

A pilot survey exploring social care needs of Older African- American adults living with HIV

Kuei-Hsiang Hsueh¹, Mike Klebert², Wen-Yung Cheng³ and Rick S. Zimmerman⁴

¹Associate Professor, College of Nursing, Univ. of Missouri-St. Louis, USA

²Study Coordinator/Research Instructor, University of Washington AIDS Clinical Trials Unit, USA

³Senior Instructor, School of Nursing, National Cheng Kung University, Taiwan

⁴Professor and Assoc. Dean for Research, College of Nursing, Univ. of Missouri-St. Louis, USA

Older African-American adults aged 50 + living with HIV (OAAA-LWH) have unique social care needs, giving challenges related to their HIV status, poverty and poor mental health. This pilot survey with 35 OAAA-LWH (24 males and 11 females), who are patients of a university medical center was to assess 1) relevance selected benchmark measures –self-efficacy, psychological distress, medication adherence, perceived discrimination, and received practical social care –, and 2) identify other potential factors for model testing in the subsequent phase of this study. The unique protocol, using audio, computer-assisted self-interviewing along with medical chart review, appeared to be viable and efficient, with less than 1% missing data. While participants had a mean age of 54.3, they had managed HIV for over 18 years. As expected, the majority had less than a college degree and reported being unemployed, with 88% on disability. Self-efficacy significantly correlated with psychological distress ($r = -.64$), poor medication adherence ($r = -.37$) and received practical social care ($r = -.39$). Pilot data suggest that assessing HIV-related stigma as a risk factor for perceived discrimination and depression would help further identify social care needs. And including their CD 4 counts in future analysis as a psychological distress bio-marker would help identify how it may affect and be affected by the above-mentioned variables in this population.

Biography:

Kuei-Hsiang Hsueh is a Associate Professor, College of Nursing, Univ. of Missouri-St. Louis, USA. She has published many articles in different journals.