

The Hidden Bars of the HIV Health Care Continuum: A Fish Bowl Exercise

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The Women's Collective



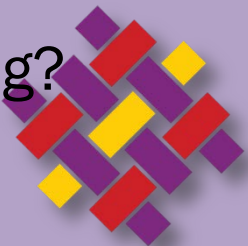
Agenda

- Introductions & Expectations
 - Who is The Women's Collective (TWC)?
- National HIV/AIDS Strategy and the HIV Care Continuum
- What are the “Hidden Bars” of the HIV Care Continuum for Women?
 - What can we do: TWC's Approach?
 - Discussion/Fishbowl



Objectives

- What are the hidden bars of the HIV health care continuum?
 - How do social determinants impact health outcomes among women living with HIV?
- How can we successfully address the hidden bars of the HIV care continuum?
 - What are the opportunities and challenges for utilizing socio-economic determinants to inform the development of various tool-kits and models for dealing barriers to engagement and retention in care?
 - What conclusions, can we as a group identify? How an these conclusions be distilled into materials that facilitate on-going conversations and model-building?



How does the fishbowl work?

- 5 chairs are in the inner circle. This is the fishbowl.
- Remaining chairs outside the fishbowl.
- All chairs but one in fishbowl are filled. So, there is one empty chair in the fishbowl.
 - Remaining participants sit outside fishbowl.
- The moderator introduces the topic and the fish bowl discusses the topic. The audience outside the fishbowl listen in on the discussion.
- Any member of the audience can, at any time, occupy the empty chair and join the fishbowl. When this happens, an existing member of the fishbowl must voluntarily leave the fishbowl and free a chair.





“Founded by women for women...”

The mission of The Women’s Collective (TWC) is to meet the self-defined needs of women, girls and their families living with or at-risk for HIV/AIDS, reduce barriers to care and strengthen their network of support and services. As a Washington DC-based nonprofit organization led by women with HIV and their allies/advocates.



Founder/Executive
Director, Patricia Nalls



services provided

- Medical Case Management Services
 - Prevention With Positives Programs
 - Support Groups
- Counseling, Testing, and Referral Services
 - Family and Social Activities
 - Community Kitchen & Pantry
 - The Tiffany Fund
 - Youth Groups



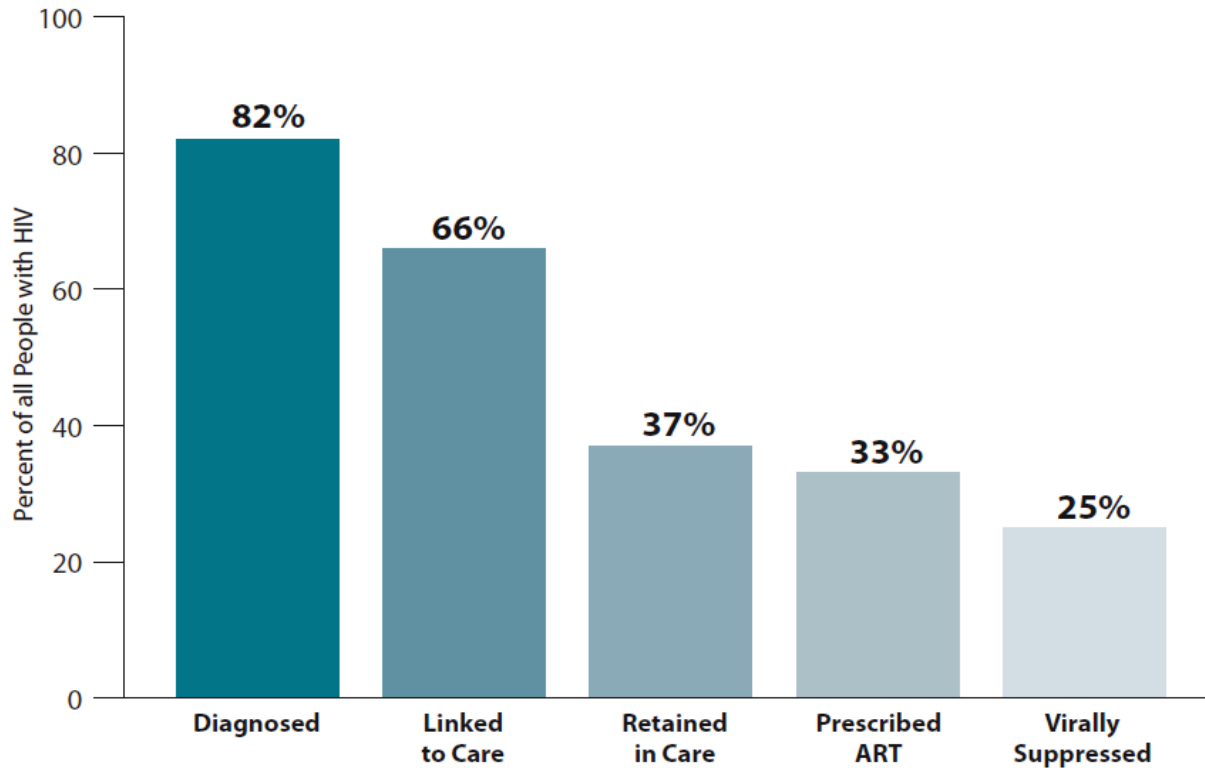
National HIV/AIDS Strategy (NHAS) and the HIV Care Continuum

- Released in 2010, NHAS attempts to provide a comprehensive plan to address HIV/AIDS in the United States
- NHAS has 3 overarching goals:
 - Reduce new HIV infections
 - Increase access to care & improve health outcomes for people living with HIV
 - Reduce HIV-related health disparities
- The HIV Care Continuum is a crucial tool towards achieving these goals



HIV Care Continuum

OVERALL: Of the 1.1 million Americans living with HIV, only 25 percent are virally suppressed.



U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

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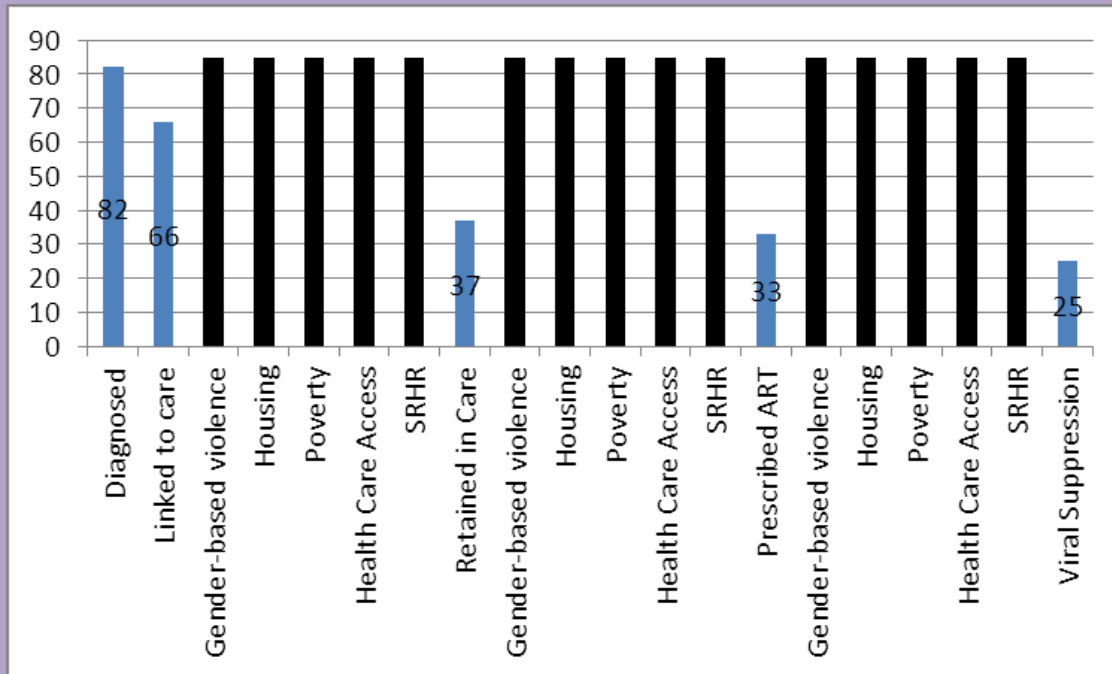


What Can We Do With the HIV Care Continuum?

- There are significant gaps between each stage in the continuum, preventing the majority of people living with HIV to reach the goal of viral suppression.
- To address these gaps the HIV Care Continuum Initiative calls for:
 - Coordinated action and further integration of HIV prevention and care efforts;
 - Mobilization of Federal efforts in line with the recent biomedical advances.
 - Expansion of successful HIV testing and service delivery models;
 - Innovative approaches to addressing barriers to accessing testing and treatment;
 - Implementing evidence-based interventions and scientifically proven approaches to combatting HIV.



TWC has observed that there are “hidden bars” impacting women at each stage of the care continuum.



What are the bars?

- Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights
- Housing
- Gender-based Violence
- Poverty and Income Based Disparities
- Health care access



How Do These “Hidden Bars” Impact Health Outcomes?

- Housing
 - “The shelters were overcrowded and were no longer accepting me because of my HIV status. At that time, you couldn’t be on a lot of medicines and be able to stay in the shelters. Stable housing allowed me to be independent, go back to school, and start a new paragraph in my life and be able to get some education. My CD4 count was at a like a 2 and I was hospitalized before I came to the shelter.”
- Gender-based Violence
 - The risk of HIV infection among women who have experienced violence is up to 3 times greater than for women who have not been abused (Global Health Council, 2006).





- A *self-driven* advocacy group made up of women living with HIV/AIDS that is organized by The Women's Collective.

PLUS...

- Brings the voices of women living with HIV/AIDS to decision-making tables and broader communities
- Works to reduce the role of all forms of violence against women in the spread of HIV/AIDS
- Works in collaboration with advocates and organizations to ensure the protection of HIV+ women's human rights
- Educate communities about housing, jobs, health, education and safety as tools for prevention and support
- Continuously improves their advocacy skills through trainings, volunteering and networking.



PLUS Members Are ...

- Women living with HIV who want to ...
 - protect their rights and the rights of other HIV positive women
 - widen access to jobs, housing, health services, safety and education for themselves and their communities
 - ensure that women living with HIV have a voice in the decision making process to policies and programs that affect various aspects of their lives



How?

- Engage in local and national advocacy opportunities, trainings and workshops
- Participate in PLUS meetings
- PLUS members initiate advocacy efforts on their own and with the assistance of TWC
- PLUS Newsletter: a medium for members to write articles on issues of interest and highlight members' accomplishments



PLUS Activities

- Ryan white Part A Planning Council
- Fair Budget Coalition
- DC Coalition against Domestic Violence
- FAPP /Ryan white work group
- Conferences – Service to Justice, USCA , Stigma
- AIDS United Policy Group
- Common Threads
- Fighting for Our Lives
- Big Sista



Quotes from PLUS Advocates

- “PLUS allows us to help other women who are HIV positive...”
- “PLUS has taken me from seeking supporting services at a provider level to fighting for resources of funding by contacting elected officials.”
- “PLUS added to my self-esteem as a woman living HIV...and encouraged me to fight for more funding for programs and policies that support HIV positive women.”



Contact US

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