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Stigma and discrimination related to HIV/AIDS

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Stigma and discrimination related to HIV/AIDS

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Introduction

At the threshold of a new millennium, the Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS) epidemic is still one of the biggest health and development challenges the world has ever experienced because UNAIDS has noted this disease is unique in its devastating impact on the social, economic and demographic foundations of countries. To date, the estimated number of people living with HIV/AIDS was 38.6 million in 2005. Furthermore, 2.8 million people newly infected with HIV each year. Stigma and discrimination continue to delay communities' efforts to combat HIV/AIDS. People newly infected with HIV and AIDS deaths in 2005 were 2.8 million respectively. However, the impact of social and economic factors on HIV prevention and care programs to combat HIV/AIDS effectively, fear of discrimination and adverse psychological effects of the disease has increased the stress of infected individuals. Hence, the World Health Organisation has been trying to address the issue of stigma and discrimination.

Methods

A quantitative research technique was conducted in this research. All data were gathered via a questionnaire which included demographic and socio-economic background of respondents, HIV/AIDS knowledge, perceived stigma and discrimination; attitudes toward HIV-infected people and AFIs scale to categorize respondents into two instrumental and symbolic groups. Multivariate techniques are currently used to collect eligible respondents such as snowball sampling techniques, contact with community organisations, attend in cultural and social events, contact with the leaders and advertise research in Iranian Newspapers and radio stations.

Results

The collection of data was completed. Some of the preliminary findings of the data will be presented at the conference. The focus will be on socio-demographic background and attitudes toward HIV/AIDS among Iranian living in Sydney.

2. UNAIDS. (AIDSWIT World Summit, UK 2006).

Where do you want to live? Preventing the inappropriate accommodation of younger people with a lifelong or acquired disability in nursing homes

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Introduction

Nursing home placement is not an acceptable accommodation option for younger people (defined as those under the age of 65) with a lifelong or acquired disability. Yet due to lack of alternative services, nursing home care is often the only service available to support the complex care needs of this group. Despite concerns that nursing home services cannot meet the social, rehabilitative and recreational needs of younger people with disabilities, more than 4,400 are currently living in nursing homes across Australia.

Previous research

Previous research suggests that once placed in a nursing home, younger people with lifelong or acquired disabilities receive minimal therapeutic approaches, become socially isolated and lack community participation. Consequently as a result of nursing home placement, this group are at risk of experiencing adverse psychological effects, poor health outcomes and a poor quality of life. However, these findings are based largely on the views of professionals and the collection of descriptive data, such as demographics and frequency counts (e.g., of community outings, and visits by family). There is little research into the impacts and residential preferences of this group and their families. Additionally, little is known about how nursing home staff view these residents. Given a recent government initiative to reduce the number of younger people living in nursing homes and to prevent crisis interventions, it is important to investigate the experiences of younger people living in nursing homes, their families, and the staff who provide care and identify what these groups want in terms of alternative accommodation and support in the future.

The proposed study will (a) explore the experiences of younger people (under 65) living in nursing homes, their families and nursing home staff, (b) identify the accommodation services and opportunities for community participation to better meet the needs of younger people and (c) develop an alternative model of accommodation and support services to assist policy makers and service providers transition younger people from nursing homes back into the community and prevent the inappropriate admission of younger people into such facilities in the future.

Methods

A narrative enquiry methodology will be used to explore the experiences and residential preferences of three participant groups, a group of 30 younger people living in nursing homes, a group of their family members (tornamented by younger person), and 30 nursing home staff members. The study will be completed in three stages. In Stage 1, a reference group of key stakeholders will generate interview schedules designed to explore the experiences and views of Stage 2 participants. In Stage 2, the reference group will be accommodated among the three participant groups. In Stage 2, each participant will be interviewed guided by the developed interview schedules. To ensure reliability of interpretation and to identify the full range of experiences and attitudes to accommodation services for people under 65 with a lifelong or acquired disability, each participant will be interviewed up to 3 times. Data gathered from the in-depth interviews will be analysed using the Grounded Theory technique that is used to compare the description to the experiences, expectations and views of the participants. Grounded Theory, which is a particular reflection of this data, where little is already known about an area, allows for the development of a model that provides a deeper understanding of a social phenomenon. Data will be analysed for common and divergent themes separately and across the three data sets in order to develop a draft model of alternative accommodation and support services for younger people living in nursing homes. In Stage 3, a representative sample of participants from Stage 1 and Stage 2 will form a focus group to critically review the draft model. Focus group members will discuss any revisions that they consider necessary and explore ways of incorporating the suggested model into policy development and current service provisions to support the transition of younger people (under 65) out of nursing homes and into the community. Data collection is expected to begin in late 2006.

Discussion

Analysis and discussion of the results will facilitate the development of policies and accommodation services that are appropriate for younger people with a lifelong or acquired disability, which will support their ongoing participation in the community and ensure a good quality of life as they age.


Footnotes

1. DAT 10-8

Findings of this study will inform the development of alternative accommodation models and support services to prevent the inappropriate placement of younger people in nursing homes. Evaluation of new accommodation models is required and must involve consultation with those younger people who will use these services.