Research Articles

   - In this paper, authors found that a single item measuring the essence of patient-centeredness—the patients’ perception of being “known as a person”—is significantly and independently associated with receiving HAART, adhering to HAART, and having undetectable serum HIV RNA. These results support the hypothesis that the quality of patient-physician relationship is directly related to the health of patients.

   - This paper offers a systematic review of research related to engagement in care strategies specific to the MSM population. Key MSM subpopulations in the United States on which to focus future research efforts include racial/ethnic minority, young, and substance-using MSM.

   - The purpose of this paper was to examine associations between various psychosocial factors and likelihood of engagement at each stage of the care continuum, among a geographically diverse sample of 132 young gay/bisexual men and other men who have sex with men (YB-GBMSM) living with HIV. Negative self-image, a component of HIV stigma, had an inverse association with early care seeking after HIV diagnosis. Negative self-image was also inversely associated with adherence to medical appointments, while employment and ethnic identity affirmation were both positively associated with appointment adherence. HIV-positive identity salience was associated with a higher likelihood of being on antiretroviral therapy. These findings highlight the importance of processes related to identity development, as both barriers and facilitators of engagement in care for HIV-positive YB-GBMSM.
   • This study found that perceived masculinity may play a significant role in HIV risk for YBMSM and may be an important concept to consider in prevention strategies directed towards this population.

   • This study showed that multiple, mutable dimensions of the physician-patient relationship were associated with medication adherence in persons with HIV infection, suggesting that physician-patient relationship quality is a potentially important point of intervention to improve patients’ medication adherence. In addition, our data suggest that it is critical to investigate and incorporate patients’ belief systems about antiretroviral therapy into adherence discussions, and to identify and treat mental disorders.

   • This study demonstrated that overall, the process of ethnic identity development involved the process of becoming aware of one’s ethnic and cultural heritage, while sexual identity development involved finding one’s own personally relevant sexual orientation label and connecting to that community. The implications of these findings for the development of interventions to assist in the healthy development of gay/bisexual/questioning adolescents are discussed.

   • In generalized linear modeling, authors found that among HIV negative BMSM, those who experienced greater stigma and global medical mistrust had longer gaps in time since last medical exam. Furthermore, global medical mistrust mediated the relationship between stigma and engagement in care. Among HIV positive BMSM, experiencing stigma from health care providers was also associated with longer gaps in time since last HIV care appointment.

   • Results of this study provide evidence for using strength-based intervention strategies to prevent syndemic conditions. Findings suggest that to attenuate socio-structural barriers to health and comorbid psychosocial health concerns, interventions must address young men’s social isolation and promote positive identity and sense of community.

   • Study findings suggest that enhancing trust in patient-provider relationships for African American patients may help reduce disparities in ART adherence and the outcomes associated with improved adherence.

Presentations

   • This presentation features a care engagement program for young black MSM, which is designed to make connections and inroads within the community to support them through the care process. This approach has enjoyed more success than waiting for people to fall out of care and trying to coax them back into care. Webcast features ACCESS AIDS Care in Norfolk, VA.

This presentation seeks to 1) Understand the impact of the HIV epidemic among young black men who have sex with men (MSM); 2) Describe factors associated with disproportionate infection rates, 3) Provide an example of a successful HIV prevention intervention with Black MSM, and 4) Identify important priorities for maintaining the health and wellness of young Black MSM.


- The goal of this webinar is to better understand the challenges to and opportunities for helping black MSM successfully navigate the HIV care continuum from initial HIV diagnosis to achieving viral suppression. This webinar highlights innovative approaches and strategies being implemented by state health departments, clinical providers, researchers, and federal partners in providing HIV care and treatment to black gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men (MSM).


- In this webinar, Michael Mugavero, MD, MHSc, discusses the state of engagement in HIV care in the United States and describes individual and population health implications of HIV care engagement. He also discusses approaches that health centers and HIV/AIDS service organizations can take to measure and improve engagement, drawing from research and his experiences at the University of Alabama Birmingham 1917 Clinic.


- Lawrence Vinson, Liz Salomon, and Molly McHenry of Fenway Health and the Sidney Borum Jr. Health Center present their experiences engaging Boston youth into HIV care and describe how racial justice-focused structural change initiatives can help optimize this work. They also describe how their program builds partnerships with clinicians and case managers at health centers and other community based organizations to help youth navigate the HIV Continuum of Care.