

AIDS Foundation

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HIV/AIDS Among People Over Age 50

National

- Through 2004, 14% of all reported HIV/AIDS cases in the United States were among people over age 50.¹
- From 1990 to 2001, the number of AIDS cases among people over age 50 increased more than fivefold, from 16,288 cases to 90,513 cases.²
- Before 1985, 17% of older adult cases were caused by contaminated blood products.³
- Heterosexual transmission of HIV is the leading mode of transmission among people over age 50, led in part by the availability of erectile dysfunction remedies.⁴
- In 2003, 52% of older Americans living with HIV/AIDS were either Black or Hispanic⁵

Illinois

- In 2004, 12% of people living with AIDS in Illinois were over the age of 50⁶
- Through 2004, men comprised 86% of the 4470 AIDS cases in people over the age of 50.⁷
- Through 2004, African Americans were the largest racial/ethnic group of reported HIV/AIDS cases over 50, (approximately 50%), followed by Whites (approximately 30-40%) and then Hispanic (approximately 10%).⁸
- Through 2004, risk factors for older adults include: Men having Sex with Men (approximately 30-40%), injection drug use (approximately 25-30%), and heterosexual sex (approximately 10-15%).⁹

Chicago

- As of March 31, 2005, there is an estimated 4,468 individuals over the age of 50, 23.8% of the total 18,739, living with HIV and AIDS in Chicago.¹⁰
- Of the total 4,468, approximately 82% (3,684) are males and approximately 18% (784) are females.¹¹
- In 2003, the leading mode of transmission among males over age 50 was men having sex with men (38%) followed by injection drug use (33%).¹²
- In 2003, the leading mode of transmission among females over the age of 50 was injection drug use (39%), followed by heterosexual sex (35%).¹³

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Remember¹⁴

- Older adults may be sexually active.
- Older adults are less likely to use protection because need to avoid of and fear of pregnancy is not an issue post menopause.
- Older adults may use injection drugs.
- Older adults who are exposed to HIV are at greater risk than younger people because of weakened immune systems due to ageing.
- Health providers may not screen older adults for sexually transmitted diseases or injection drug use due to lack of training or ageist attitudes.
- Older adults are often not diagnosed properly as having HIV/AIDS because many of the symptoms resemble the symptoms of old age.
- Older adults are frequently left out of HIV/AIDS research, drug trials and educational prevention programs.

¹ KaiserNetwork.org. Kaiser Daily HIV/AIDS Report. January 13, 2005.

² KaiserNetwork.org. Kaiser Daily HIV/AIDS Report. July, 8, 2003

³ CCOG. Area on Aging. Fact sheet about over 50 and HIV/AIDS. 2005

⁴ FinalCall.com News. HIV/AIDS and the Elderly. May 24,2005

⁵ FinalCall.com News. HIV/AIDS and the Elderly. May 24,2005

⁶ KaiserNetwork.org. Kaiser Daily HIV/AIDS Report: The Aging Face of AIDS 2000

⁷ IDPH. What Men and Women over 50 Should Know. 2002

⁸ IDPH. People Over 50 Living with HIV Disease in Illinois. Presentation by Fran H. Eury. March 24,2005

⁹ IDPH. People Over 50 Living with HIV Disease in Illinois. Presentation by Fran H. Eury. March 24,2005

¹⁰ CDPH. Office of HIV/AIDS surveillance. Demian Christiansen. June 16, 2005

¹¹ CDPH. Office of HIV/AIDS surveillance. Demian Christiansen. June 16, 2005

¹² CDPH. Office of HIV/AIDS Surveillance. The HIV/AIDS Epidemic in the Aging Population. Presentation by Demian Christiansen.

¹³ CDPH. Office of HIV/AIDS Surveillance. The HIV/AIDS Epidemic in the Aging Population. Presentation by Demian Christiansen.

¹⁴ NAHOF. Educational Tip Sheet HIV/AIDS and Older Adults.