



# HIV/AIDS AND SENIORS



PRESENTED BY TERRIFIC, INC.  
WARD ONE LEAD AGENCY FOR SENIOR SERVICES



# TERRIFIC, Inc.

## TERRIFIC, Inc.

**Temporary Emergency Residential Resource Institute for Families in Crises (TERRIFIC, Inc.) established in 1975, is a leading voice and direct service care provider for children, youth, families, adults and seniors in crisis. As the Ward One Lead Agency for Senior Services, TERRIFIC, Inc., a 501 C3 nonprofit organization is located in the District of Columbia with a primary goal of providing safe, clean, affordable housing and complimentary support services for families in crisis (Case Management Services, Nutrition Screening and Education, Congregate Meals, Homebound Meals, Transportation Services, Recreation and Socialization and Medical Case Management Service for HIV/AIDS) etc.**

# HIV/AIDS and Seniors

## □ Presenters:

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TERRIFIC, Inc.
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Ward One Lead Agency for Senior Services
- Carmen Ball, Medical Case Manager  
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TERRIFIC, Inc.

# HIV/AIDS

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## Definition:

- **HIV**

- **Human Immunodeficiency  
Virus**



# HIV/AIDS

## Definition:

### □ AIDS

- **Acquired:** (means it is not communicable but *ACQUIRED* from unsafe behaviors in which we participate)
- **I – Immune:** (Our blood is immune to the virus and cannot fight it)
- **D - Deficiency:** - Our blood is deficient (unable) to fight off the virus
- **S – Syndrome:** - A sequence or set (syndrome) of symptoms

# HIV/AIDS

## Statistics:

- 2010 Update reports that the District maintains severe epidemics of HIV/AIDS, STDs and Hepatitis C.
- Overall prevalence of HIV remains 3.2% among DC adults and adolescents, above the World Health Organization definition of 1% for a generalized epidemic.
- 755 newly diagnosed cases in 2009 among District residents, the increase in the number of people who were District residents at the time of their HIV diagnosis increased from 16,513 reported in 2008 to 16,721 in 2009.

# HIV/AIDS

## Statistics:

- Health disparities remain a challenge in DC with overall disproportionate impact of HIV and STDs among blacks.
- The epidemic continues to disproportionately impact blacks, adults ages 30 to 59 and geographically in Wards 5, 6, 7 and 8. Persons living with HIV/AIDS are often at risk and living with other communicable diseases.

# HIV/AIDS

## Statistics:

- ▣ **Other emerging disparities among other population groups noted in this report.**
- **The proportion of new AIDS cases among older Adults (ages 50 years old and older) has increased from 19% in 2005 to 26% in 2009.**

# HIV/AIDS and Seniors

## *Seniors don't have sex and therefore aren't at risk for HIV.*

- HIV among adults over 50 is not a new phenomena. Since the early 80's, HIV in persons older than 50 have accounted for about 10 percent of all cases. What has changed is the mode of transmission. In the early years of the HIV epidemic, blood transfusion was the major transmission mode among the senior population. Today, heterosexual contact and needle sharing among IV drug users older than 50 are the main causes of HIV infection in our seniors. The figures are staggering. Heterosexual transmission in men over 50 is up 94 percent and the rate has doubled in women since 1991. And while prevention and education dollars are concentrated toward young adult populations, seniors are not getting safer sex education and continue to get HIV infected.

## The Facts

- Nothing could be further from the truth. In fact, studies from the early 1990s provided data that proved sexual desire does not wane after the age of 50. Experts report that more than half of persons over 50 are having sex a few times each month. Unfortunately, knowledge of safer sex practices among seniors is much less than that of persons in their late teens and early twenties. This combination of facts explains in part why the HIV population among seniors continues to grow.

# HIV/AIDS and Seniors

## ❑ Aging Characteristic Unique to Seniors

❑ Seniors know less about HIV/AIDS than younger people – How does it spread? Is condom use important? Why should I get tested?

Healthcare Workers and Educators often do not talk with middle-aged and older people about HIV/AIDS prevention and interventions, risk reduction behaviors

❑ Older people are less likely than younger people to talk about their sex lives or drug use to their doctors (or anyone)

Doctors may not ask older patients about their sex lives or drug use or talk to them about risky behaviors

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# Risk Reduction

- ❑ Education
- ❑ Healthy Behaviors
- ❑ Counseling and Testing

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- ❑ Abstinence – No sexual contact with anyone
  - ❑ Monogamous relationship between two (2) uninfected partners
  - ❑ Safest Sex – Protection with Latex condoms and dental dams
- Clean needles; Never share needles



Q&A