

Responding to HIV & Aging: Surveying a Diverse Group of Canadian Service Providers about their Knowledge & Training Needs

Le-Ann Dolan¹; Liz Seidel²; Luis Scacaccabarozzi²; Elisse Zack¹

¹ Canadian Working Group on HIV and Rehabilitation www.hivandrehab.ca | ldolan@hivandrehab.ca

² AIDS Community Research Initiative of America www.acria.org | lseidel@acria.org

Introduction

The HIV epidemic in Canada is "aging"

- estimated 65,000 people living with HIV/AIDS (PHAs)
- improved HIV medications and care resulted in PHAs living longer, healthier lives (decreased morbidity and mortality)
- overall HIV incidence has remained stable over past decade, yet increased among people 50+ years

Aging poses challenges for PHAs, people at risk of HIV, and service providers

- new partnerships and increased cooperation between the HIV and aging sectors is required
- new knowledge and training (knowledge translation & exchange) needed to inform service provision
- paucity of information regarding service providers' knowledge, training, technical assistance and capacity building needs

Objective

To survey service providers regarding the information and training they will require to provide high-quality services for older people at risk of, and aging with, HIV.

Methodology: An on-line survey

We surveyed service providers to determine their existing knowledge, and their knowledge, training, technical assistance and capacity building needs in relation to HIV and aging.

- July and August of 2012
- on-line survey (Survey Monkey) distributed through CWGHR networks
- Likert scales and open-ended questions

Conclusion

Addressing service providers' needs

Initiatives to address service provider needs are required, and ideally should:

- be led by HIV and aging organizations whose mandates include training, knowledge translation or capacity building
- bring together the HIV sector and the aging sector
- be developed and delivered in cooperation with people aging with HIV

Bibliography

- Public Health Agency of Canada. HIV and AIDS in Canada. Surveillance Report to December 31, 2009. Surveillance and Risk Assessment Division, Centre for Communicable Diseases and Infection Control, Public Health Agency of Canada, 2010.
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Results

Respondents' characteristics

We received 120 responses. The survey did not require people to answer every question; a handful of people answered very few questions.

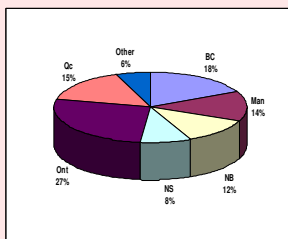


Figure 1: Respondents' province of residence (n=118)

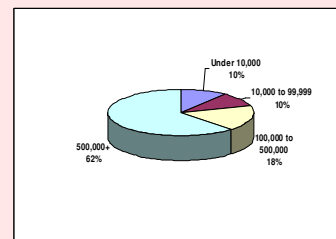


Figure 2: Respondents' community size (population) (n=118)

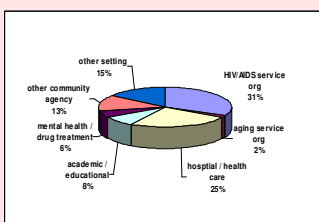


Figure 3: Respondents' work setting (n=109, check all that apply)

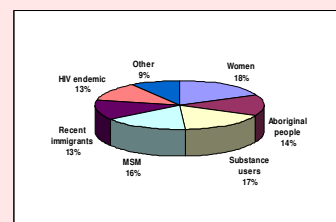


Figure 4: Demographic characteristics of clients served by respondents (n=102, check all that apply)

Knowledge of HIV and HIV & aging

Service providers' knowledge (assessed using True/False questions and Likert scales)

- service providers in ASOs demonstrated much greater knowledge about HIV than providers in other settings
- both groups demonstrated a knowledge deficit in relation to aging with HIV

Service providers told us: Open-ended questions

Responses to open-ended questions demonstrated the belief that, in addressing the challenges of aging with HIV, it is critical to bring together a variety of professionals and organizations.

Interest in receiving training on specific topics

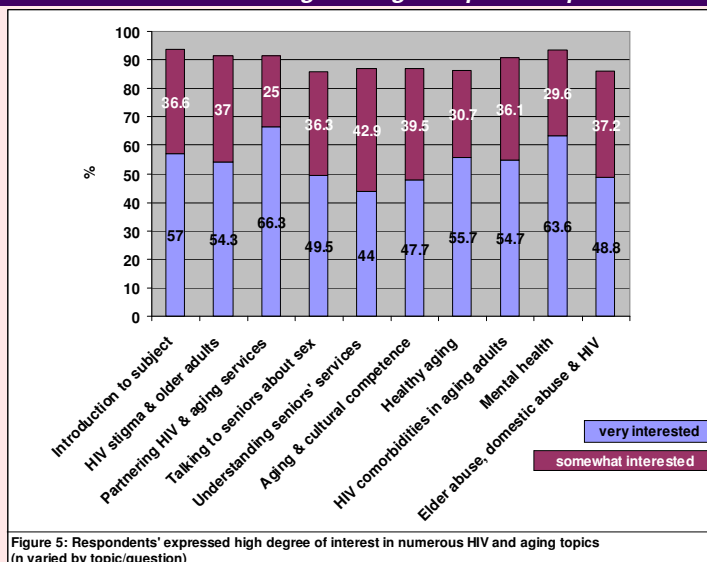


Figure 5: Respondents' expressed high degree of interest in numerous HIV and aging topics (n varied by topic/question)

Respondents, including those with prior training on HIV and aging, expressed a high level of interest (cumulative total > 85% "very interested" + "somewhat interested") in receiving knowledge, training, technical assistance and capacity building in relation to numerous (10 out of 21) HIV and aging-related topics.

