

Health Disparities Among LGBT Older Adults: The Impact of HIV



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The Politics of Marginalization & Inequities

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Older Adults and HIV/AIDS

Approximately 30% of people living with HIV around the world are aged 50 years and over (UNAIDS, 2013).

More than 300,000 50+ living with HIV (CDC, 2013a)

Approximately 3,000 adults 55+ live with HIV/AIDS in Washington State (DOH, 2014)



Older People Living with HIV

Increase prevalence and incidence.

- Increasing new infections and long term survivorship

Increased morbidity and mortality (CDC, 2013b)

Increased likelihood of late diagnosis and HIV related as well as age related comorbidity

Health Disparities

Healthy People 2020 defies this as differences in health outcomes for communities that have encountered systematic obstacles to health as a result of social, economic, and environmental disadvantage

- There exists marginalized populations within marginalized populations

Purpose of the Research



Does the combined stress of sexual minority status and HIV impact the intrapersonal, interpersonal and structural lives of HIV+ LGBT older adults?

Methods

Data from *Caring and Aging with Pride*

Survey results from 2,560 LGBT adults 50+ recruited from 11 sites throughout the U.S.

Nine percent (233) identified as living with HIV/AIDS

Comparison of demographic profile, intrapersonal characteristics, social resources, structural support and health outcomes

Results: CAP Background Statistics

	Total (N=2,560)
Age, y, M(SD)	66.5 (9.1)
Gay men	58%
Lesbians	32%
Bisexuals	7%
Transgender	7%
Income, \leq 200% FPL	31%
Education, \leq high school	8%
People of color	13%
Chronic conditions, M(SD)	2.0 (1.4)
Living with HIV	9%

Results (Characteristics)

Variable	Living with HIV (n=233)	HIV Negative (n=2327)
Gay Men	93.27	95.92
Bisexual Men	6.28	4.08
Transgender**	2.62	7.19
Men	97.41	59.49
Women	2.59	40.51
Age***		
50-59	36.48	22.91
60-69	45.92	40.61
70+	17.60	36.49
Race/Ethnicity***		
White	75.76	87.59
African American	7.36	3.15
Hispanic	11.69	3.72
<200% Poverty ***	44.14	29.07

*<.05; **<.01; ***<.001

Results (Characteristics)

Variable	Living with HIV	HIV Negative
High School or Less*	11.69	7.53
Children***	10.87	25.84
Lives Alone**	64.66	54.00
Loss of Same Sex Partner***	48.25	24.87
Sexually Active	58.87	54.96
≥ 1 HIV Risk Behavior***	40.77	15.88
* <.05; ** <.01; *** <.001		

Results

Variable	LWHIV	Non-HIV	AOR/b
Intrapersonal Sense of Community Belonging Social Support (M)	90.00 2.84	88.98 3.12	AOR=1.77 b=-.23***
Victimization	6.12	3.12	b=3.22***
Internalized Stigma	1.52	1.47	b=.04
Mental Health (%)			
Depression	39.82	29.58	AOR=1.34
Anxiety	34.76	22.39	AOR=1.61**
Suicidal Ideation	48.68	37.57	AOR=1.3*
Loneliness	1.98	1.71	b=.20***
Smoking (%)	13.60	8.71	AOR= 1.16
Excessive Drinking (%)	11.45	8.02	AOR = 1.36
* < .05; ** < .01; *** < .001			

Results

Variable	LWHIV	Non-HIV	AOR/b
Health Outcomes			
Physical Health QoL	66.41	70.14	b= 2.63
Mental Health QoL	64.51	71.40	b= -5.12***
Disability	53.48	46.07	AOR = 1.19
Chronic Health Conditions	2.83	1.87	b = .99***
Regular Health Check-Up within a year	88.79	81.73	AOR = 2.15***

*<.05;**<.01;***<.001

Discussion



Analysis sought to examine the impact HIV had on health disparities among LGBT older adults

Differs by characteristics

- Less likely to be women, transgender, and White
- Less likely to complete HS, be partnered or have children
- More likely to live alone have lost a same sex partner and engage in sexual risk behavior

Discussion

Interpersonal

- Less social support but equally identified with community
- Increased lifetime victimization

Intrapersonal

- Higher likelihood of anxiety and suicidal thought
- Increased loneliness
- No differences in alcohol tobacco use

Discussion

Health Outcomes

- Increase in number of chronic health conditions
- Lower MH but not PH Quality of life
- More likely to have annual health check

Limitations

- Non-probability sample
- Limited HIV specific data
- Recruited through LGBT aging agencies; may differ from those not connected to agencies

Conclusion

HIV appears to have additional impact on the well-being of LGBT older adults

Both intrapersonal and interpersonal aspects of life are affected

It is important to recognize the additional marginalization and greater inequities among populations within populations