

Engaging Community Organizations in Academic Research Partnerships Addressing HIV/AIDS

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Christie's Place

Transforming lives since 1996™



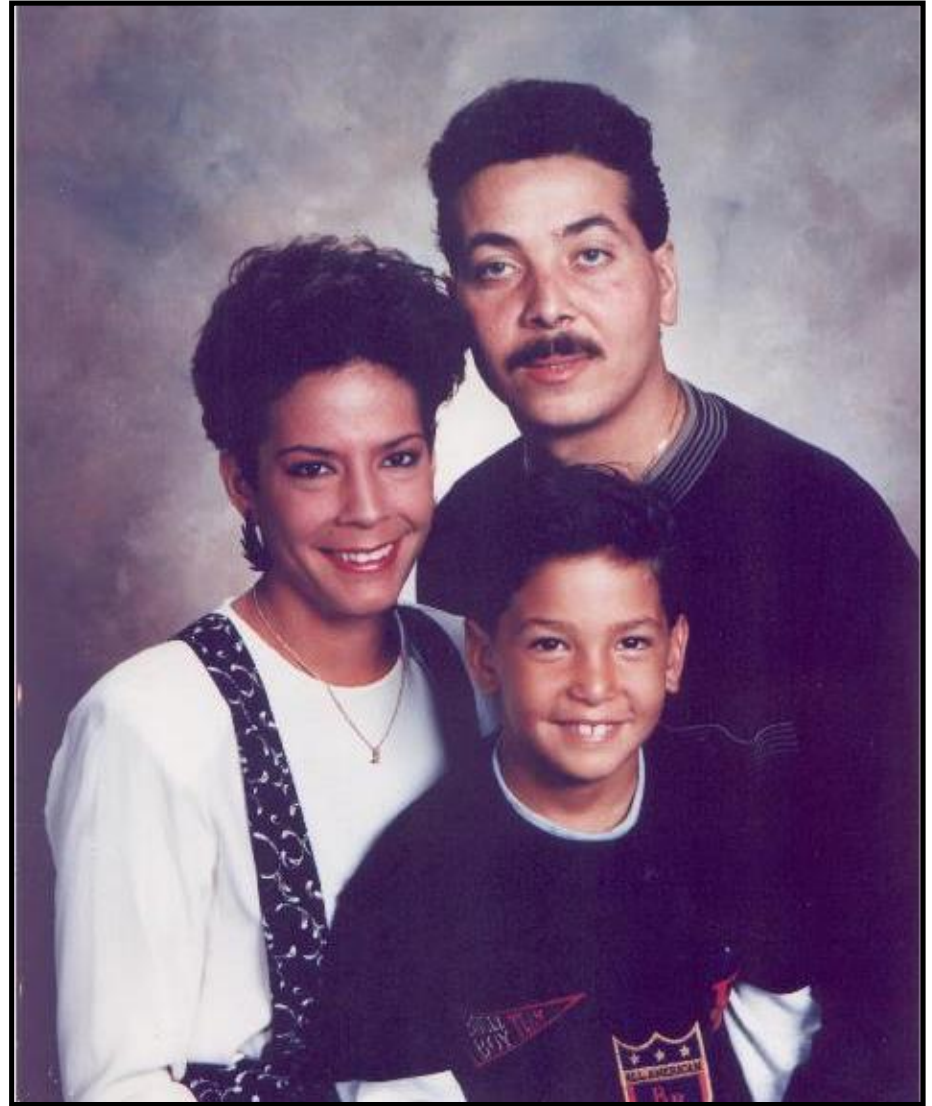
Strengthening the health and resilience of women, children and families impacted by HIV/AIDS

Who We Are

Situated within a social justice framework, Christie's Place is a leading nonprofit community based organization in San Diego County that provides comprehensive HIV/AIDS education, support, and advocacy.

Our mission is to empower women, children, and families whose lives have been impacted by HIV/AIDS to take charge of their health and wellness.

Legacy of Hope



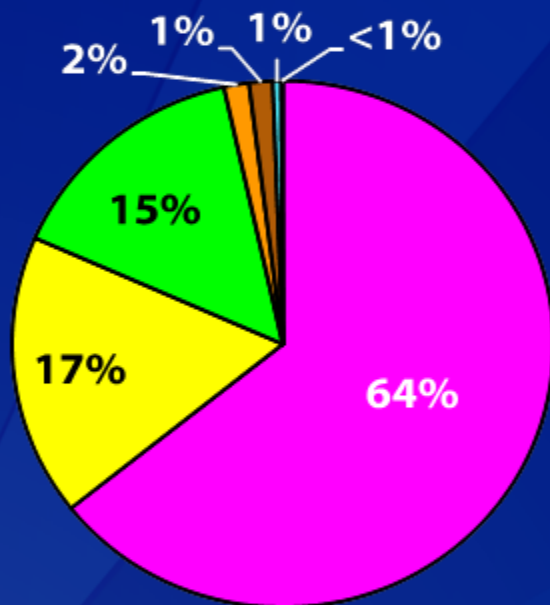
HIV/AIDS in the United States

- At the end of 2010, an estimated **1.1 million** persons were living with HIV infection in the United States, including an **estimated 16-20%** of persons whose infections had not been diagnosed.
- One in four persons living with HIV (**25%**) are women.
- Women made up **20%** of new HIV infections in the US in 2010.
 - 84% of these new infections were attributed to heterosexual contact

Diagnoses of HIV Infection and Population among Adult and Adolescent Females, by Race/Ethnicity 2011—United States

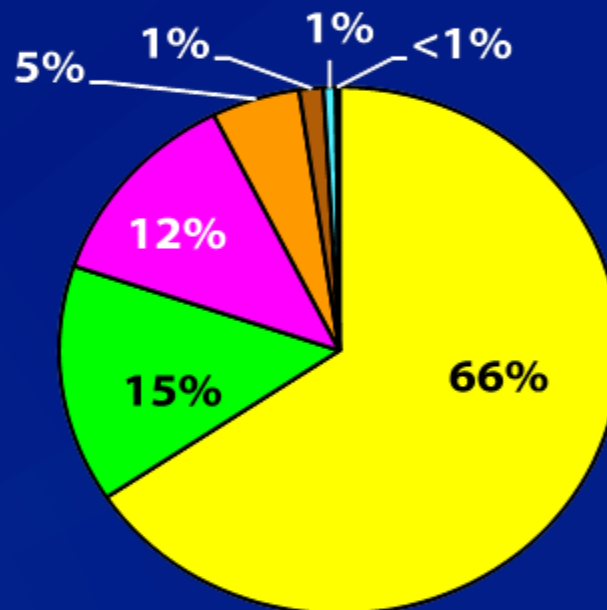
Diagnoses of HIV Infection

N=10,257



Female Population

N = 132,402,857



■ American Indian/Alaska Native
■ Asian
■ Black/African American

■ Hispanic/Latino^a
■ Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander
■ White

■ Multiple races

Note. Data include persons with a diagnosis of HIV infection regardless of stage of disease at diagnosis. All displayed data have been statistically adjusted to account for reporting delays, but not for incomplete reporting.

^a Hispanics/Latinos can be of any race.



Unique Issues Affecting Women Living with HIV/AIDS

Examples of Barriers to Care for Women

Societal conditions	Cultural view pertaining to health and wellness/psychosocial issues
Language barriers & immigration status	Economic/financial status
Intimate partner violence/domestic violence	Concerns regarding confidentiality and mistrust of the “system”
Behavioral health issues	Lack of basic needs (childcare, transportation, food)
Attitudes held by women that cause them to place their own needs last	Difficulty in accepting HIV/AIDS diagnosis

Trauma and Women Living with HIV

Trauma and PTSD impact HIV-positive women at disproportionate rates when compared to the general population of women

- Rate of recent PTSD is **30%** (5X rate recent PTSD in general population)
- Rate of intimate partner violence experienced by HIV-positive women is **55.3%** (more than 2X the national rate among women)
- Childhood sexual abuse occurs at an estimated rate of **39.3%** and childhood physical abuse at an estimated rate of **42.7%** (2X the national rate among women)
- Rate of lifetime sexual abuse **61.1%**
- Rate of lifetime physical abuse **72.1%**
- Lifetime trauma rate **71.8%**.

Trauma and Women Living with HIV

- **Trauma and PTSD predict poorer HIV-related health outcomes such as:**
 - Poor health-related quality of life
 - Higher rates of medication non-adherence and anti-retroviral failure
 - Higher mortality rates
 - Higher rates of transmission-risk behaviors

Christie's Place Behavioral Health Screening Data

IPV (Current or in Past Year)	27% (N=108)
Sexual Assault	44% (N=108)
Depression	66% (N=100)
Anxiety	40% (N=100)
PTSD	47% (N=100)
Alcohol	19% (N=100)
Drugs	31% (N=100)

Life Event Experience	N	% Patients (N) Reporting Witnessing Event at Baseline	% Clients (N) Reporting Experiencing Event at Baseline	% Clients (N) Reporting Witnessed and/or experienced Event at Baseline
Natural Disaster	48	8.3% (4)	31.3% (15)	37.5% (18)
Fire/Explosion	47	21.3% (10)	8.5% (4)	27.7% (13)
Transportation Accident	48	8.3% (4)	56.3% (27)	58.3% (28)
Serious Accident	48	8.3% (4)	22.9% (11)	29.2% (14)
Toxic Exposure	47	2.1% (1)	12.8% (6)	12.8% (6)
Physical Assault	48	12.5% (6)	56.3% (27)	62.5% (30)
Assault with a Weapon	48	6.3% (3)	43.8% (21)	45.8% (22)
Sexual Assault	47	12.8% (6)	55.3% (26)	57.4% (27)
Unwanted Sexual Experience	45	2.2% (1)	51.1% (23)	51.1% (23)
War/Combat	47	2.1% (1)	2.1% (1)	4.3% (2)
Captivity	48	4.2% (2)	25.0% (12)	27.1% (13)
Life-threatening Illness/Injury	47	8.5% (4)	55.3% (26)	59.6% (28)
Human Suffer	47	8.5% (4)	31.9% (15)	38.3% (18)
Violent Death	47	17.0% (8)	23.4% (11)	40.4% (19)
Unexpected Death of Someone Close	47	6.4% (3)	63.8% (30)	66.0% (31)
Caused Serious Injury or Harm	48	2.1% (1)	10.4% (5)	12.5% (6)
Other Events	47	4.3% (2)	42.6% (20)	42.6% (20)

HIV Acquisition in Older Women

- Older women are not targeted by education and prevention messages
- Many older women are newly single by divorce or death of spouse
- Some older women practice “self-silencing” of their thoughts and feelings about their sexual behaviors to avoid confrontation and conflict, which compromises condom negotiation skills and safe sex practices
- Societal norms may suggest that older women do not have sex, which may be a barrier to HIV testing and discussion around risk behaviors
- Women >50 years of age may view condom use a means to prevent pregnancy only – not as a way to prevent HIV transmission

Women Living with HIV San Diego

- 2012 HIV/AIDS Epidemiology Report:
 - 10% of HIV cases
 - 10% of recent AIDS cases
 - 60% of Latinas living with HIV and 63% with AIDS are foreign born
- 2012 AIDS in Women Report:
 - Proportion of women of color living with AIDS is significantly larger than that seen in male cases

Local Challenges

- In 2010, 69% of women living with HIV who knew their status were not accessing medical care
- San Diego is the 2nd largest county in CA
 - 4,200 square miles
 - Includes City of SD (8th largest city in country)
 - Borders Mexico (TJ is most active international border)
- No county hospital – rely on community clinics and UCSD
- Scarcity of support services for women and their family members
 - Transportation, food, etc.
- Immigration/legal status
- MSM EMA, as such services tend to focus on men
 - Overall lack of family and women centered care and competency
- Women generally isolated from local HIV agencies and/or uncomfortable accessing care at traditional service locations



San Diego Client Profile

- Heterosexually infected
- Woman of color
- Child bearing age
- Low-income or poor
- Low education level
- Single parent or head of household
- Two or more children
- Unemployment or lack of occupation
- Relationship discord or domestic violence
- Trauma or abuse during childhood
- Low self-esteem or mental illness (depression or anxiety)
- Substance abuse or partner with this problem
- Chaotic home life

**Gender-Responsive,
Trauma-Informed
Practices for Linkage and
Retention in Care**

Gender-Responsive, Trauma-Informed Care from a Social Justice Perspective

"Social ideals of equality cannot be pursued in relations that promote inequality. The way we do things is not just a means to an end, but an end in itself."

Continuum of Services*

Clinical Services

- **Medical Case Management**
- **Peer/Patient Navigation**
- **Mental Health Services**
(groups, individual, couples & family counseling)
- Drug & Alcohol Outpatient Counseling
- HIV Counseling & Testing
(*Expanded HIV Testing in Healthcare Settings & Early Test*)

Supportive Services

- ADAP, OA-HIPP, Covered CA and Medical Enrollment
- Adult & Infant Hygiene Products
- Afternoon TEA/Mesa Redonda
- **Childcare/Babysitting**
- Children's & Families Social & Recreational Activities
- Clothing
- Complementary (Holistic) Therapies
- Computer Lab
- **Early Intervention/Coordinated Services Center**
- Food
- Health Education
- Health Insurance Screening, Referral & Enrollment Assistance
- Information & Referral
- **Outreach**
- **Partner Services**
- Support Groups
- **Transportation Assistance**
- Treatment Information, Education & Adherence Support

Empowerment & Leadership Development Services

- Transformations -**
The Sisterhood Project
- Educational Workshops/Trainings
 - Mujeres
 - Nubian Queens
 - Project *SPEAK* Up!
 - Lotus Project
 - Women's Empowerment Retreat:
Dancing with Hope
 - Annual Women's Conference:
A Woman's Voice
 - National Women & AIDS Collective
 - 30 for 30 Campaign
 - AIDS United Public Policy Committee
 - California HIV Alliance
 - Positive Women's Network -USA Ally

**All services are bilingual English/Spanish.*

Key Approaches

- Environment
- Providers & partner organizations
- Integrated service delivery
- Collaborative care
- Provision of women and family-centered facilitative supportive services
- Peer services
- Strength-based case management, mental health counseling and substance abuse counseling
- Empowerment resources and meaningful participation of women living with HIV/AIDS

Environment

- Physical Location
 - Accessible location
 - Family-centered space
 - Safety
- Ambience
 - Staffing
 - Respect
 - Informed consent
 - Confidentiality and privacy
 - Safety
 - Inclusion
 - Language



Integrated Service Delivery

- Integrating HIV-related services with other services commonly used and needed by women results in reaching greater numbers of women
- Offers care in environments in which women are already comfortable
- Addresses barrier of insufficient time and resources to attend to HIV-related appointments
- Reduces the number of appointments a woman has to keep to maintain her health
- Linking HIV-related clinical and case management services to other social and health care services women already use also removes barriers by saving time and money (childcare and transportation costs)

Women-Centered Facilitative Supportive Services

- **Facilitative, wrap-around, supportive services are essential**
 - **Transportation resources/assistance**
 - **Childcare**
 - **Housing stability**
 - **Adequate nutrition**
 - **Legal services/assistance**
 - **Psychosocial services**
 - **Peer-based support**
 - **Education**
 - **System navigation assistance**

Research Portfolio

- Implementation of an Evidence Based PTSD Treatment in Public Sector Settings (VA/NIMH)
- The Role of Peer Navigators and Social Support in the HIV Care Continuum: Perceptions of HIV-Positive Women (UCSD CTRI)
- Using Intervention Mapping to Develop a Cervical Cancer Intervention for Women Living with HIV in San Diego (SDSU/UCSD Cancer Center Comprehensive Partnership)
- Maternal HIV: Multisite Trial to Assist Disclosure to Children (UCLA)
- Multimodal Interventions to Improve Adherence to Oral Tenofovir/Emtricitabine (TDF/FTC) as Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis in Women in Southern California (UCSD/UCLA)
- Contraceptive Use in Women Living with HIV (UCSD)
- Enhanced Peer Navigation to Improve HIV Care for Women (EmPower Women) (UCSD)

Strengthening the Health and Resilience of Families Impacted by HIV/AIDS



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For More Information

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