

HIV and LGBT Older Adults

Discussion Guide



Introduction: HIV and LGBT Older Adults

On June 28, 2013, Pfizer and SAGE (Services and Advocacy for GLBT Elders) co-hosted a viewing of a short video from *Graying of AIDS: Stories from an Aging Epidemic*, a multimedia project that combines portraits and oral histories of both long-term survivors and people who contracted HIV later in life with HIV/AIDS information to increase awareness, sensitivity and collaboration among caregiving professionals. The video was followed by a panel discussion on HIV/AIDS and its impact on LGBT older adults. The panel featured:

- * Robert Espinoza, Senior Director of Public Policy & Communications, SAGE (moderator)
- * Carmine Novembre, Director, External Medical Affairs, Pfizer Inc.
- * Katja Heinemann, Project Co-Director, Visual Journalist, *Graying of AIDS*
- * Christopher Davis, SAGE Constituent and author of *Valley of the Shadow* and *Philadelphia*

Presentation and Discussion Flow

- * Next up we will view *Graying of AIDS: Stories from an Aging Epidemic* and then the panel discussion. The video from the panel is followed by a set of suggested discussion questions. We will watch both videos and then have a short group discussion.

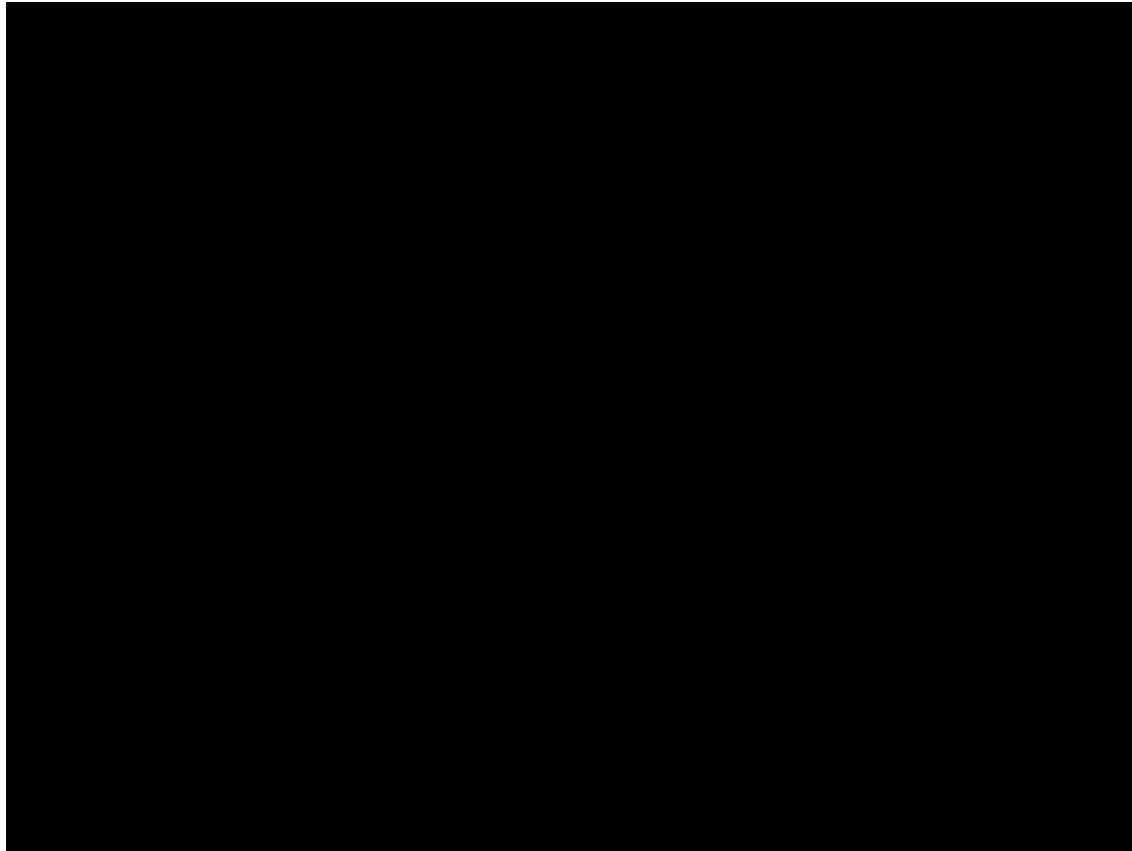
Graying of AIDS



The Graying of AIDS teamed up with the National Resource Center on LGBT Aging to highlight some of the LGBT elders who have participated in the creation of this project thus far. The Graying of AIDS is an ongoing multimedia documentary project and educational campaign that combines portrait photography with oral and video histories and health education materials to promote awareness, increase dialogue, and work for improvements in treatment of older adults at risk for or living with the virus. To learn more about The Graying of AIDS and how you can get involved, please visit grayingofaids.org.



Panel Discussion



Discussion Questions (1 of 2 slides)

Robert mentions that HIV/AIDS disproportionately affects LGBT people and people of color.

- * Have you seen a particularly effective HIV education and/or prevention campaign featuring older people of color?

Robert goes on to note that the demographic face of HIV/AIDS is a graying one. Research shows that by 2015, one in two people with HIV/AIDS will be age 50 and older.

- * Do any of these numbers surprise you? Why or why not?

Discussion Questions (2 of 2 slides)

Two of the three panelists come out as HIV+. In a recent *New York Times* column, Steve Petrow states, “The stigma that prevents many people with H.I.V. from disclosing their condition is not just unreasonable, it’s bad medicine because it discourages people from being tested for the virus. And knowing one’s H.I.V. status has immense benefits, in terms of early treatment and reducing transmission.”

- * In your social circles, do you find that HIV stigma exists? Is coming out as HIV+ an effective way to reduce stigma?

Katja mentions that in Sub-Saharan Africa, over 3 million people with HIV are over 50, which she says is not is “not the normal narrative.”

- * What lessons do other countries disproportionately impacted by HIV and AIDS, such as Sub-Saharan Africa, have for the US and vice versa?

Resources for Further Reading

- * **Coming Out About HIV and Facing Down Stigma**
Steve Petrow
http://www.nytimes.com/2013/09/10/booming/coming-out-about-hiv-and-facing-down-the-stigma.html?_r=0
- * **The Graying of AIDS**
The Graying of AIDS is an independent collaborative documentary project and educational campaign created by Katja Heinemann, a visual journalist, and Naomi Schegloff, a health educator.
www.grayingofaids.org
- * **HIV and Aging Portal**
National Resource Center on LGBT Aging
<http://www.lgbtagingcenter.org/resources/resources.cfm?s=12>
- * **Katja Heinemann's multimedia project, The Graying of AIDS**
http://www.katjaheinemann.com/#/multimedia-productions/the-graying-of-aids/GoA_Title
- * **Research on Older Adults with HIV (ROAH)**
by the AIDS Community Research Initiative of America
<http://www.acria.org/research-study>

Thank you for attending!

For more information, visit:

* sageusa.org

* GetOld.com