

The National Health Care for the Homeless (HCH) Council is a nonprofit membership organization that represents the HCH grantee community and others with a commitment to breaking the deadly links between poor health and homelessness. Through a National Cooperative Agreement (NCA) with HRSA, overseen by the Office of Special Population Health, the Council provides training and technical assistance to Health Centers that serve persons experiencing homelessness. This includes national and regional conferences, peer-to-peer supportive site visits, development of adapted clinical guidelines, newsletters and other publications, and research support. It also supports formal collaborations with other organizations, including HealthHIV, an HIV/AIDS Bureau NCA grantee.

Background: HIV infection and homelessness co-occur at alarming rates. Risk factors for both conditions include sexual violence, IV drug use, mental illness, cognitive delay, and participation in commercial and/or survival sex. Infection rates among homeless persons range from 3% to 21%, depending on the population served (compare to 1% in general population). 17% to 70% of people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWH) report having experienced homelessness or housing instability. The death rate for homeless PLWH is 7 to 9 times higher than for housed PLWH.

General Resources: Many of the resources developed or collected by the National HCH Council are highly pertinent to work to prevent and treat HIV infection, including materials on topics such as outreach and motivational interviewing. These are available at www.nhchc.org.

HIV-specific Resources:

- Trainings on integration of HIV care into primary care, conducted at Regional HCH Trainings and at the National HCH Conference [May 2012, Kansas City] by Health HIV
<http://www.nhchc.org/learning.html>
- Adapting Your Practice: *Treatment & Recommendations for the Care of Homeless Patients with HIV/AIDS* (2008) <http://www.nhchc.org/HIVguide2008.pdf>
- *Healing Hands* newsletter of the HCH Clinicians' Network (Dec 2006) Homeless People at Higher Risk for CA-MRSA, HIV & TB
<http://www.nhchc.org/Network/HealingHands/2006/Dec2006HealingHands.pdf>
- Case Report: *Comorbid TB and HIV in a Chronically Homeless Male: Social Isolation Compounds Stress of Medical Confinement* (2006)
<http://www.nhchc.org/CaseReports/CA08CaseReportTBHIV.pdf>
- HIV/AIDS Chapter from *The Health Care of Homeless Persons*
http://www.nhchc.org/HIV_AIDS.pdf
- Technical Assistance to Health Center grantees, individualized on an as-needed basis. Request form: <http://www.nhchc.org/trainingrequest.html>
- Additional tools and resources on HIV are available at
<http://www.nhchc.org/clinicalresources/HIV.html>

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