



C.H.A.I.N. REPORT

Memo 2002-4

People over 50 Years Old With HIV/AIDS

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Submitted November 20, 2002

HRSA Contract #H89 HA 0015-11

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

A Technical Review Team (TRT) provides oversight for the CHAIN Project. In addition to Peter Messeri, PhD and Angela Aidala, PhD, both of Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health, TRT members include Mary Ann Chiasson, DrPH, MHRA (chair); JoAnn Hilger, NYCDOH; Jeanne Kalinoski, HIV Planning Council; Julie Lehane, PhD, Westchester County DOH; Jennifer Nelson, MHRA, Richard Peterson, Mayor's Office of AIDS Planning Coordination; and Tom Sentell, PWA Advisory Group.

This research was supported by grant number H89 HA 0015-11 from the US Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), HIV/AIDS Bureau with the supported of the HIV Health and Human Services Planning Council, through the New York City Department of Health and the Medical and Health Research Association of New York City, Inc. Its contents are solely the responsibility of the researchers and do not necessarily represent the official views of the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration, the City of New York, or the Medical and Health Research Association of New York.

Key findings

- Hispanic individuals are under represented among CHAIN participants older than 50. Besides ethnicity, older (age 50-59 and age 60 or more) and younger CHAIN participants are similar in their demographic characteristics (Table1)
- Older CHAIN participants are in poorer physical health and report higher prevalence of a wide spectrum of chronic conditions. However CHAIN participants older than 50 do not differ in their mental health status from those younger than 50. Moreover HIV-related health outcomes are similar across age groups, although perhaps Older cohort members may be more prone to opportunistic infections.(Table 2)
- The older group report more chronic diseases than the younger group. Older people have significantly more breathing problem, heart problems, diabetes and, especially, hypertension and arthritis/rheumatism. There are no differences among age groups for kidney disease, hepatitis, TB and cervical disease. (Table2)
- There are no significant differences in use of medical services across age groupings (Table 3).
- There are notable age differences in use of case management services, alcohol and drug treatment services and mental health services (Table 4).
- Expressed needs and use of social services are similar between younger and older CHAIN participants (Table 5). The apparent elevated level of need and receipt of services among the oldest age group (those 60 and above) must be interpreted cautiously due to the very small number of individuals (N=19) in this age group.
- Older CHAIN participants are more likely to live alone and less likely to be married or have a partner: 79% of those 60 and older and 59%. Of CHAIN those between the ages of 50 and 59 live alone compared to 38% of those between the ages of 26 and 49. Although high need for housing services is relatively uniform across age groups, there is some evidence that those over 60 may experience a greater level of unmet need for these services. (Table 6)
- Increasing age is associated with a shift in sources of income from regular job earnings

and Public Assistance to SSDI and SSI. All age groups rely heavily on Food Stamps and rental subsidies. (Table7)

- Although social isolation, as measured by number of friends and relatives, does not increase with age, those over 60 express more need for social support than younger CHAIN members (Table 8). Those 60 years and older are much more likely to indicate the absence of some one to help when they are sick, and they are much less likely to talk to others about personal matters.
- There were no age related differences in reported barriers to receiving medical care, but individuals over 50 were more likely than younger participants to identify staff incompetence and disrespect as sources of barriers in receiving social services (Table 9).

Table 1. Sociodemographic Characteristics by Age Group

	Age 26-49	Age 50-59	Age 60-72
Total Sample (N=)	(268)	(101)	(19)
Gender			
Female	49%	49%	47%
Male	51%	51%	53%
Ethnicity **			
White	10%	15%	21%
Black	57%	69%	58%
Latino	31%	16%	21%
Other	2%	0%	0%
Education			
Less than high school	50%	45%	42%
High school or more	50%	55%	58%
Household Income			
Less than \$10,000	57%	66%	72%
\$10,000 or more	43%	34%	28%
Poverty Level of Household			
Under poverty line	57%	51%	44%
Above poverty line	43%	49%	56%
Borough of Residence			
Bronx	34%	28%	33%
Brooklyn	25%	21%	22%
Manhattan	24%	35%	28%
Queens	9%	10%	11%
Staten Island	8%	7%	6%
HIV diagnosis			
Before 1992	36%	44%	32%
1992-1995	44%	40%	47%
After 1995	20%	17%	21%

*p<.05 **p<.01 ***p<.001

Table 2. Health Status by Age Group

	Age 26-49	Age 50-59	Age 60-72
Total Sample (N=)	(268)	(101)	(19)
HEALTH STATUS			
Perceived General Health			
Excellent/Very good	34%	33%	16%
Good/Fair	61%	61%	68%
Poor	5%	6%	16%
PCS (physical health component scale)*** mean (sd)	44.6 (0.76)	39.9 (1.22)	36.1(2.18)
MCS (mental health component scale) mean(sd)	46.1 (0.71)	46.7 (1.20)	44.4(3.38)
Tcell Count			
500 or more	36%	40%	37%
201-499	44%	44%	47%
200 or less	20%	17%	16%
Viral Load			
good / 400 or less	48%	57%	61%
400-9999	35%	27%	28%
bad/ 10000 or more	17%	16%	11%
Opportunistic Infection			
Yes	33%	36%	47%
No	67%	64%	53%
CHRONIC DISEASE			
Asthma	28%	26%	33%
Other Breathing Problems *	16%	26%	39%
Hypertension ***	23%	44%	56%
Heart Problems *	12%	20%	33%
Diabetes *	11%	22%	22%
Arthritis or Rheumatism ***	17%	29%	50%
Kidney Disease	6%	5%	11%
Hepatitis	20%	26%	10%
Active TB Infection ¹	22%	23%	21%
Cervical Disease	15%	8%	22%

*p<.05 **p<.01 ***p<.001

¹ Not just told you have a positive TB skin test.

Table 3. Health Service Use by Age Group

	Age 26-49	Age 50-59	Age 60-72
Total Sample (N=)	(268)	(101)	(19)
Appropriate medical care	69%	69%	79%
Inpatient at hospital for last 6 mo	20%	24%	16%
ER use for last 6 mo	29%	34%	26%
HARRT use for last 6 mo	50%	55%	42%
ARV use for last 6 mo	71%	71%	63%
Adherence¹	66%	69%	58%
No Medical Provider	3%	0%	0%
No Insurance	1%	1%	0%

¹ among those who take PI or combination therapy

Table 4. Case manager, AOD, Mental Health Services by Age Group

	Age 26-49	Age 50-59	Age 60-72
Total Sample (N=)	(268)	(101)	(19)
CASE MANAGER			
Having at least one case manager	62%	54%	63%
Referral service for medical service from CM	31%	32%	26%
Social services from CM	46%	44%	47%
Counseling from CM	49%	46%	47%
AOD SERVICE			
History of Drug Use			
Never	11%	14%	21%
Past	69%	63%	58%
Current	20%	23%	21%
Expressed Drug Treatment Need	54%	51%	32%
Reported Therapeutic Drug Treatment	10%	17%	11%
Reported Self Help Drug Treatment	15%	14%	11%
MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE			
Mental health problem (MCS<37)	24%	25%	32%
Received mental health services from professional	25%	20%	26%
Received mental health services from support group, case manager, social worker or clergy	25%	22%	26%

*p<.05 **p<.01 ***p<.001

Table 5. Self-reported Need and Use for Social Services by Age Group

Area	Service Need			Service Received		
	Age 26-49	Age 50-59	Age 60-72	Age 26-49	Age 50-59	Age 60-72
Total Sample (N=)	268	101	19	268	101	19
Financial matters	17%	12%	26%	6%	2%	11%
Legal Matters	6%	9%	11%	4%	6%	11%
Employment	4%	3%	5%	3%	0%	11%
Home Care**	2%	7%	16%	2%	5%	11%
Emotional or Psychological difficulties	6%	9%	11%	4%	5%	11%
Household items or clothing	6%	5%	5%	1%	0%	0%
Child care	2%	0%	0%	<1%	0%	0%
Transportation	4%	4%	0%	4%	1%	11%
Food, Groceries, or Meals*	8%	2%	5%	5%	1%	11%
Any area for need/service	35%	38%	37%	21%	13%	21%
5 or more areas	1%	2%	0%	<1%	1%	5%
3-5 areas	6%	2%	16%	1%	1%	5%
1-2 areas	28%	34%	21%	20%	11%	11%
no area	65%	62%	63%	79%	87%	79%

*p<.05 **p<.01 ***p<.001

Table 6. Living Situation, Housing Status and Service by Age Group

	Age 26-49	Age 50-59	Age 60-72
Total Sample (N=)	(268)	(101)	(19)
Household Composition***			
Live alone (including living in Institution)	38%	59%	79%
Partner, no kids	15%	11%	5%
Partner, with kids	15%	3%	5%
Single parent with kids	10%	3%	0%
Other adults, no partner	13%	16%	11%
Other adults, kids, no partner	9%	8%	0%
Marital Status***			
currently married	12%	6%	5%
formerly married	26%	50%	42%
never married	62%	44%	53%
Partner Relationship***			
live in partner	30%	14%	11%
non live in partner	25%	29%	5%
no partner	45%	57%	84%
Living Situation			
House/ apartment owned by self/family	5%	2%	16%
Private rental	36%	36%	42%
Subsidized rental	46%	48%	26%
Double up with others	5%	4%	0%
SRO or welfare hotel	4%	7%	5%
AIDS housing	3%	1%	11%
Shelter, street, other public	<1%	0%	0%
Nursing home, hospice	<1%	3%	0%
Stability of Housing			
Stable	87%	87%	89%
Double-up	5%	4%	0%
Unstable	8%	9%	11%
Housing Service			
Received service	18%	14%	11%
Needed but No Service Received	20%	15%	32%
No Need	62%	71%	58%

*p<.05 **p<.01 ***p<.001

Table 7. Income Sources by Age Group

	Age 26-49	Age 50-59	Age 60-72
Total Sample (N=)	(268)	(101)	(19)
Regular Job Earning	33%	21%	11%
Social Security or Other Pension	4%	6%	5%
Social Security Disability Income(SSDI)	25%	29%	37%
Social Security Income(SSI)	47%	57%	63%
Food Stamp	65%	70%	63%
Rental Subsidy	52%	52%	39%
Other Public Assistance (TANF, WIC, Home Relief, Cash from Das, etc.)	26%	15%	5%
Other Private Income (Odd Jobs, Interest, Foster care payment, etc.)	26%	22%	37%

Table 8. Social Support Network by Age Group

	Age 26-49	Age 50-59	Age 60-72
Total Sample (N=)	(268)	(101)	(19)
Mean Number of Close Friends who don't live with you	4.9	5.2	4.6
Mean Number of Close Relatives who don't live with you	7.2	6.1	6.0
Mean Number of Close Neighbors	9.8	12.7	14.2
Mean Number of Close Acquaintances	10.7	10.0	13.4
Is there anyone who you rely on to help you out when you are sick or not feeling well?			
Yes	84%	83%	65%
No	16%	17%	35%
Do you have enough people around whom you rely on to help you when you are sick? **			
Enough Support	84%	87%	59%
Would like more support	16%	13%	41%
How often do you talk about personal matter with someone?			
Almost always	44%	42%	24%
Sometimes	37%	43%	53%
Hardly Ever	19%	15%	24%

Table 9 . Perceived Barriers to Care by Age Group (from wave 6, 7, and 8)

	Age 26-49	Age 50-59	Age 60-72
Total Sample (N=)	(268)	(101)	(19)
Barriers To Medical Care			
<i>Access Barriers</i>			
don't know where to go	6%	3%	5%
transportation difficulties	9%	10%	16%
cost too much/ not covered by insurance	7%	7%	0%
child care difficulties	2%	0%	0%
nervous/afraid what medical provider might say	5%	5%	5%
staff do not speak your language	1%	0%	5%
<i>Provider Attitude Barriers</i>			
staff do not understand or was not competent with your problem	12%	13%	16%
staff is disrespectful, rude	9%	8%	11%
staff is not good at listening to your problem	11%	9%	5%
don't trust staff to respect confidentiality	3%	5%	5%
Any Barrier for Medical Care	27%	26%	32%
Barriers To Social Service			
<i>Access Barriers</i>			
don't know where to go	12%	14%	11%
transportation difficulties	7%	6%	5%
cost too much/ not covered by insurance	3%	2%	0%
child care difficulties	3%	1%	0%
nervous/afraid what medical provider might say	1%	3%	0%
staff do not speak your language	2%	1%	0%
<i>Provider Attitude Barriers</i>			
staff did not understand or was not competent with your problem*	13%	25%	21%
staff is not good at listening to your problem	11%	19%	11%
staff is disrespectful, rude **	10%	25%	16%
don't trust staff to respect confidentiality	3%	3%	5%
Any Barrier for Social Service	27%	36%	32%

*p<.05 **p<.01 ***p<.001