74 yrs.	75-85 yrs.
Sexual activity with a partner in previous 12 mos.	Men		83.7 %	67.0 %	38.5 %
	Women		61.6 %	39.5 %	16.7 %
Sexual activity with a partner > 2-3 times per mo.	Men		67.5 %	65.4 %	54.2 %
	Women		62.6 %	65.4 %	54.1 %

“Sexual Behaviors, Condom Use, and Sexual Health of Americans Over 50: Implications for Sexual Promotion for Older Adults”; J Sex Med 2010; 7 (suppl 5); 315-329

National HIV/AIDS Strategy: “The United States will become a place where new HIV infections are rare and when they do occur, every person, regardless of age, gender, race/ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity or socio-economic circumstance, will have unfettered access to high quality, life-extending care, free from stigma and discrimination.” (Emphasis Added)

Older Adults and HIV in DC

3,122 older adults (55 years plus) are living with HIV in DC – 22% of all cases – and 3% of all DC adults 55 years and older

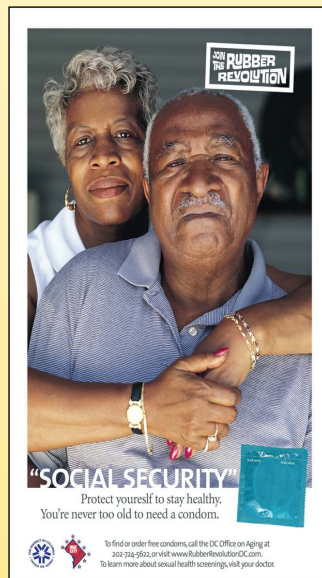
Of new HIV cases 2006-2010, 11% were adults 55 years and older

73% of adults 50 years and older were ‘late testers’ (developed AIDS within 12 months of initial HIV diagnosis) compared to 57% of all HIV cases

Average CD4 count of older adults at diagnosis was 300 compared to 391 for all HIV cases

43% of adults over 60 years old progressed from HIV to AIDS within 12 months compared to 33% for all HIV cases

DC HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis, STD and TB Annual Epidemiology Report 2011



D.C. Workshop Observations

Senior Service Providers Are Often Unaware of HIV Services, And Medical Providers Are Often Unaware of Senior Services

Medical Providers Do Not Consider Older Adults at Risk of HIV – Survey of Physicians Report 30% Identify Ages 50-59 at Risk and 10% of Ages 60+

Seniors Are Often Unaware of HIV Risk by Heterosexual Contact

CDC Testing Guidelines Do Not Include Persons Over Age 64 and CDC Has No DEBI Targeting Older Adults

Medical Caregivers Are Reluctant to Discuss Sex Behavior and Older Adults Are Often Embarrassed to Mention Sex and HIV

D.C. Workshop, “HIV and Seniors” (2010)
DC Health Care Provider Survey (DC Dept. of Health/GBC Health) 2011

D.C. Older Adult Sex and Wellness Initiative

DC Dept. of Health/DC Office on Aging/Community Work Group Developed Overall Plan for Older Adults and HIV, including Prevention Messages and Program Model”

Reviewed Existing Community Practice in DC and NYC Program, Prepared New Conversation Model Curriculum for Capacity Building and Implementation at Older Adult Settings, including Peer Educators

Developed New Sexual Health Wellness and HIV Prevention Brochure, Posters, and Advertising Promoting Testing and Condom Use

Coordination Among DC Government Agencies with Older Adult Programs to Integrate Sexual Health and HIV

Free Condoms Readily Available In All DC Wellness Centers And Senior Facilities (Public and Private), Including Senior Housing