



The North American
Housing & HIV/AIDS
Research Summit Series

HOUSING IS HIV HEALTHCARE

Since 2005, the Summit Series has provided an innovative forum to present research on the relationship between housing and HIV prevention and care, and to discuss policy implications of the research findings. Researchers, policy makers, providers and consumers work together to develop evidence-based public policy goals and strategies.

The Summit Series is convened by U.S. National AIDS Housing Coalition (NAHC) and the Ontario HIV Treatment Network (OHTN) and Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Health. Summit VII will be held in Montreal, Quebec in early fall 2013.

For updates and to read Summit materials, visit www.hivhousingsummit.org

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For people living with HIV, housing is one of the strongest predictors of their access to treatment, their health outcomes, and how long they will live.

To obtain and benefit from life-saving HIV treatments, people living with HIV must have safe, stable housing.

Lack of stable housing equals lack of treatment success:

People with HIV/AIDS who are homeless or unstably housed:

- Are more likely to enter HIV care late
- Have lower CD4 counts and higher viral loads
- Are less likely to receive and adhere to antiretroviral therapy
- Are more likely to be hospitalized and use emergency rooms
- Experience higher rates of premature death¹

Housing status has more impact on health outcomes than demographics, drug and alcohol use, mental health status or receipt of social services.²

Improved housing is linked to better access to health care and better health outcomes:

People with HIV/AIDS who have stable housing are much more likely to access health services, attend primary care visits, receive ongoing care and receive care that meets clinical practical standards.³

Being stably housed is positively associated with:

- Effective antiretroviral therapy (HAART)
- Viral suppression
- Lack of co-infection with hepatitis C or tuberculosis
- Significant reductions in avoidable emergency and acute health care
- Reduced mortality⁴

Homeless people with HIV in Chicago who received a housing placement were twice as likely to have an undetectable viral load 12 months later.⁵

Housing assistance is HIV prevention:

84% Proportion of unstably housed people with HIV who received a voucher for rental assistance who were stably housed at 18 months.⁶

80% The reduction in mortality among homeless people with AIDS who received supportive housing.⁹

57% The reduction in hospitalizations for people with HIV after they were stably housed.⁷

HOUSING IS THE GREATEST UNMET NEED OF AMERICANS LIVING WITH HIV/AIDS

“The available research makes it readily apparent that access to adequate housing profoundly affects the health of Americans who are at-risk for or living with HIV.”⁹

1.1

The number of persons currently living with HIV/AIDS in the United States, with 56,000 newly infected each year.¹⁰

MILLION

The number of Households currently served by the federal Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) program.

Less than

60,000

500,000

The number of Americans living with HIV who will need some form of housing assistance during the course of their illness.

More than

140,000

The number of households with HIV in the U.S. that currently lack stable housing and have an unmet need for housing assistance.¹¹

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What's needed:

Evidence-based HIV/AIDS housing policy



- Make safe, affordable housing available to all people living with HIV
- Make housing assistance a top HIV prevention priority
- Continue to collect the data needed to inform HIV housing policy



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