Research Gaps in Structural Level Interventions for Vulnerable Youth and NIMH Priorities

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Overview

• The importance of structural level interventions
• Findings from NIMH funded research
• Current NIMH funded research
• NIMH Priority areas
• NIMH Funding Opportunity Announcements
NIH consists of 27 Institutes and Centers

- NHLBI
- NCCAM
- NCI
- CIT
- NEI
- CC
- NHGRI
- NIA
- NIAAA
- NIAID
- NIAA
- NIAID
- NICHID
- NIDCR
- NIDCD
- NIDDK
- NIDA
- NIEHS
- NIGMS
- NCRR
- NIBIB
- NIMH
- NIAMS
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NIMH Division of AIDS Research

- Supports research to:
  - reduce the incidence of HIV/AIDS worldwide
  - decrease the burden of living with HIV/AIDS.

- Includes:
  - basic and clinical neuroscience of HIV infection to understand and alleviate the consequences of HIV infection of the CNS and
  - basic and applied behavioral and social science to prevent new HIV infections and limit morbidity and mortality among those infected.

www.nimh.nih.gov/about/organization/dar/index.shtml
What we know…

- Focus on individual-level psychosocial factors alone is not enough
- Growing literature on social determinants associated with poor HIV related outcomes
  - Stigma and Discrimination
    - HIV-related stigma effects participants’ ability to successfully adhere to ART (Katz, Ryu, Onuegbo et al, 2013)
  - Economic Factors
    - Food insecurity associated with high-risk sexual behavior among women in Botswana & Swaziland (Weiser et al., 2007)
  - Social Violence
    - Intimate partner violence is associated with deleterious HIV-related health outcomes among HIV+ women (Siemieniuk et al., 2013)
  - Legal Factors
    - Laws restricting syringe access are associated with higher rates of HIV (Friedman et al., 2001)
An economic empowerment intervention can decrease levels of depression, improve health, and improve HIV prevention attitudes among orphaned adolescents (Uganda – Ssewamala, 2008; Ssewamala, 2009; Ssewamala, 2012).

Reducing barriers to school for adolescents (Kenya - Cho et al., 2011) and providing cash transfers to adolescents (Kenya - Handa et al., 2014) delays sexual debut.

Cash transfer programs can reduce HIV and HISV-2 infections in adolescent schoolgirls (Malawi - Baird et al., 2012).

Condom social marketing programs increase condom use among youth (Cameroon - Meekers, Agha, & Klein, 2005; Van Rossem & Meekers, 2000).

A mass media campaign to promote sexual responsibility among young people increased condom and contraceptive use, monogamy, and use of health and youth centers (Zimbabwe - Kim, Kols, Nyakauru, et al., 2001).
Government of Kenya’s Cash Transfer for OVC

- Examined impact of Kenya’s CT-OVC program on sexual debut among 15-25 year olds.
- 28 locations randomized in 2007, 14 to treatment arm, 14 to control.
- Eligible households received 1500 KES (US$20) per month, paid to caregiver, not conditional on any child or adult behaviors.
- Program reduced the odds of sexual debut by 31%
- No impact on condom use, # of partners and transactional sex

Handa (2014) PLOS ONE R01MH093241 (PI: Handa)
Comprehensive Support for Adolescent Orphans to Prevent HIV

• Pilot study in Nyanza Province in western Kenya targeting adolescent orphans
• Intervention consisted of school fees, uniforms and a “community visitor”
• 105 orphans ages 12-14 years were enrolled
• After 1 year, intervention students were:
  ■ Less likely to drop out of school
  ■ Less likely to commence sexual intercourse
  ■ Less likely to report attitudes supporting early sex
  ■ Increased social bonding and less endorsement of intimate partner violence

Cho (2011) Journal of Adolescent Health
R34MH079749 (PI: Hallfors)
Impact of an economic empowerment intervention (SUUBI) on AIDS-orphaned adolescents

- RCT of 267 adolescents in Rakai District of Uganda
- Economic empowerment intervention included matched savings accounts, financial management workshops and mentorship
- Children in the treatment group exhibited:
  - significant decrease in depression
  - improvements in their health and mental health
  - improvements in their HIV prevention attitudes

Ssewamala (2009) Social Science & Medicine
Ssewamala (2012) J Adol Health
R21MH076475 (PI: Ssewamala)
• Testing the independent and combined effects of a structural (conditional cash transfer) and social intervention (community mobilization) on HIV and HSV-2 incidence among young women in rural South Africa

• Cash transfer is conditional on 80% school attendance

• Community mobilization is focused on engaging young men (18-35) around issues of gender norms and HIV risk

• Have enrolled over 2500 young women between the ages of 13 and 20 and following them for up to 3 years

• Results will most likely be available in mid-2015

R01MH087118 (PI: Pettifor)
HPTN 068
Agricultural Intervention to Improve Health of HIV-infected and Affected Children

• Examining the impact of an agricultural intervention on young children (0-59 months) in Nyanza Province, Kenya

• Leveraging the resources of a R34 that is testing the intervention in 140 HIV+ adults

• Shamba Maisha centers on the provision of a foot-operated mechanical irrigation pump, a microeconomic loan and training in sustainable farming techniques and financial management

• Followed 194 children for 12 months and assessed:
  - Nutritional status
  - Disease incidence
  - Child development

R21MH096645 (PI: Butler)
Linked to R34MH094215 (PIs: Weiser and Cohen)
School Support as Structural HIV Prevention for Adolescent Orphans in Kenya

- Study to examine whether providing school support to orphans in grades 7 & 8 can reduce school dropout, delay sexual debut, and prevent HIV/HSV-2
- Being conducted in Nyanza Province which has the highest HIV prevalence and orphanhood rates in Kenya
- School-based intervention
- Randomization is at the level of the school
- Enrolled almost 840 youth
- Will be able to look at potential mediators and the role of gender
- Cost effectiveness analyses will also be conducted

R01MH092215 (PI: Cho)
Follow up to R34MH079749 (PI: Hallfors)
• Multi-level, structural interventions that intervene upon specified social determinants or sets of social determinants to minimize the negative effects of those social determinants
• Interventions that reduce the social and structural barriers that negatively impact HIV risk, care and treatment
• Research on the mechanisms through which structural interventions work
• Increase our understanding of the relationship between gender based violence and HIV risk and care among adolescents and develop structural level interventions to address this relationship

• Increasing the availability, accessibility, and acceptability of HIV testing and treatment, condoms and male circumcision among adolescents

• Structural level interventions for youth living with HIV
  ■ Improving outcomes along the HIV care continuum

• Research in applied neuroscience to understand the impact of HIV infection on functional abilities and skills and how these challenges might affect uptake and efficacy of economic strengthening interventions among youth
Advancing Structural Level interventions Through Enhanced Understanding of Social Determinants in HIV Prevention and Care

- PA-14-134 (R21)  http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-14-134.html
- PA-14-133 (R01)  http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-14-133.html

Clinical Trial Planning Grant for Interventions and Services to Improve Treatment and Prevention of HIV/AIDS (R34)


Accelerating Improvements in the HIV Care Continuum

Improving Delivery of HIV Prevention and Treatment through Implementation Science and Translational Research


Targeted Basic Behavioral and Social Science and Intervention Development for HIV Prevention and Care


Strengthening Adherence to Antiretroviral-Based HIV Treatment and Prevention

- PA-14-126 (R01) http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-14-126.html
Ethical Issues in Research on HIV/AIDS and its Co-morbidities

- PA-12-224 (R01) [http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-12-244.html](http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-12-244.html)

Research to Characterize and Reduce Stigma to Improve Health

Eradication of HIV-1 from Central Nervous System Reservoirs

HIV Infection of the Central Nervous System

Basic Research on HIV Persistence
- PA-12-161 (R01) [http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-12-161.html](http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-12-161.html)
Thank you!

Questions?

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