

May 17, 2005

National Housing and HIV/AIDS Research Summit

An Examination of the Role of Housing in the HIV/AIDS Continuum of Care and of Housing Status as a Determinant of Individual and Community Health

Summary

The National AIDS Housing Coalition (NAHC) will convene a small group of leading health, housing, and social service researchers and policy makers to discuss and document existing and proposed research regarding the relationship between housing status and HIV prevention and care. This two-day retreat will provide an unprecedented opportunity for national research and policy experts to share existing data regarding the role of housing as a health care intervention, and to identify gaps in current knowledge and questions to be examined. Key outcomes of the meeting will include the synthesis and dissemination of existing data on housing and health, as well as recommendations and strategies for the translation of research findings into HIV/AIDS health and housing policy and program development.

The Emory Center for AIDS Research (CFAR) will host the NAHC housing and research summit at Emory University's Miller-Ward Alumni House on June 11th and 12th 2005, immediately preceding the 2005 National HIV Prevention Conference, which is being held in Atlanta June 12th through 15th. The annual Prevention Conference is convened by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to bring together public and private organizations whose interaction, cooperation, and coordination are crucial to successful efforts to prevent HIV and AIDS in the United States. Coordinating the housing research summit with the prevention meeting underscores the relation of housing status to HIV prevention and care, and will make it possible for key researchers and policy experts to participate in both.

Significance

Housing is health care. Inadequate housing places vulnerable persons at heightened risk of HIV infection and complicates access to health care for persons living with HIV/AIDS, contributing to negative health outcomes for the individual and the community. Research has revealed strong links between stable housing and health care opportunities, and national and local needs assessments have documented the co-occurrence of HIV/AIDS and homelessness. Indeed, these studies have consistently revealed histories of homelessness among 40% or more of all Americans living with HIV/AIDS. Communities of color are disparately impacted by housing instability as they are by HIV/AIDS, with rates of current or past homelessness of 50% or more among African Americans in some communities; and there is evidence that persons living with HIV and co-occurring mental illness are especially vulnerable to housing loss and homelessness. Significant recent research has shed new light on homelessness and unstable housing as factors that place persons at heightened risk of HIV infection.

The need for accessible data. Despite the important relationship between housing status and health outcomes for persons living with HIV/AIDS, there has been limited published research on the topic and existing studies are not easily accessible to public policy makers, service providers or even other researchers. Substantial data are collected for purposes of HIV program reporting and evaluation, and in the course of the delivery of publicly funded health care, case management and homeless services. There has been limited analysis of this data, however, beyond basic demographic reporting and needs assessments. Moreover, much of the research to date has been conducted locally, for purposes of allocating limited resources and program evaluation. The important research that has been published on housing and HIV care is not easily accessible and therefore has not been widely disseminated. Finally, few researchers have had access to both the data and the skills necessary to evaluate costs and health outcomes; so there has been little work done on issues of cost effectiveness, or to examine the health outcomes associated with change in housing status.

The opportunity presented. The planned summit will provide a timely opportunity to pull together and share what we know and what we need to learn about housing and HIV prevention, housing and quality of life, and housing and access to care. Issues to be examined include how to collect more data and build

into our data collection information on housing costs and outcomes; how to gain access to Medicaid and other administrative data required for a rigorous examination of health outcomes; and the development of strategies for evaluating the individual and community costs of housing instability and loss among persons already living with HIV/AIDS and those at heightened risk.

The summit will also offer a unique opportunity for leading experts to discuss the need for and appropriate focus of continued research to measure the impact of housing resources and related supports on medical treatment access and adherence, and to support the connection between stable housing and improved individual and community health outcomes.

Summit Participants

Leading researchers in the fields of housing and health are working with the NAHC to convene the summit and others have committed their time and resources to the project.

Convening Researchers

Dr. Angela Aidala is a Research Scientist at the Center for Applied Public Health at Columbia University and the Department of Sociomedical Sciences. Dr. Aidala has directed a number of studies addressing housing, homelessness, and housing service issues. She directs the HUD funded Multiple Diagnoses Initiative (MDI), working with housing providers to better understand the reciprocal relationship between housing and health care among persons living with HIV/AIDS who also struggle with mental illness and/or chronic substance abuse problems. She is Co-PI of the Community Health Advisory & Information Network (CHAIN) Project, an ongoing study of persons living with HIV in New York City done in collaboration with the HIV Planning Council and the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. Dr. Aidala is currently a Senior Investigator on the HUD-CDC Housing and Health Study which is a collaboration between federal and local government agencies, community based service providers, and university researchers, to investigate the impact of providing housing on the health and mental health of formerly homeless persons living with HIV/AIDS and their risks of transmitting HIV. She has been a consultant to the Treatment Adherence, Health Outcomes & Cost Study, a federal collaborative project of SAMHSA, HRSA, and NIH, to determine if an integrated service approach improves treatment adherence and better outcomes for multiply diagnosed individuals with HIV. Dr. Aidala has written extensively on the relationship of housing to health, including forthcoming articles examining the relationship of housing status and HIV risk behaviors, and on developing service-enriched housing for multiply-diagnosed people with HIV/AIDS.

Dr. David Holtgrave is Professor of Behavioral Science and Health Education, and Professor of Health Policy and Management in the Rollins School of Public Health at Emory University. There he also serves as the Director of the Behavioral & Social Science Core of the Center for AIDS Research (CFAR). Dr. Holtgrave is a widely-published healthcare economist whose work is focused on the application of methods of cost and cost-utility analysis to the evaluation of the cost effectiveness of health care interventions, including HIV/AIDS systems of care and prevention. His work examines costs savings associated with HIV infections averted and cost-benefit analysis of housing as it bears on health outcomes, individual and community health. Dr. Holtgrave has worked almost exclusively in the field of HIV prevention since 1991, and from 1997 to 2001 he served as the Director of the Division of HIV/AIDS Prevention: Intervention Research and Support in the National Center for HIV, STD and TB Prevention at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta, Georgia. Dr. Holtgrave's research has focused on the effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of a variety of HIV prevention interventions, and the relation of the findings of these studies to HIV prevention policy making. He has worked extensively on HIV prevention community planning, and edited *The Handbook of Economic Evaluation for HIV Prevention Programs* (Plenum Press, 1998), and has been the Principal Investigator on three National Institutes of Health RO1 grants focused on the cost-effectiveness of HIV primary prevention interventions.

Dr. Dennis Culhane is Professor of Social Welfare Policy and Psychology, Senior Fellow of the Leonard Davis Institute of Health Economics and Co-Director of the Cartographic Modeling Lab at the University of Pennsylvania School of Social Work. Dr. Culhane's primary areas of research are homelessness,

housing policy, and policy analysis research methods. His current work includes studies of the impact of homelessness on the utilization of health, corrections and social services in New York City and Philadelphia. He has recently completed studies that model the process of housing abandonment, and that assess the neighborhood effects of assisted housing programs. He is currently leading an effort to integrate property, neighborhood, and human services data from Philadelphia into several geographic information system applications to support policy analysis and program planning and evaluation. He is leading a national effort to standardize homelessness prevalence estimation in cities with automated shelter records. Dr. Culhane and the University of Pennsylvania's Center for Mental Health Policy and Services Research have worked since 1986 in collaboration with public agencies to address the problems of vulnerable adult populations, particularly persons with behavioral health problems, persons who are homeless, and people with HIV/AIDS. Dr. Culhane has developed a national reputation for his methodological expertise in the integration and analysis of large administrative databases in order to track service users longitudinally, and to evaluate major system changes and policy interventions. Dr. Culhane has designed and conducted administrative data merges to examine the overlap among HIV/AIDS, homelessness and mental health diagnoses, and has conducted assessments of the need for housing and related services among persons with HIV/AIDS for the City of Pennsylvania and for New York City and State. Other recent research includes an evaluation of the cost of homelessness versus supportive housing for homeless people with severe mental illness in New York City, and an analysis of the intersection of homelessness and child welfare service involvement in Philadelphia.

Participating Researchers

Other summit participants include Martha Burt, Ph.D., of the Urban Institute's Center on Labor, Human Services and Population; Ernest Drucker, Ph.D., of Montefiore Medical Center/Albert Einstein College of Medicine; Elise Riley, Ph.D., M.P.H., of the San Francisco General Hospital; Marjorie Robertson, Ph.D., of the Public Health Institute in Berkeley; Suzanne Wenzel, Ph.D, of the Rand Corporation; and Gina Wingood, Sc.D., M.P.H., of the Rollins School of Public Health at Emory University.

Public Policy Experts

A number of leading experts on housing policy and health care access will also participate in the summit, including NAHC Board members Arturo Bendixon of the AIDS Foundation of Chicago, Dr. A. Gene Copello of the AIDS Institute, Charles King of Housing Works, Inc, and Gina Quattrochi of Bailey House, Inc.

Goals and Outcomes

The summit will provide an unprecedented forum for a core group of researchers and policy experts to present and discuss existing research, to share information and strategies regarding ongoing and planned research projects, to discuss the policy and program implications of rigorous research, and to examine and discuss disparities in access to care and health outcomes. Immediate goals include the production and dissemination of a white paper by summit participants that summarizes existing research and the results of summit discussions, as well as a proposed research plan that identifies research gaps and proposes a concrete strategy for ongoing work. These documents will serve as a reference for researchers and planners, and will identify gaps in knowledge, outline a common framework for ongoing research, and foster collaboration and effective data collection and analyses. Summit participants will also develop a strategy for the publication of a special journal issue devoted to the examination of housing and HIV prevention and treatment outcomes.

The immediate goal of this working meeting will be to insure that existing research findings and strategies for ongoing data collection and analysis are readily available to policy makers, housing and health providers, and other researchers in the field. Long-term goals include presentation of summit results to interested groups and individuals, and the development of advocacy strategies to promote effective, data-based public policies.

Contacts

The National AIDS Housing Coalition has engaged Hilary Botein and Ginny Shubert from Shubert Botein Policy Associates (SBPA) to help plan, coordinate, and document the summit. Relevant contact information is set out below:

National AIDS Housing Coalition

1518 K Street NW, Suite 410
Washington, DC 20005-1518
T (202) 347-0333
F (202) 347-3411
Nancy Bernstine - Executive Director
nahc@nationalaidshousing.org
Emily Bonifaci - Policy Assistant
emily@nationalaidshousing.org

Shubert Botein Policy Associates

T (718) 852-1072
F (718) 852-0590
Ginny Shubert
gshubert@earthlink.net
Hilary Botein
hbotein@verizon.net

Convening Researchers

Angela Aidala

Center for Applied Public Health, Columbia University
722 W. 168 th St. Suite 1119
New York, NY 10032
T (212) 305-7023
F (212) 305-3702
aaa1@columbia.edu

Dennis Culhane

School of Social Work, University of Pennsylvania
3701 Locust Walk
Philadelphia, PA 19104
T (215) 349-8705
culhane@mail.med.upenn.edu

David Holtgrave

Emory Center for AIDS Research, Rollins School of Public Health, Emory University
1518 Clifton Rd. NE 8th Floor
Atlanta, Georgia 30322
T (404) 727-5401
F (404) 727-9853
dholtgr@sph.emory.edu