

***National Healthcare for the Homeless
National Conference and
Policy Symposium
Kansas City, MO
May 16, 2012
Home. Hope. Dignity.
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SAVE, Inc.***



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- *Vision:* A world free of homelessness and discrimination in housing.
- *Mission:* SAVE, Inc. provides comprehensive housing solutions to empower socially and medically disadvantaged people to improve their health and lead stable lives with personal dignity.
- *History:* 1986, a few friends approached their parish priest asking for help for a friend's son who was dying of AIDS—there were no services available back then, and SAVE, Inc. started as a hospice home for people to have a place to die with dignity.

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- SAVE, Inc. now owns & operates 71 units of housing in midtown Kansas City, as well as provide a means for safe, stable housing in a 15 county area on both Kansas & Missouri through voucher programs.
- While we have seen a 38% increase in clients receiving housing services in the last 2 years, the need continues to grow. In fact, we now turn away around 65 individuals/families every month due to lack of funding.

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SAVE, Inc. Unduplicated clients

June 2010-May 2011

Head of Household			
	Male	Female	Total
Unduplicated Clients	456	372	828
Other Household Members			
	Male	Female	Total
Household Members	279	242	521

1,349 Total People Served

45+% female

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Women Living with/at Risk of HIV

- Women who are HIV positive incur a higher risk of mortality than men who are HIV positive, a difference which is primarily based in the social context of poverty.
- While service providers are aware of the impact of poverty on treatment outcomes and compliance, they may be limited by time constraints and expertise in addressing such a large issue.

Source: Riley, E. D., Gandhi, M., Hare, C., Cohen, J., & Hwang, S.
(2007) *Curr HIV/AIDS Rep*, 4(4), 181-6

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Women Living with/at Risk of HIV

Housing means...

- “I no longer have to depend on others.”
- “We have our own place. Our privacy is protected.”
- “I can take my medication freely.”
- “I don’t have to hide my medication.”

--Jennifer

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Women Living with/at Risk of HIV

- Women with unstable housing conditions reported higher levels of HIV drug and sex-related HIV risk behavior.
- Women with unstable housing conditions levels of behavioral change over time were lower.
- Expanding the stable housing condition into two categories distinguishing between a woman's own and someone else's place is essential.

Source: Elifson, K. W., Sterk, C. E., Theall, K. P. (2007).
AIDS Behav, 11(Suppl 2), S45-55

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Women Living with/at Risk of HIV

- However difficult, we must address the problems of poor women with restricted survival choices in the context of poverty that may take precedence over safe behaviors.
- Safe, supportive housing is only part of it, but is a large part of it. Access to resources and means for food, transportation, etc. are generally not addressed by a single service provider, but must be coordinated.

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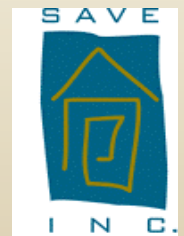
Women Living with/at Risk of HIV

Housing means...

“We don’t have to get up early to ‘get out’ or stand in line hoping for a bed. We don’t have to worry about finding a way to eat. My two sons and I have stable housing now.”

-Linda, mother of 2 and SAVE, Inc. resident for 3 years.

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Women Living with/at Risk of HIV

How can we address the issues of poverty, lack or resources, and survival choices of indigent women? Who needs to be approached, educated, tapped for funding, etc.

How can we as service providers do a better job with these very difficult to serve clients?

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Women Living with/at Risk of HIV

How do we modify social norms, institutions, laws, and policies to reduce vulnerability and create environments in which individuals can protect themselves against HIV infection?

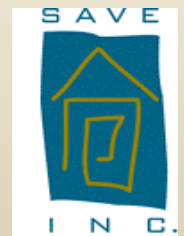
Despite political obstacles, can the US help build the evidence base for such interventions?

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Women Living with/at Risk of HIV

- Local variations (study included New York City, New Orleans, Miami, and Chicago) in housing assistance result in specific differences in the experience of HIV.
- Women with long-term housing assistance, while still struggling financially, possess a stable base from which to approach daily life and HIV care.
- Women not receiving aid often move frequently in and out of homelessness, or "double up" with others in complex household arrangements to share costs.

saveinckc.org Source: Scott A, Ellen J, Clum G, Leonard L.
AIDS Behav 2007 Nov;11(6 Suppl):140-8



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Women Living with/at Risk of HIV

Housing means...

“I feel safer; I used to live in constant fear as a homeless woman. Having housing has given me confidence I now have a life despite my mental illness. I can use my home to help people, to offer them something to drink & a safe place to be. I am now attending college classes.”

--Paulette

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