



The National AIDS Housing Coalition

727 15th Street NW, 6th Floor
Washington, DC 20005

p 202.347.0333

f 202.3473411

www.nationalaidshousing.org

For immediate release

Contact: Nancy Bernstine

nahc@nationalaidshousing.org

202-347-0333

Stable Housing Remains a Vital Component to the Fight Against AIDS

Washington, D.C. November 27, 2007 -- As the nineteenth World AIDS Day approaches, the National AIDS Housing Coalition (NAHC) urges policymakers worldwide to acknowledge the indisputable link between stable housing and positive health outcomes when addressing HIV/AIDS prevention, care and treatment. Groundbreaking new research from the Centers for Disease Control and others has been reported in the recently released special issue journal of *AIDS and Behavior*, which documents the connections between housing status and HIV transmission and infection. According to researchers from the CDC, homelessness and unstable housing “increase the risk of HIV acquisition and transmission and adversely affect the health of people living with HIV.” The findings prompted the researchers to issue a call to action that “homelessness be treated as a major public health issue confronting the United States.”

“The promise of housing as a critical part of HIV prevention, care and treatment extends beyond the United States to every corner of the world”, said NAHC Executive Director Nancy Bernstine. “Stable housing must be an integral part of the global response to the AIDS pandemic”.

Research studies reported in the *AIDS and Behavior* issue show that:

- Homeless or unstably housed persons were two to six times more likely to “have recently used hard drugs, shared needles or exchanged sex” than similar low-income persons who were stably housed.
- Receipt of housing assistance enabled homeless persons with substance use and mental health problems to achieve stability over time and to cease or reduce both drug related and sexual risk behaviors.
- Over a 12-year period, housing status and receipt of housing assistance consistently predicted entry and retention in HIV medical care, regardless of demographics, drug use, health and mental health status, or receipt of other services.

These and other findings reported in the special issue add to the growing evidence that access to housing can independently reduce the risk of HIV infection and improve the health of persons living with HIV/AIDS.

#####

The National AIDS Housing Coalition is a national non-profit housing organization that works to advance the creation, development, management and growth of housing for persons living with HIV/AIDS in our communities.