

Serving Vulnerable and Non- Traditional Populations HIV/AIDS

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HIV Definition

- **HIV-** (Human Immunodeficiency Virus) HIV attacks the immune system, the body's natural protector against viruses, bacteria, fungi, and diseases. It takes over the white blood cells, our antibody "army" against illness, and turns them into an HIV factory. This slowly wears down the immune system and makes it "deficient". Once a person gets HIV, he/she will always have HIV. HIV is the virus that causes AIDS.

AIDS Definition

- **AIDS-** (Acquired Immuno Deficiency Syndrome) HIV illnesses and infections that ordinarily could not get into the body because of a healthy immune system can now easily enter. These illnesses and infections, called AIDS Defining Illnesses or Opportunistic Infections, take advantage of a weakened immune system. With AIDS, there are about 25 different Opportunistic Infections that make up this syndrome.

Co-Morbid Disorders

- Hepatitis
- HIV Related Opportunistic Infections
- Psychiatric Disorders
- Substance Use Disorders
- Cardiovascular Disease
- Asthma
- Kidney Disease

Co-Morbid Disorders cont.

- Cancer
- Arthritis
- Dementia
- Sexually Transmitted Infections

Why Consistent Energy is Needed

- Refrigerate Medications
- Medical Equipment (CPAP machines, nebulizers, motorized scooters)
- Some medications need to be taken with food
- Proper nutrition
- Home temperature control

Facilitating Referrals

- Local Department of Social Services (HEAP and Temporary Assistance loans)
- Local Community Agencies
- Local Churches
- National Grid Consumer Advocates

Questions?

