

HIV and Aging: Policy Issues/Policy Action

ADDRESSING THE NEEDS OF PEOPLE AGING WITH HIV, LONG-TERM, AND
LIFE-TIME SURVIVORS

PACHA FULL COUNCIL MEETING

DECEMBER 6, 2023

RONALD JOHNSON

U.S. PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV CAUCUS





HIV & Aging Context

- In 2021, persons 50 years and older accounted for over 53% of all people living with HIV in the United States.
- In 2021, persons 50 years and older accounted for 16.4% of all HIV diagnoses among persons aged ≥ 13 years.
- By 2030, up to 70% of people living with HIV will be 50 years or older

Source: [Volume 34 | HIV Surveillance | Reports | Resource Library | HIV/AIDS | CDC](#)

Image source: [Ageing with HIV \(ght.org.uk\)](https://ght.org.uk)

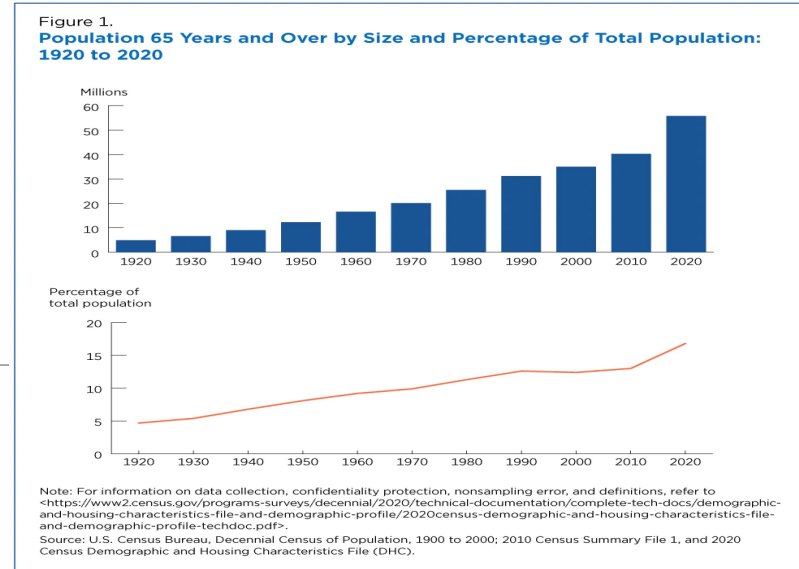
HIV & Aging Context

- Population of long-term survivors who are under 50 years of age
- Population of lifetime survivors

HIV & Aging Context

Overall aging of the U.S. population

- Population of people 50 years and older in the U.S. is increasing steadily and is expected to increase beyond 2030
- People aged 65 and older represented 17% of the population in the year 2020 but are expected to grow to be 22% of the population by 2040.



Source: [2021 Profile of Older Americans \(acl.gov\)](https://acl.gov/2021-profile-of-older-americans)

Image source: <https://www.census.gov/library/stories/2023/05/2020-census-united-states-older-population-grew.html>

HIV and Aging Policy



Goal:

To enable people living with HIV who are 50 years and older, long-term HIV survivors, and lifetime survivors to maintain good physical, mental, and sexual health and quality of life.

Increased focus on HIV and aging over past four years

- We currently know a great deal about HIV & aging and about the needs of older adults living with HIV and long-term survivors
- Policy papers and briefs
- Listening sessions with people aging with HIV
- Increased advocacy on HIV & aging and on behalf of older adults living with HIV and HIV long-term survivors

Challenges faced by people aging with HIV: policy issues

- Difficulties in accessing and managing comprehensive and integrated health care
- Transition to Medicare and integrating Medicare with private health insurance and Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program
- Need for mental health programs and substance and alcohol use treatment programs
- Need for housing, food and nutrition, employment, and other socioeconomic support services
- Impact of COVID-19 and mpox
- **Need for long-term care**
- **Need for programs that address loneliness and social isolation**
- Need to dismantle stigma and discrimination, including addressing ageism.
- Need to strengthen workforce: integrating HIV knowledge and training and geriatric care

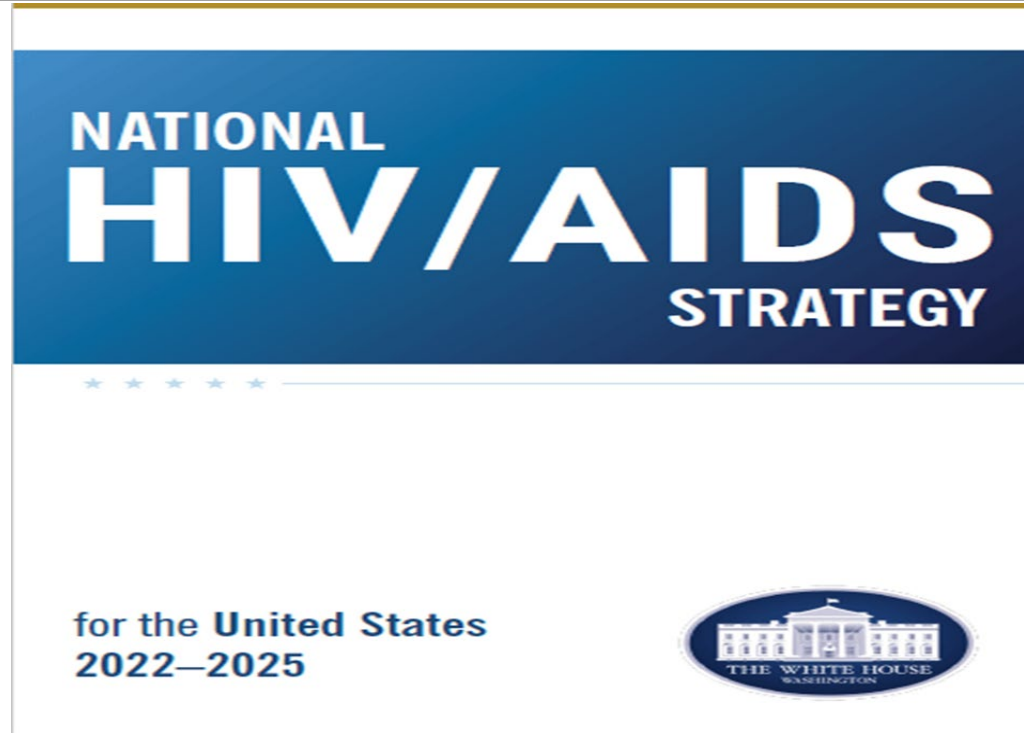
Challenges faced by people aging with with HIV

Many of the medical problems now faced by people living with HIV have more to do with aging than with HIV-related illnesses.

Source: [Aging and HIV | The Well Project](#)

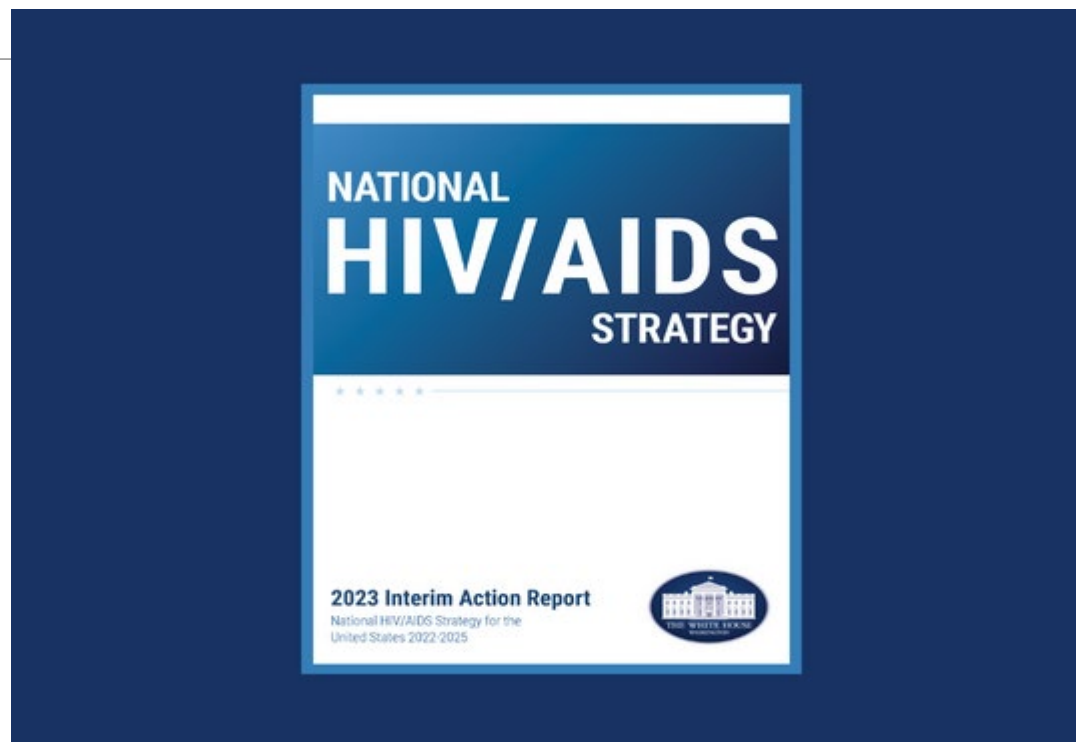


Federal response to HIV and aging



Objective 2.5: Expand capacity to provide **whole-person care to older adults with HIV and long-term survivors**

Federal response to HIV and aging



National HIV/AIDS Strategy 2023 Interim Action Report

Federal response to HIV and aging: Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program

Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program Fast Facts: Older Adult Clients

47.9%

OF ALL
RWHAP
CLIENTS
ARE AGED 50+



59.2%

LIVE AT
OR BELOW
100% of the
Federal Poverty Level



92.9%

ARE VIRALLY
SUPRESSED



3.6%

EXPERIENCE
UNSTABLE
HOUSING



Federal response to HIV and aging: Older Americans Act



*...assures that preference will be given to providing services to older individuals with **greatest economic need** and older individuals with **greatest social need** with **particular attention to low-income older individuals**, including **low-income minority older individuals**, older individuals with **limited English proficiency**, and older individuals residing in **rural areas**.*

Source: Edwin Walker, Dep. Assistant Secretary, Admin. On Aging, Dec. 2, 2021

Image source: [Older Americans Act \(nicoa.org\)](https://nicoa.org)

Federal response to HIV and aging: Older Americans Act

Administration for Community Living, Administration on Aging

- [New State Plan Guidance](#) issued August 2021
- Encouraged states to take a broad approach to ensuring services are reaching older adults in greatest social need in line with recent EOs by President Biden (e.g., LGBTQ+)
- **Requires states to include in future state plans how they are serving older adults living with HIV/AIDS**

Federal response to HIV and aging: Older Americans Act

Administration for Community Living, Administration on Aging

Proposed Update to Older Americans Act Program Regulations

First significant update for most programs since 1988

- State plans must include people living with HIV in their definition of populations in greatest economic and social need
- State plans must include a description of how greatest economic and social need is being addressed

Challenges faced by people aging with HIV: policy issues

- Difficulties in accessing and managing comprehensive and integrated health care
- Transition to Medicare and integrating Medicare with private health insurance and Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program
- Need for mental health programs and substance and alcohol use treatment programs
- Need for housing, food and nutrition, employment, and other socioeconomic support services
- Impact of COVID-19 and mpox
- **Need for long-term care**
- **Need for programs that address loneliness and social isolation**
- Need to dismantle stigma and discrimination, including addressing ageism.
- Need to strengthen workforce: integrating HIV knowledge and training and geriatric care

Policy issues require policy action

To enable people living with HIV who are 50 years and older, long-term HIV survivors, and life-long survivors to maintain good physical, mental, and sexual health and quality of life.

Recommendations for Aging with HIV, and Long-Term & Life-Term Survivors Subcommittee

Work with the administration and engage meaningfully with the HIV community to:

- Foster and support the development of models of comprehensive, integrated health care for people aging with HIV with benchmarks to improve the quality of care.
- Broaden the support for social services for people aging with HIV, with an emphasis for programs that support social connections for older adults living with HIV to lessen social isolation and loneliness.
- Foster and support the development of models for long-term care, including models for home-based long-term care.
- Develop proposals for reauthorization of the Older Americans Act that foster addressing the needs of older adults living with HIV as a population of “greatest social need.”
- Develop programs and policies that address the unique concerns of life-time HIV survivors.

Recommendations for Aging with HIV, and Long-Term & Life-Term Survivors Subcommittee

Report back in December 2024 on progress

Q & A



Image source: [Discussion Questions: Promoting Active Learning and Building Community \(stonybrook.edu\)](https://www.stonybrook.edu/learningcenter/discussionquestions/)