

INTRODUCTION

- ❑ Men who have sex with men (MSM) have a greater prevalence of mental health issues compared to the general population.
- ❑ However, little is known about the mental health needs of Black MSM living with HIV, and how this impact their HIV/AIDS care.
- ❑ A qualitative study was conducted to explore the mental health needs of Black MSM living with HIV in Prince George's County, Maryland, between January and March 2020.

METHODS

- ❑ We identified and recruited current service recipients of the organization to participate in a focus group discussion.
- ❑ Ten (10) Black MSM participated in the group discussion with questions focusing on barriers to HIV treatment and mental health needs.
- ❑ Participants' responses were transcribed verbatim, and assigned into descriptive categories using a coding scheme.

RESULTS

- ❑ Preliminary findings from the focus group confirmed the need for integrated behavioral and mental health services for Black MSM living with HIV.
- ❑ Participants reported major issues with accessing mental health services such as lack of health insurance and availability of culturally competent mental health providers.
- ❑ Our findings also reveal that mental health issues faced by Black MSM living with HIV are often not assessed and addressed during routine HIV care.
- ❑ Lastly, some participants reported not achieving viral suppression as a result of unaddressed psychosocial issues.

LESSONS LEARNED

- ❑ It is critical that HIV service providers undertake an integrated HIV treatment approach that includes mental health services for Black MSM living with HIV, particularly during routine HIV care.
- ❑ Limitation: These are preliminary findings from an ongoing study.

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CONTACT

Temitope Oke, MSW (PhD student)
Director of Research and Evaluation
Us Helping Us People Into Living Inc.
3636 Georgia Ave, NW, Washington, D.C. 20010
E: toke@uhupil.org
P: 202-446-1100



Us Helping Us staff/case management team packing food items, hygiene products and senior care kits for distribution.

PLEASE CONTINUE TO STAY SAFE DURING THIS UNPRECEDENTED TIME!