



HOUSING: Fact Sheet

Homelessness

- The 2014 point-in-time enumeration, conducted on January 29, 2014, found that 2.3% of homeless adults in Washington, DC were living with HIV (Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, 2014).
- The death rate among homeless HIV-positive persons is five times the death rate among housed HIV-positive persons (National AIDS Housing Coalition, 2005)
- Homelessness is associated with risk factors for HIV transmission. Aidala et al. (2005) found that individuals who were homeless or unstably housed were 2-3 times more likely to exchange sex for a place to stay, money, or drugs as individuals who were stably housed (Aidala, Cross, Stall, Harre, & Sumartojo, 2005).
- Homelessness and unstable housing is also linked to poorer health outcomes, specifically, high viral load and avoidable hospital/emergency room visits (The National AIDS Housing Coalition, 2013).

Affordable Housing and Housing Services

- Between 2000-2010, Washington, DC lost half of its low-cost apartments, defined as rent and utilities under \$750/month. Further, in Washington, DC 1 in 5 households spend more than 50% of their monthly income toward housing (Reed, 2012).
- 145,000 households affected by HIV have a need for housing support that the Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) program is currently unable to meet (The National AIDS Housing Coalition, 2013).
- A study conducted in New York City with 1,661 PLWHA between 1994 and 2006 found that individuals who were not in medical care, but received housing assistance were two times more likely to enter into medical care than those who did not receive housing assistance (Aidala, Lee, Abramson, Messeri, & Siegler, 2007).
- Additionally, stable housing is linked to retention in medical care for PLWHA (Delaware HIV Consortium, 2012).
- Providing housing assistance to PLWHA can be a cost-effective intervention as it can reduce medical costs for PLWHA and reduce transmission to those currently not infected (National AIDS Housing Coalition, 2012).



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