

HIV after 40 – An Exploratory Study Key Informant Interview Questions

Basic Demographic Information and Biography:

Please tell me a bit about yourself, and your role in this clinic (Age, Gender, Job Title/Description, Time in this job).

As you know we are interested in learning more about older people, those over 40? How do men and women's health care needs change when they get older?

Clinic History and Services

What services does this clinic provide? (Probe: FP, HIV, chronic care)?

When did this clinic begin testing for HIV? What about treatment for HIV? Have there been any major changes in services in this clinic over the last 5 years?

What health problems do older adults come to the clinic for?

Sexual Risk and HIV Risk Perception

In your experience working here, do older adults think they are at risk for getting HIV? Why/Why not?

How do you think adults in their 40s, 50s, 60+ become HIV positive? [Probe: is sex a risk for them?]

What are some of the sexual risk behaviors that might put a) men b) women over 40 at risk for HIV/AIDS?

Do women over 40 come to the clinic for family planning services?

HIV Prevention

How does the clinic address HIV prevention strategies for older adults? What type of advice, if any, do you give them? Probe: Do you give older adults condoms or advice about how to avoid HIV or to avoid giving HIV to others?

What do you explain to older adults about sex or sexually transmitted infections such as HIV?

HIV Testing

Do older adults come for HIV testing? What are some of the reasons that older adults come to the clinic to get an HIV test?

Tell me about the last older people that came for HIV testing? What was his/her situation? What did you advise?

How do you decide whether or not to suggest a sick patient tests for HIV? Is it the same for older adults?

If an older adult comes in sick and you suggest an HIV test, what is their reaction? Do they agree to the test or not? Is it the same for older adults?

Can you tell me about the last time you suggested an HIV test to an older man or woman?
Prompt: money, misunderstanding HIV, don't want to know...

How important do people in this community feel it is to know their HIV status? Does this change as they get older? Is it more important for men or women?

Do older people with HIV experience stigma in this community? If so, how?

ART/Treatment

How do you decide when to suggest that HIV positive people start ART? Is this different for older adults?

How do you decide what treatment for HIV to give older adults? Is this different than for younger adults? Does this change if they are on medication for other issues such as high blood pressure?

What are some of the challenges you face in getting older adults on treatment for HIV? Do older adults need special support to stay on ART? Can you give me an example of these difficulties? [Probe about pensions – what is the difference for a person who is 50 vs. 60?]

What other health concerns do older adults have that might influence their ability to be on treatment for HIV? Can you give me an example?

What are older adults' fears about being on ART treatment? [Probe: stigma – does it affect older adults on treatment?]

Are there groups in this community that help or support people to get ART or to stay on treatment? What services do they provide?

Personal experiences working on HIV/AIDS among older adults

What are some of the personal experiences you have had working with older HIV positive adults? [Probe for examples – e.g., tell me about the last patient, a difficult one, a rewarding one, etc]