Report on SF HIV+ Aging Community and Housing

By Jorge Rodriguez-February 6, 2013

1) How many people with AIDS in SF are homeless or inadequately housed? How many are seniors?

According to an 8/29/2012 SF Chronicle article by Kevin Fagan (kfagan@sfchronicle.com) there were 500 homeless seniors in San Francisco and 8,000 seniors living in Single Room Occupancy Hotels.

The Center for AIDS Prevention Studies reports overall HIV prevalence of 10.5% for currently homeless and marginally housed adults, which is five times higher than that of the general San Francisco population.

2) What do studies say about the life expectancy of people with AIDS who are homeless? What about those who are inadequately housed?

According to the National AIDS Housing Coalition Housing status is one of the strongest predictors of health outcomes for People Living With HIV AIDS: lack of housing is a barrier to care, while increased housing stability enables PLWHA to obtain and adhere to life-saving medical care and antiretroviral therapy.

Sandra Schwarz at SF DPH published a study in 2009 Impact of housing on the survival of persons with AIDS that concludes Supportive housing ameliorates the negative effect of homelessness on survival with AIDS.

3) What percentage of their case load are seniors?

64% of SFAF rental assistance participants are over 50 years old…18% are over 60 years old.

4) How many AIDS organizations help seniors with AIDS find housing?

Housing search assistance is sometimes provided by medical case managers at DPH Centers of Excellence. AIDS Housing Alliance may assist with housing search. SFAF provides housing search assistance to participants in their rental assistance programs. They also help with rent deposits and subsidize the rent. If the client moves to a higher priced rental, they do adjust the subsidy.

5) How many nonprofits and other programs help seniors with AIDS find housing?

Seniors with HIV receive housing search assistance either through their medical case manager (if they have one), senior services like Self-Help for the Elderly, Open House, Independent Living Resource Center, low income programs like Tenderloin Housing
Clinic, or HIV programs like AIDS Housing Alliance. I am not aware of AIDS housing programs that target seniors, or senior housing organizations that target PLWHA. To some extent senior housing programs and AIDS housing programs both serve San Francisco seniors living with HIV/AIDS.

6) What resources in the city are available for LGBT seniors with AIDS?

Castro Senior Center, though not HIV specific, prioritizes creating community for LGBT seniors. Alliance Health Project continues to facilitate a long term survivor support group for PLWHA. LGBT Community Partnership hosts occasional events relevant to LGBT seniors and persons with disabilities. Open House runs friendly visitor program for LGBT seniors.

7) How much housing is being built specifically for people with AIDS? Is any of it for seniors?

Bridge-According to Ms. Laura Sao Pedro, Program Director @ BRIDGE the currently has 12 units set-aside for HOPWA (Housing Opportunities for Persons with HIV/AIDS) in their portfolio. These are at our One Church Street Apartments in San Francisco and the households living at One Church Street have access to on-site social services to ensure that they are connected to community resources and that their needs are met so they can live independently for as long as they should choose. It is likely that they several other families living with HIV/AIDS in our communities, unfortunately this is not something Bridge their residents to share with. So it is hard to track the exact number. HIV+ persons and gay seniors may qualify also, if they hold a Section 8 Voucher.


Mercy Housing-20% of their tenants is seniors. 9% of our residents are people with special needs (people with HIV/AIDS, formerly homeless individuals and people with physical and mental impairments)

Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center:

Amy Beinart Housing Director @ Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center: “they and its housing affiliates do have some affordable units that are designated for people with HIV (along with income and other qualifying criteria). These include 5 bedrooms in a shared two-unit building and nine and seven units in two other buildings”

Agencies working with HIV+ persons

The MNHC HIV clinics has 64 aging (55 plus) HIV+ patients among its 400 clientele. They are a diverse group of patients, white, blacks and Latinos, mainly male, mainly gay. We did not encounter homelessness among these 64 patients. But other issues like former evictions, high rentals or being homeless at certain point were not recorded. The CM area of the HIV clinic helps new immigrants and residents with issues related to housing. Directing clients to other agencies such as SFAF and AEF that provides help with rentals deposit and first month rent. Many clients do share housing with other gay men. Some live in SRO or low income units.

Resource Center-MNHC-as most of you know, MNHC do have day service facility for homeless on 160 Capp Street. I met with Laura Guzmán and she is also willing to set up a focus group along with Ricardo Newball CM. He thinks they have 10-12 cases of homeless identified as GLBT. Laura advanced me that she is developing a new facility on Dolores Street (formerly Dolores Street Services) and that it would target mainly GLBT. There will be 25 beds dedicated to the LGBT community and it will include some beds that are gender unspecific.

AIDS Emergency Fund-they could provide some data but it was not ready as of this date.

Many other agencies were contacted. Many did not answer. Others answered but did not supply the information. The major obstacle that I found is that in some agencies the sexual orientation of the person is not yet recorded.

**Updated March 12, 2013**

Information provided by Brian Bassinger –AIDS Housing Alliance

For the Board of Supervisors LGBT Senior Task Force, here's the requested info on the folks at AHA who are either homeless or at risk of homelessness and who are LGBT-identified and who are 55+ and 62+.

1) 22.5% of total people they serve are 55+
2) 6% are 62+

Of these seniors and older adults who are homeless or at-risk:

3) 95.5% are male identified
4) 3.2% are female identified
5) 1.3% are transgender (MTF)
6) 87.8% are gay
7) 0.5% are lesbian
8) 11.7% are bisexual
9) 61% are White
10) 17% are black
11) 2.6% are API
12) 3.1% are First Nation
13) 14.4% are Mixed Race/Other
14) 18.9% are Hispanic/Latino ethnicity.

AIDS Emergency Fund:

Of a total clientele of 2,020 persons, 886 are on the AIDS stage of the disease for a 44% and 1,134 are HIV Disable for a 56%

1-Age

50-59 y/o - 611 clients for a 30%

60-64 y/o- 136 clients for a 7%

65-y/o and over- 64 clients for a 3.5%

2-Sexual Orientation

Bisexual - 226 clients for a 12%

Gay- 1,111 for a 55%

Lesbian - 9 or 0005%

Transgender- 0

3-Race

African American- 582 clients for a 29%

Asian Pacific Islander- 76 clients for a 4%

White- 870 clients for a 43%

Latino 425 clients for a 21%
AEF Statistics:

Housing:

Emergency Housing-not shelter- 129 clients for a 7%
Halfway house/drug ETOH Prog- 64 clients for a 3.2%
In a hospital or institution- 33 clients for a 0.17%
Incarcerated 1 client for a 0.004%
Living with a friend, rel. 71 clients for a 3.5%
Renting a room at a house 360 clients for an 18%
In a shelter 13 clients for a 0.064%
Living in a hotel 321 clients for a 16%
Homeless 60 clients 0.29%
Transitional Housing 26 clients for a 0.12%

Of the 2,020 AEF clients, 443 lives with someone while 1,557 lives alone

Agencies contacted:

San Francisco AIDS Foundation- excellent report from Bobby Fischer
MNHC-Resource Center for Homeless-Good feedback from Laura Guzman-
MNHC-Clinica Esperanza (HIV) -good report from Michael Hoffman
AIDS Emergency Report (waiting on report from Lee Harrington)
Housing Coalition on AIDS (very good report from Brian Basinger)
AEF (very good statistics provided by Lee Harrington)

No Response:

HIV Ward 86 SFGH-
MNHC-Hermanos de Luna y Sol

AIDS Office SFDH

National Housing Alliance

Instituto Familiar de la Raza (answered and informed they did not have the data)

Aguilas