

# HIV and Aging

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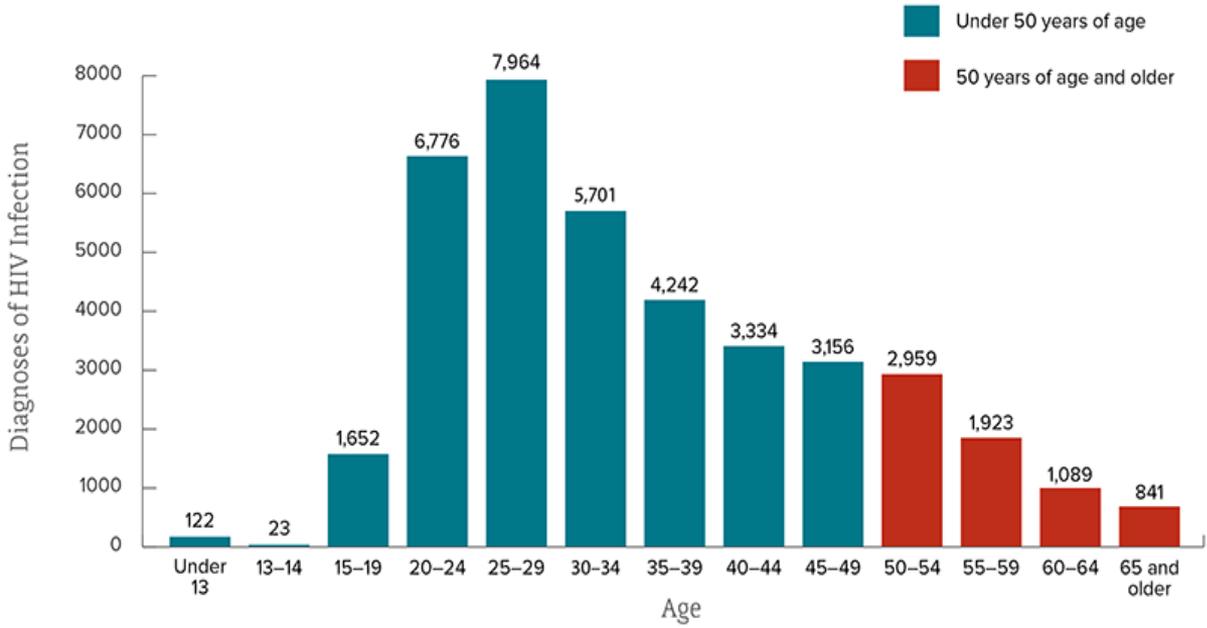
**ENDING THE HIV EPIDEMIC  
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# National HIV/AIDS And Aging Awareness Day



# HIV Diagnoses by Age, 2016



## People living with HIV (PLWHIV) over 50:

- Made up about 47% of total population with HIV (which is expected to rise to 70% by 2020)
- Accounted for 17% of the new HIV diagnoses in 2016

# Pierce County Demographics

Between 2014 - 2016, 10% of the new diagnoses of HIV in Pierce County were over age 55, compared to 9% statewide.

In 2016, 27% of people living with HIV in Pierce County were aged 55 and above, compared to 30% statewide.

Among those in Pierce County over the age of 55 living with HIV in 2016, 80% were considered to be virally suppressed, compared to 84% statewide.

# The population of older adults living with HIV is increasing:

Older adults are infected with HIV every year.

*and*

Many people who were diagnosed at a younger age are now living longer due to antiretroviral therapy.

# Risk Factors for HIV-negative Older Adults

- Less likely to discuss sexual behaviors with medical providers
- Less aware of HIV risk
- Medical providers are less likely to test for HIV
- More likely to have late-stage HIV infection or AIDS at the time of diagnosis

# Critical Concerns for HIV-positive Older Adults

Conditions and diseases which typically affect HIV-negative people in their 60s and 70s can occur in PLWHIV in their 40s and 50s, (i.e., experiencing age-related health issues about a decade earlier than their HIV-negative counterparts):

- heart attacks
- kidney and cardiovascular diseases
- certain cancers
- bone fractures/density loss.

## Critical Concerns for HIV-positive Older Adults (2)

Unclear how much is caused by HIV infection and how much is related to other factors such as comorbidities with HIV, drugs used to treat HIV, etc.

Interactions can occur between HIV medications and those for common age-related conditions.

# Social/Psychological Concerns for HIV-positive Older Adults

## Stigma

More than half of the HIV-positive people aged 50-65 interviewed for a 2006 study acknowledge practicing “protective silence”, not telling others about their HIV status as a way of managing their fear of HIV-related stigma.

# Social/Psychological Concerns for HIV-positive Older Adults (2)

## AIDS Survivor Syndrome

A term coined and popularized by the organization *Let's Kick ASS*” to describe the psychological and social state resulting from living through the HIV pandemic.

# Thank you!

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