

Us Helping Us People Into Living Inc.



• Men who have sex with men (MSM) have a greater prevalence of mental health issues compared to the general population.

INTRODUCTION

Preliminary findings from the focus group confirmed the need for integrated behavioral and mental health services for Black MSM living with HIV.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Prince George's County Health Department, Maryland Participants of the community

engagement forums

• However, little is known about the mental health needs of Black MSM living with HIV, and how this impact their HIV/AIDS care.

• A qualitative study was conducted to explore the mental health needs of Black MSM living with HIV in Prince George's County, Maryland, between January and March 2020.

### **METHODS**

• Participants reported major issues with accessing mental health services such as lack of health insurance and availability of culturally competent mental health providers.

• Our findings also reveal that mental health issues faced by Black MSM living with HIV are often not assessed and addressed during routine HIV care.

Lastly, some participants reported not achieving viral suppression as a result of unaddressed psychosocial issues.

**U**s Helping Us staff and volunteers **DENIM** Collections

University at Buffalo School of Social Work

# CONTACT

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• We identified and recruited current service recipients of the organization to participate in a focus group discussion.

Ten (10) Black MSM participated in the group discussion with questions focusing on barriers to HIV treatment and mental health needs.

Participants' responses were transcribed verbatim, and assigned into descriptive categories using a coding scheme.

#### **LESSONS LEARNED**

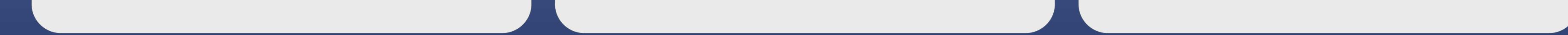
□ It is critical that HIV service providers undertake an integrated HIV treatment approach that includes mental health services for Black MSM living with HIV, particularly during routine HIV care.

Limitation: These are preliminary findings from an ongoing study.



Us Helping Us staff/case management team packing food items, hygiene products and senior care kits for distribution.

PLEASE CONTINUE TO STAY SAFE DURING THIS UNPRECEDENTED TIME!



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