

# **ADDICTION, POVERTY,**

**AND THE CONNECTION TO HIV/AIDS**

— **ADDICTION** —

POVERTY

INTERVIEWS

INSIGHTS



Substance abuse and dependence have been closely associated with the HIV/AIDS infection since the beginning of the epidemic.

Intravenous drug users accounted for **8%**  
of the estimated new HIV infections in 2010





## **Addicts Can Contract HIV/AIDS Through:**

1. Intravenous Drug Use
2. Compromised decision making (unsafe sex)
3. Participating in prostitution for drug money

ADDICTION

———— **POVERTY** ————

INTERVIEWS

INSIGHTS

# National HIV Behavioral Surveillance System for Heterosexuals –Round 1

Conducted in 25 cities throughout the U.S. from September 2006 to October 2007.

Anonymous, cross-sectional interview of men and women 18–50 years old who had an opposite-gender sex partner in the past year.

Survey topics included demographic characteristics, sexual behavior, drug and alcohol use, HIV testing, sexually transmitted diseases, health conditions, and the use of prevention services.

# 49%

Met the study criteria and lived in impoverished urban areas

Data Sources: **National HIV Behavioral Surveillance System for Heterosexuals –Round 1 (NHBS-HET-1)**

# 2.1%

HIV Prevalence rate found in Urban Poverty areas in the U.S.

Data Sources: NHBS-HET-1 2006–2007 and UNAIDS HIV Estimates 2007.

ADDICTION

POVERTY

—— **INTERVIEWS** ——

INSIGHTS



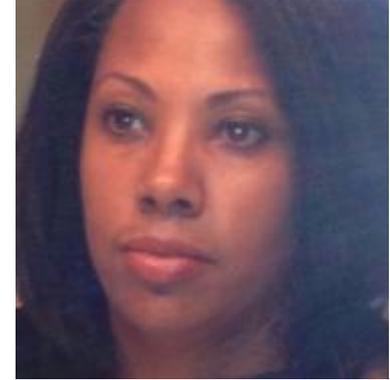
**Angela Clark**

**PhD Student at  
the College of Nursing**



**Nancy Elder**

**Professor of Family  
and Community Medicine**



**Carollette Norwood**

**Associate Professor in the  
Department of Women's, Gender  
and Sexuality Studies**

*“(Addiction) is something that affects every single one of us, and it’s something we’re all responsible for.”*

---

**Angela Clark**

The focus of her research is on drug addictions and the role of genetics in addiction

**From the Interview:**

Addiction has many faces and cannot be grouped into one succinct definition

It is a complex disease that affects people from all different walks of life

Addiction is a chronic disease and needs to be treated as such. In many cases, follow up treatment is useful throughout an entire lifetime

The stigma surrounding an addict could possibly be contributing to them not seeking out treatment

Health care providers could do better to combat the stigma associated with addiction

*“I’ve never met  
an addict who  
didn’t know they  
were at risk.”*

---

**Nancy Elder**

Works mostly with patients of the poverty level on public health issues, including the HIV/AIDS epidemic

**From the Interview:**

Underprivileged people usually don’t have the resources available to seek help with their addictions

Cost and availability of treatment are the main issues

Addicts are aware of the risks, but choose to ignore those risks in order to continue with their addiction

In a lot of cases, overdose patients are not given the proper follow up assistance during a hospital visit. This could be because of the stigma behind addiction

*“It’s been the approach of cities with ghettos ... to house particular people on the basis of race and social class and then leave them to fend for themselves”*

---

**Carolette Norwood**

Focuses on health disparities and HIV/AIDS prevention in US Black communities and in Sub-Saharan Africa

**From the Interview:**

The HIV/AIDS disease is clustered in certain areas

Most people in these areas are not aware that they are living in a high-risk neighborhood

In many of these high-risk areas, violence is prevalent, which in many cases leads people to drug use to deal with the everyday violence and fear they face

People who are arrested with drug charges face jail time and are generally denied treatment opportunities

Information about HIV/AIDS needs to be more widely available to the people living in high-risk areas

ADDICTION

POVERTY

INTERVIEWS

—— **INSIGHTS** ——

# Common Themes

There is a severe lack of available treatment for addicts in need of help

This lack of response contributes to the HIV/AIDS epidemic

The communities most in need of information are not being given the proper attention or assistance

**The HIV/AIDS epidemic could affect anyone's life regardless of race, social status, sexuality, or gender.**

# Target Audience

People who are living in at risk neighborhoods who could benefit from this information

Millennials who didn't grow up at the beginning of the epidemic and no longer see HIV/AIDS as a death sentence

Current or at risk drug users

Medical care providers

Anyone interested in learning about public history

## **Ideas for Placement:**

Underground Railroad exhibit in Cincinnati

HIV Prevalent Neighborhoods