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Using the senior center as the forum to disseminate HIV/AIDS prevention strategies to older adults

In 2015, fifty percent of all HIV/AIDS cases in the US will affect people over the age of 50. Despite this increasing prevalence of HIV/AIDS either as a consequence of growing older with the virus or contracting HIV in later life, little attention has been paid to older adults by primary care providers with regard to sexuality in general or safe sex specifically. This presentation focuses on a study performed among low-income older adults in six senior centers in Philadelphia, PA, USA to identify knowledge of HIV/AIDS and sexual health issues pre and post an educational program presented in the setting of the senior center. A parallel study was conducted among senior center staff to determine attitudes about sexuality, the dissemination of safe sex/HIV prevention education and the readiness of staff to engage in dialogue with older adults about intimate issues.

Biography

Ilene Warner-Maron completed her PhD in health policy in 2007 at the University of the Sciences in Philadelphia, where her dissertation focused on HIV and aging. She holds Masters Degree in Gerontology from the University of Pennsylvania (1985), Health Care Administration from St. Joseph's University (1989) and Law and Social Policy from Bryn Mawr College (1995) and Bachelors in Sociology from Philadelphia University (1983) and a Diploma in Nursing from the Albert Einstein Medical Center School of Nursing in 1980. She is the President of the Institute for Continuing Education and Research, a federal monitor of nursing homes in the US, a Member of the Board of Directors of the Alzheimer's Association and a Fellow in the College of Physicians in Philadelphia.

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