

Age-Friendly Public Health Systems

HIV Among Older Adults

Social determinants of health (SDOH) are the conditions in which people live, work, play, worship and age. Differences in SDOH lead to health inequities and can negatively impact health, including and especially for people aging with HIV. All Americans living with HIV should receive the care and support needed to age successfully, with good physical, mental, and sexual health and overall well-being.



Over half of people with diagnosed HIV are aged 50 and older and by 2030, that number is expected to rise to 70%. This “graying of HIV” is to be celebrated but the care and services for people aging with HIV have not kept pace with this growing population. Further, Blacks and Latinos bear a disproportionate burden of new HIV diagnoses. Stigma remains the most commonly cited barrier to health and well-being among people living with HIV, driving social isolation and loneliness and causing delays in testing and seeking care. A 2019 national survey found that two-thirds of respondents living with HIV had incomes under \$50,000 and of those, 50% reported health care stigma, 25% reported ageism, and 24% reported homophobia. Addressing the intersection of HIV policy and older adult policy and advocacy is a priority moving forward, as well as expanding capacity to provide whole-person care to older adults who are long-term survivors of HIV.



Trust for America’s Health’s 6Cs Framework for Creating Age-Friendly Public Health Systems (AFPHS) organizes public health roles in aging. Public health can enhance health outcomes for older adults living with HIV by:

- ✓ Creating and leading changes in public policies and funding levels that address HIV and aging, and the needs and concerns of older adults living with HIV
- ✓ Connecting a multi-disciplinary network of healthcare and community-based organizations working at the intersection of HIV and healthy aging
- ✓ Collecting data on disparities in HIV health outcomes determined by social and economic factors
- ✓ Coordinating existing programs to improve screening, access and delivery to older adults living with HIV
- ✓ Communicating about resources for HIV prevention and treatment
- ✓ Complementing existing HIV aging services and make social connections through community-based programs addressing isolation, stigma, and trauma

Resources:

- [Grantmakers in Aging: Moving Ahead Together](#)
- [National Resource Center on HIV & Aging](#)
- [Optimizing HIV Care for People Aging with HIV: Incorporating New Elements of Care](#)
- [National HIV Curriculum](#)
- [Care of People Aging with HIV: Northeast/Caribbean AETC Toolkit](#)
- [National Institute on Aging “Health Information” website](#)