



New Orleans, Louisiana | September 21 - 23, 2011
du 21 au 23 septembre 2011

North American
Housing and HIV/AIDS Research Summit VI

Vle Sommet nord-américain
de recherche sur le logement et le VIH/sida

Eliminating HIV Health Disparities: Is housing the key to ending the AIDS crisis?

The ***Housing and HIV/AIDS Research Summit Series*** provides a unique interdisciplinary forum for presentation and discussion of new findings on the role of housing in HIV prevention and care. Now in its sixth year, the Summit Series is established as the premiere venue for informing HIV/AIDS housing policy, and is acknowledged as an innovative and influential opportunity for the broader discussion of housing and health. Summit V, held in Toronto in June 2010, brought together 225 researchers, policy makers, service providers and people living with HIV/AIDS representing 32 U.S. states and the District of Columbia, nine Canadian provinces and one territory.

The 2011 North American Summit Housing and HIV/AIDS Research Summit will be held September 21st – 23rd, in New Orleans, Louisiana. This will be the first North American Summit meeting held in the Southern U.S., and will continue the collaboration of National AIDS Housing Coalition (NAHC), the Ontario HIV Treatment Network (OHTN), and the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, in new partnership with the Tulane University School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine.

The convening organizations invite broad attendance and participation from the Caribbean and Mexico, in addition to all regions of the United States and Canada, to make this year's meeting a truly North American Summit.

Summit VI Theme

A growing body of evidence identifies housing status as a key structural factor influencing HIV vulnerability, risk and health outcomes, and shows that receipt of housing assistance has an independent, direct impact on receipt of HIV care, health status and mortality among homeless and unstably-housed people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA).

The Summit VI theme is *Eliminating HIV Health Disparities*, to focus on the potential of housing strategies to address inequalities in HIV health outcomes and to end the AIDS crisis by preventing new infections. The meeting will place particular emphasis on housing need and the impact of housing interventions among vulnerable populations and in underserved communities, including (without limitation):

Rural areas:

Rural areas are often characterized by isolation, vast geographic distances preventing access to medical and supportive services, stigma and fear of identity in small communities, lack of awareness of resources, and lack of transportation. These factors pose unique barriers to housing access and stability for PLWHA in rural areas.

The Southern U.S.:

Compared with other regions of the country, the HIV/AIDS epidemic is spreading rapidly in the South, and is more concentrated among African Americans, women, and rural residents. While there is little published research, the available evidence reveals substantial housing instability among PLWHA throughout the region.

The Caribbean:

HIV/AIDS is the leading cause of death among young and middle-aged adults in the Caribbean, where prevention efforts are stalled by the overlap of stigma, drug use and homelessness. Research indicates that homeless persons are at highest risk of HIV infection and early death.

Displaced persons and mobile populations:

Persons made homeless by natural disasters, forced evictions, conflict, and economic and political migration face extreme vulnerability to HIV infection and poor health outcomes. Displaced and mobile populations are often excluded from care, and experience high rates of HIV infection, morbidity and mortality.

Summit VI Learning Institutes

Full-day learning Institutes, designed to build the capacity of participants to participate in and effectively use research, will precede the Summit VI meeting. The Learning Institutes provide participants the opportunity for in-depth skills building in small group settings. At least one institute will focus on evidence-based practice and at least one on research methods and measures.

Ongoing Impact of the Summit Series

Summit Series meetings support knowledge transfer and evidence-based skill building among people with HIV/AIDS, advocates and policy makers at the global, national, regional and local levels. Summit products, including fact sheets, presentation templates and policy papers, are designed to synthesize and broadly disseminate the growing evidence base on the role of housing in effective disease prevention and health care for persons living with HIV/AIDS and other chronic illness. The Summit Series website – www.hivhousingsummit.org – provides updated information on the Series and as a repository of Summit materials, including presentations, Summit Briefing Book materials, and issue fact sheets and other tools that can be used to inform practice and policy

Listed below are recent examples of the ongoing impact and relevance of the Summit Series:

- Launch of www.HealthyHousing.ca, a new website dedicated to providing information related to Housing and HIV/AIDS across Canada
- An Issue Brief and stakeholder dialogue convened by the McMaster University Health Forum on *Addressing Housing Challenges Faced by People with HIV* in Ontario
- A global Housing and HIV/AIDS satellite meeting held as part of the 2010 International AIDS Conference in Vienna
- Launch of the International AIDS Housing Roundtable (IAHR), and publication of the 2010 IAHR report, *More Than Just a Roof over my Head: Housing for People Living with HIV/AIDS around the World*
- Recognition of housing as HIV prevention and health care in the U.S. *National AIDS Strategy* and *Opening Doors: Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness*, both released in 2010
- A 2009 U.S. White House Office of National AIDS Policy consultation on housing and HIV/AIDS
- The November 2007 special “Housing and HIV” issue of *AIDS & Behavior*

Summit VI Partners (list in formation)

The U.S. National AIDS Housing Coalition, Inc. (NAHC) is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization formed in 1994 to assert the fundamental right of all persons living with HIV/AIDS to decent, safe, affordable housing and supportive services that are responsive and appropriate to their self-determined needs.

The Ontario HIV Treatment Network (OHTN) is an independently incorporated, not-for-profit organization funded by the AIDS Bureau, Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care. The OHTN acts as a collaborative network of people living with HIV/AIDS, health care providers, consumers, researchers,

community-based organizations and government, with a mandate to provide leadership and to advance policy relating to the optimal treatment and care of people living with HIV in Ontario.

The Department of Health, Behavior and Society of the Bloomberg School of Public Health at Johns Hopkins University was established in the summer of 2005 with a mission dedicated to research and training that advances scientific understanding of the impact on health of behavior and the societal context.

The Tulane University School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine was founded in 1834 with a mission committed to professional health education, scientific research, partnerships and community service that advances public health knowledge, promotes health and well-being, and prevents disease, disability, and premature mortality.

Leading researchers and policy experts in the fields of housing and health work with the Partner Organizations on the Summit series. Convening researchers include: Dr. David Holtgrave of Johns Hopkins; Dr. Angela Aidala of the Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health; Dr. Toorjo Ghose of the University of Pennsylvania; Dr. Robert Hogg of the BC Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS, University of British Columbia; Dr. Daniel Kidder of the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; and Dr. Sean Rourke of the Ontario HIV Treatment Network.

Outreach to New Partner Organizations

As the nature and scope of the Summit Series expands, current Summit partner organizations, researchers, policy group members and meeting participants will work to develop new relationships at the national, regional and global levels.

To learn about partnership opportunities, please contact:

Ontario HIV Treatment Network:

Email summit@ohln.on.ca
Phone (877) 743-6486, ext 2215



U.S. National AIDS Housing Coalition:

Email nahc@nationalaidshousing.org
Phone (202) 347-0333



For more information and Summit VI updates please visit www.hivhousingsummit.org

